

# Gloucester Rugby

Gloucester Rugby Official Matchday Magazine | 2005/06 Season | Issue 04 | Price £3.00



## Bryan Follows His New Path

Interview

## Alex Brown

Injury Set-back Feature

All the regular  
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the matchday  
magazine

Club Sponsor

**C&G** Cheltenham & Gloucester

vs **Bucuresti**

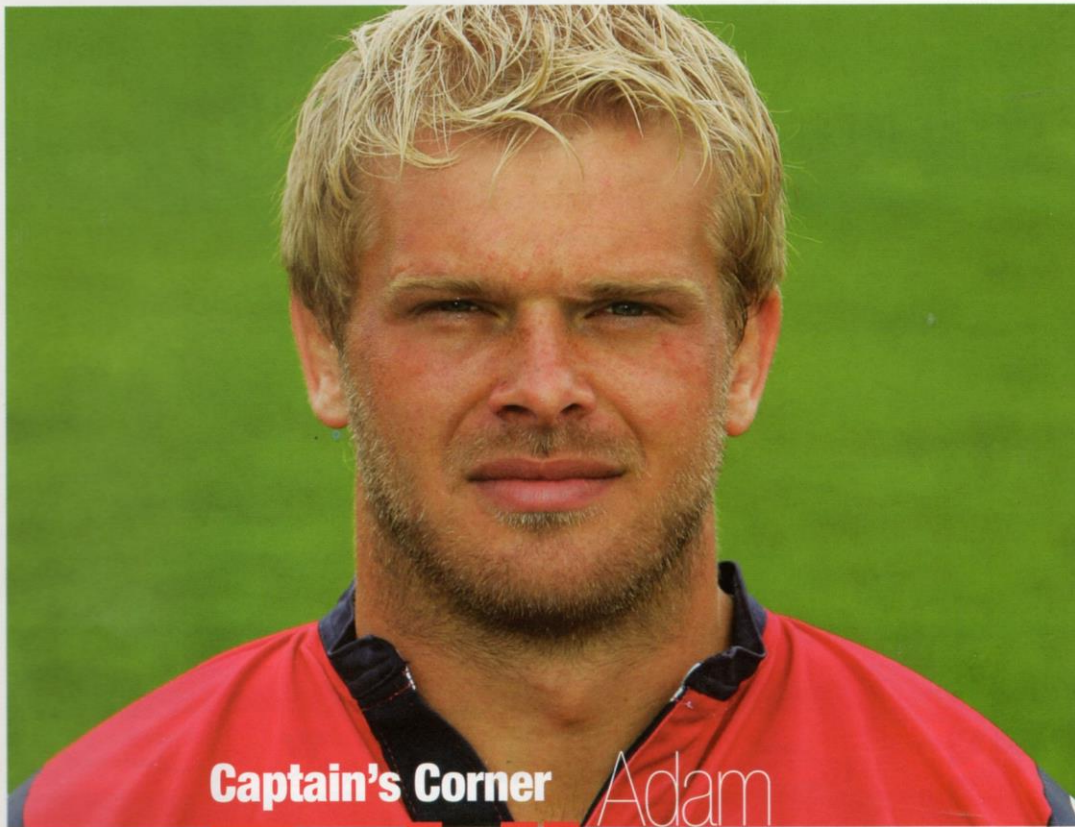
Saturday 29th October | Kick Off 15.00pm



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Round Two



Captain's Corner

Adam

In association with

dair\*

# Balding

**I AM GOING**, to start with just a single word this week: ruthlessness.

It has been a few weeks since our last home match and since then we have been on the road for three successive weeks.

Two victories and a defeat is not a bad return - it could and perhaps should have been three wins - but we need to work on our killer instinct.

We have been ruthless in defence, work hard for each other and are creating a very,

very solid structure to our game. But we need to be definitive in attack. At the moment we are creating four or five chances but scoring one once or twice and if we want to be really effective, need to improve that ratio.

We found that at the weekend in Bayonne. We need that ruthless streak for when we get back into the Premiership and chances are at a premium.

It is difficult to be too critical of last weekend's performance. Had the weather

not been so appalling, we would have won by a much greater margin but we still made some significant steps forward.

In Quinton Davids and Olly Morgan we have two new faces who have experienced that winning feeling and that is crucial when the coaches are trying to select from a squad of up to 30 players.

The competition for places is not only healthy it's fierce. We were particularly pleased with the shape against

Bayonne. The structure of our performance was the best it has been this season and that is something we have worked very hard on.

It shows we are going in the right direction and we have to build on that today. But it would be wrong to suggest an avalanche of points this afternoon. Bucuresti did a great job in running Toulon so close last Saturday and they will be physical and relishing a rare chance of running out onto Kingsholm.

We need to keep our concentration, work hard for each other and stay focused.

Enjoy the game, give the boys a great cheer and watch them get another victory.

The **Passion**

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05 



Gloucester's game with the Original All Blacks

# 1905 and All That

West country rugby historian **Dave Fox** looks back 100 years to the when day the New Zealand All Blacks played Gloucester at Kingsholm on Thursday 19th October 1905.

**T**HE FIRST fully representative New Zealand rugby union side toured Britain and Ireland in the 1905/06 season. They played 32 games before venturing to France and North America, won 31 of them, only losing once, 3-0 to Wales in a controversial game argued about ever since.

Having disposed of several of English rugby's leading teams in the first few weeks of their tour, including wins over Bristol 41-0, Northampton 32-0 and

causing such a stir throughout England. The entire committee of the Welsh Rugby Union was also in attendance.

The match was Gloucester's fifth game of the season. The only reverse to date was a 3-0 defeat at Swansea and they had enjoyed good wins over Clifton and Bristol. The game started with New Zealand on the attack but stout defence from the home side kept them out. However, the pace of the New Zealand backs caused

was taken quickly, second five-eighth Jimmy Hunter was at hand to burst through for a try. George Smith, Bob Deans and Frank Glasgow then scored tries for the All Blacks during the first half before Billy Wallace scored a spectacular try close to the break. The All Blacks moved the ball quickly across the three-quarter line to Wallace who had half a yard of room within which he was able to show his blistering pace to round his immediate opponent then completely outstrip the covering defence to score. The crowd, vociferous in their encouragement of the home side throughout, cheered as though it was their own player who had scored. The buzz from Wallace's score had barely died down when they were obliged to applaud Hunter's second try, after which the referee whistled for half time with New Zealand ahead 26-0.

**“Kingsholm was packed with a crowd inflated by many Welsh supporters who made their way to see the team which was causing a stir throughout England.”**

Leicester 28-0, the All Blacks returned to the West country for a game against Gloucester. The All Blacks had played 9 games so far, scoring 341 points and conceding 7. They had crossed for 82 tries. Kingsholm was packed with a crowd inflated by many Welsh supporters who had made their way to see the team which was

problems for Gloucester and they applied pressure whether they were attacking or defending.

The first score followed a heavy tackle by New Zealand full back George Gillett on Arthur Hudson. The Gloucester wing was bundled into touch and from the lineout, which

The Gloucester defence was tested directly from the kick-off but it was 25 minutes before it cracked again, Deans scoring his second try after some quick, accurate passing. Gloucester played far better than the score suggested, but their cause was hampered when scrum half Wood was injured and had



to leave the field. Whilst he was being attended to Wallace scored again, and Charlie Seeling crashed over from a lineout shortly after that.

With the match drawing to its end, Fred Roberts gathered the ball from a ruck and cross-kicked for Deans to gather and score his hat-trick try. Wallace and Gillett between them converted seven of the All Blacks ten tries and at 44-0 the tourists were content with their win. It was hard on Gloucester who contributed much to the game.

Billy Wallace went on to score 230 points in Britain and Ireland, whilst Jimmy Hunter scored a remarkable 39 tries. Hunter had scored 44 by the time he got home.

Arthur Hudson, who was concussed when tackled by Gillett early in the game, was an inspirational character in Gloucester. He scored 4 tries for England in the first international with France. Through Hudson's

## **“Gloucester played far better than the score suggested, but their cause was hampered when scrum half Wood was injured and had to leave the field.”**

encouragement two of the New Zealanders, Duncan McGregor and Simon Mynott played briefly for Gloucester after the tour. McGregor returned a few years later and opened a sports shop with Hudson in the city.

### **Gloucester**

L Vears; C Smith, E Hall, J Harrison, A Hudson; D R Gent, J Stephens, A Wood; Forwards: - W Johns (Capt.), A Hawker, F Pegler, G Vears, B Parham, H Collins, G Matthews

### **New Zealand**

G A Gillett; G W Smith, R G Deans, W J Wallace; J Hunter, J W Stead, F Roberts; Forwards: - W S Glenn, F T Glasgow, W Cunningham, J M O'Sullivan, G W

Nicholson, C E Seeling, W Johnston, D Gallaher (Capt.)  
Scorers: Tries: Deans (3), Hunter (2), Wallace (2), Glasgow, Seeling, Smith.  
Cons: Wallace (6), Gillett

Referee:  
F W Nicholls (Midlands)  
Attendance 15,000

### **A Century of the All Blacks in Britain & Ireland,**

by Dave Fox, Mark Hoskins and Ken Bogle is due to be published later this year. It features reports, statistics and illustrations from every tour game played by New Zealand from 1905 to 2004. Email Dave Fox for further information: [dave.fox@bueyonder.co.uk](mailto:dave.fox@bueyonder.co.uk)

1905 Gloucester  
against New Zealand



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The **Passion**

on-line newsletter **ezine** - visit [www.gloucesterrugby.co.uk](http://www.gloucesterrugby.co.uk)







**Alex Brown** was on the verge of breaking into the England side for the forthcoming autumn internationals. But as he tells the matchday programme, injury has denied him the chance to complete four years of outstanding work.

# Black Day

**I**F I GET the chance, I want to do myself proud in international rugby – I just want an opportunity to make my mark.”

So said Alex Brown to the Matchday programme on his hopes of playing for England before disaster struck in the form of a disc problem in his neck.

He has carried the injury since mangling his body against the Ospreys in the Powergen Cup and this week was told his international dream this autumn was all-but over after consultation with a specialist.

“It’s not good,” he said. “There is never a good time to get an injury but it couldn’t be worse for me. It is the only thing I have been able to think about for the last few days and to know I could miss out on international honours is gutting.

**“All I can do is to try and remain positive, get back as quickly as I can and be a better player for it.”**

“All I can do is to try and remain positive, get back as quickly as I can and be a better player for it.”

The news is absolutely crushing. By common agreement he is the real deal when it comes to the complexities of the second row, and he was on the brink of making a similar stir on the international scene, starting against the Wallabies next month.

To regular connoisseurs of club rugby, his hot streak is nothing new. Brown’s form has been on the warm side of molten



The History

Guarantee a ticket at **Kingsholm** - call **0871 871 8781**





since he joined Gloucester from Bristol three seasons ago but it is only this season that the pathway to international fulfilment has become any clearer.

The retirement of Martin Johnson and the loss of form of Ben Kay and Simon Shaw has opened the door for him and although Brown freely admitted his inclusion hinted at a desire for freshness in a squad that was getting undoubtedly

stale, his neck problem will now prevent him joining Andy Robinson's new Red Rose brigade.

Despite the obvious uncertainty and disappointment, he starts by revealing he has been doing nothing different this season as he took the Guinness Premiership by storm in the early rounds. "I honestly don't feel I have changed the way I have been playing," Brown said. "I think there have been some outstanding players – people like Martin Corry and Charlie Hodgson – who have played well for a long time who are now getting their chance.

"Maybe I was in that position too. I think Robbo [Andy Robinson] likes players who are used to a winning team and Gloucester have certainly helped on that front.

"I have just tried to get on and do my job and if that leads to something different then great. I think there was a need for freshness in the England squad and that there was always a perception that some faces would always be there.

"But now there is a good mix of players like Matt Dawson, Martin Corry and Steve Thompson – guys who have been around and ones, like me and Charlie Hodgson, who are trying to get into the squad. It's refreshing."

Perhaps Brown's greatest asset is his sheer level of consistency. He is the focal point of the line-out operation at Kingsholm, a supremely gifted athlete and a damaging defender who has the habit of re-arranging innards and invading space in wide open channels to flay opposition attackers.

Such was his ability to string matches together he broke the record for the number of consecutive performances last season when he out-stripped the

benchmark set by Derek Eves at his former club Bristol.

He came to Gloucester with the reputation as merely a line-out specialist but there is much more to him than that. He is quick, has a work-rate that can leave others blushing, tackles like a proverbial ton of bricks and gets the odd try to boot.

"I think people do look at consistency and I have tried to really focus each week on producing good performances. I like to think I don't just produce the one-off amazing performance and then get forgotten.

"It can be hard to keep the focus but I try and conserve energy for the weekend and then give it everything.

"I managed to get the summer off from going on tour and had a six-week break so I could recharge my batteries, both mentally and physically. I really needed some time away from the game to refocus and get the hunger back.

"At times it is easy to think you are doing a good job and you forget there are areas of your game that need working on. The key is to acknowledge aspects that require hard work to make an improvement."

Gloucester will certainly feel the pinch without their international class forward and so too may Robinson.

Despite the injury, Brown still has his sights set on the white shirt and added: "You play rugby with the hope that one day you will make the England team.

"I just want to know whether I can do it at that level. I don't think I could do much more at club level and I just want the chance at international level to try and do myself proud – that is all I can do."

**"You play rugby with the hope that one day you'll make the England team."**



# Redpath

Bryan



Gloucester's coaching team has the best of both worlds – Dean Ryan was an uncompromising forward and **Bryan Redpath** an equally competitive scrum-half. The former Scotland international is in his first major coaching role...



**BRYAN REDPATH** is known as Basil or Brush. Legend has it they are nicknames handed down by his two elder brothers because of his fascination with the foxy puppet by the same name he was so keen to watch on TV.

As a scrum-half of a very recent Scottish vintage, the link to a fox is a fitting moniker, pointing as it does to cunning and no little amount of bite.

But Redpath is not making an unholy nuisance of himself on the international scene

or with his former club Sale these days. He is getting his teeth well and truly into his first major coaching role at Kingsholm.

At Sale they built a team round him. His manically competitive, no nonsense attitude helped formulate the development of Jason Robinson, Mark Cueto and Charlie Hodgson and his plan now is to create the same front-foot attacking force at Gloucester.

The chance to pair up with Dean Ryan came during the summer immediately following surgery on a back complaint that eventually forced him into retirement.

He required four screws and a couple of plates inserted in his lower back in a spinal fusion operation after the condition had degenerated to a point where he even required an epidural with cortisone just to be able to walk after the play-off defeat against Wasps.

"I had a bad back for 10

years but eventually suffered nerve pain in my legs and after the epidural it took me four or five days just to get back to wondering around," he said.

"It wasn't very pleasant and in the end the decision was taken for me. I have no regrets because I had achieved

everything I wanted to."

Redpath (33), was planning a year mixing work with Sky TV with specialist scrum-half coaching but when he heard that Ryan was sniffing around for an assistant, he went for a meeting and never looked back.

"I came here from a club that was very dominated by the backs to a team that was very strong upfront," he said.

"I think there were other people Gloucester were talking to but I decided to see Dean for a bit of a chat and a catch up with him because I knew him well from our playing days.

"I didn't want to make any decisions immediately. We had a good chat about things and then I went away to think. Dean asked me what my ambitions were and they were on the same lines as his and the whole thing went from there.

"Getting into coaching was not something I intended to do straight away. I was going to take a year out and

do so work with Sky and some individual scrum-half work but this opportunity came up and it was pretty easy to take it.

"I have learnt to section myself away from players. Making that change is hard. It's about getting used to being on the other side of the fence really but it is getting easier all the time.

**"I have no regrets because I have achieved everything I wanted to."**





## **“I would like us to be a side that strikes better - to be more dynamic and more direct.”**

It was easy to see why Ryan opted for a man so fresh out of the game. Redpath's instinctive intuition and 'head under the bonnet' techniques at Sale as a player put him in a unique bracket as an individual who understood the demands of modern players and could relate to them in a coaching capacity. It is a crucial mix.

There were no hang ups when he left playing for good he said: "I had been in professional rugby for 10 or 11 years so I knew what I was getting in to as a coach and it didn't intimidate me that much.

"But I had forgotten just how easy playing and training was and how limited I am now. I would like to think I am relaxed and pretty laid back but there is only so much I will take. I will get extremely irritated if people are not working to the levels I require of them.

"I have always believed if you are a senior player, you have a massive responsibility and I found as a player that if someone was messing up, I had no problems in telling them and I will be the same now."

He freely admits that his backline have not produced the type of performances he has been looking for but with the likes of Mike Tindall, James Simpson-

Daniel and Ludovic Mercier all strutting their stuff, it won't be long.

"I came here from a club that was very much dominated by the backs to a team that has very strong forwards. We have not played a lot of rugby yet and I have found that pretty frustrating as a back," he said. "First and foremost, I would like us to be a side that strikes better - to be more dynamic and more direct, I want quick ball so we can play some rugby.

"If you get the strike and execution right we can be a threat. I was used to playing at a pace that put stress on defenders and I would like it to be the same here.

"With the forward power we have, I want us to get into a situation where we are comfortable playing more than simply plan A."

Bryan Redpath is not the sort of person to talk up Gloucester's chances for the season but if they have a successful campaign he will have certainly played his part.





**Shed dweller Bob Fenton reckons it's time to forget the defeat at Bath, hope Bucuresti enjoy their Kingsholm visit this afternoon - just not too much. . .**

# Fan Zone

**I**T SEEMS ages since we were last at Kingsholm for a first team match, remember it from the dim and distant past, ye olde Ospreys in the new-look Powergen cup competition. Since then it's been a long road trip to Bristol, Bath and latterly Bayonne for the boys.

Two of those games have been won, one has been a narrow defeat. There's one thing that

never fails to amaze me about some of our own supporters. The defeat at Bath, painful as it was, does not signify the end of civilisation as we know it, there was no need for the outpouring of collective nonsense on internet message boards up and down the super highway, we lost one close-fought game. Get over it, move on.

admirably when they went down to 14 men. Humiliation? Not even close. . . Harlequins away last season, now THAT was bad!

But that's sport – you win some you shouldn't and you lose some you should have won. . . isn't that what makes it exciting? Anyway it's history now, so let's concentrate on today.

**“That's sport - you win some you shouldn't and you lose some you should have won.”**

Some have suggested this was a 'humiliation' but they were clearly not at the game and did not pay particular attention to the TV either. We lost to a well-organised side who coped

I must confess to not knowing a great deal about Bucharest's rugby side – what little knowledge I have gleaned comes courtesy of Jason Harris (aka Large) from Saracens, who clued us all in on the place. Trouble is he didn't tell us much about their rugby prowess, more on bars to visit, how to avoid getting ripped off by taxi drivers and places to stay. Come to think of it, that's all anyone making the trip will want to know anyway.

This particular European competition may lack the glamour of the Heineken Cup but it has an appeal all of its own. Because there is not the intensity and the pressure on the side – especially in these early rounds – the supporters are more relaxed and the away from the match activities seem to be a lot more fun.



Match Action v Bath

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The Honour



While I did not make the trip last weekend (spend too much time in France than is good for me through my job) I am absolutely sure that everyone who went will have had a great time. I remember many trips to exotic climbs such as La Rochelle (when I am certain a lot of the Gloucester army failed to make it to the match such was the level of imbibing the previous night) and Caerphilly where we got to watch a top flight team emerge from an old brick err outhouse of a changing room that probably didn't have enough hot water for them all to have a shower afterwards.



Match Action v Bath

Those of us who have toiled around the lesser grounds will have related to that particular experience!

And don't forget that it was this competition that gave us the chance to see the side take on a national team when Gloucester played Spain a few years ago. Give me that kind of club 'v' country action any day, rather than

the dull and never-ending war of words between the professional clubs and the RFU.

And don't get me started on that fracas – my kids are more adept at settling disputes than those two... We shouldn't overlook what it means to these smaller clubs as well. While the French clubs do attract a fair bit of

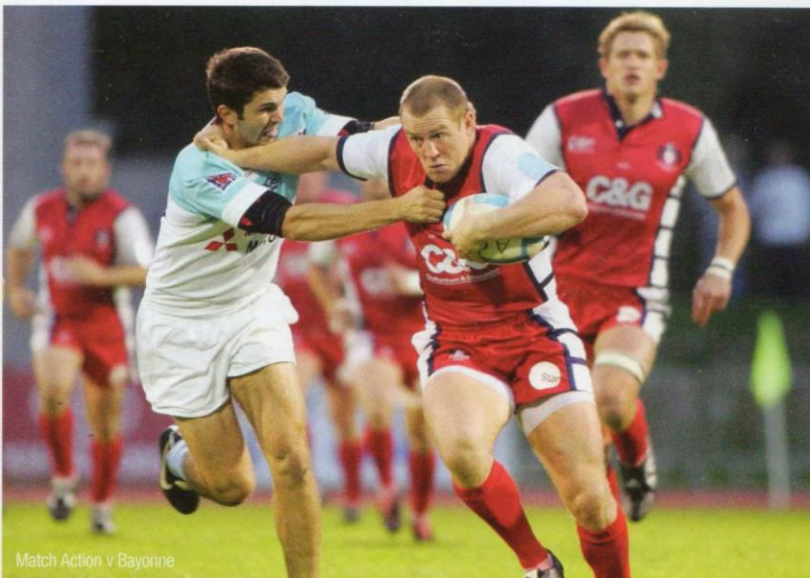
support to their home games, they will not take many supporters to away games.

Therefore clubs like Bucuresti must have jumped with delight at the thought of a few hundred visitors turning to boost their coffers. I don't know how the finances of this competition works out, but I hope that our visitors today will take

something more than just the experience of playing in front of a decent crowd away with them, it's nice to think that they may get some financial reward to help secure their future and to help move them on in terms of their ability and standing in their own country.

Unfortunately a lot of people don't bother to turn up to these games, I suppose they consider them not as worthwhile as the Premiership and decide to give it a miss. As this one is included with the season ticket package hopefully this will mean that the ground is pretty full.

Just imagine the kind of buzz that it will give the visiting players – it'll be a high spot for them and something for them to remember for the rest of their playing career. Mind you I am going to stop short of saying we should roll over and let them beat us on the basis that they would really have something to remember, I'm not that charitable!



Match Action v Bayonne

The History



I'm still waiting to see whether the scoreboard can cope with a three digit score, and maybe today is the day to really test it. But good luck to them, let's hope they can pull off a shock result against Toulon or Bayonne.

We should also remember that getting the chance to play against quality opposition will help the game in Romania regain its position in the sporting psyche of the nation. It's not all that long ago that Romania were looking like a better bet than Italy to progress as an international



Test playing nation but political events conspired against them and while the Italians moved forward

they went backwards at a horrible rate of knots. Maybe this competition offers them a way forward, and a chance to mimic the progress made by Italy on the back of their clubs participation in the European competitions. Let's hope so, some of the best games at the last World Cup were those that featured the so-called lesser nations.

All the games with none of the pressure and it was great to see players from the far flung corners of the globe given a chance to perform on the biggest stage possible.

Finally a rather oblique but personal message to one of the people I spend most Saturday afternoons scrunched up with at the halfway line. You know you have our support, thoughts and best wishes in your own "big match". And as one a bit closer to you may well say, 'Try not to let it play on your mind...'



Match Action v Bayonne

**“Some of the best games at the last World Cup were those that featured the so-called lesser nations.”**



# Match Action



## Gloucester Rugby 23 Ospreys 7

Saturday, October 1  
Attendance: 6,154  
Referee: Roy Maybank

Pictures by Bruce Seabrook – GPA Images info@gpaimages.com



TOP POWERGEN CUP POINTS SCORERS							
POS	NAME	TEAM	T	C	PG	DG	PTS
1	Olly Barkley	Bath Rugby	0	1	9	0	29
2	Ludovic Mercier	Gloucester Rugby	0	6	5	0	27
3	Nick Robinson	Cardiff Blues	1	6	3	0	26
4	Riki Flutey	London Irish	0	3	6	0	24
5	Bruce Reihana	Northampton Saints	1	5	3	0	24
6	Mark Van Gisbergen	London Wasps	0	1	7	0	23
7	Glen Jackson	Saracens	0	5	4	0	22
8	Craig Warlow	Newport Gwent Dragons	1	2	3	1	21
9	Matthew Burke	Newcastle Falcons	2	1	2	0	18
10	Gareth Bowen	Llanelli Scarlets	0	2	3	1	16
11	Oriol Ripol Fortuny	Sale Sharks	3	0	0	0	15
12	James Simpson-Daniel	Gloucester Rugby	3	0	0	0	15
13	Alex King	London Wasps	0	3	2	1	15
14	Matthew Jones	Ospreys	1	3	1	0	14
15	Shane Drahm	Worcester Warriors	0	2	3	0	13
16	Andy Goode	Leicester Tigers	0	3	2	0	12

**JAMES SIMPSON-DANIEL'S** try after less than a minute was the highlight of a workmanlike victory in the first round of the Powergen Cup.

After the Ospreys' scrum-half Jason Spice had dropped the kick-off, Gloucester launched a set move from a scrum and Ludovic Mercier exchanged passes with Henry Paul before looping round and sending

Simpson-Daniel home on an angled run.

From there, the contest did not live up to its explosive start. The Ospreys shifted possession well in and out of contact but the game was littered with penalties that restricted the cohesion and flow.

After a Mercier penalty made it 10-0, the Ospreys scored the

try they deserved.

They controlled a line-out 20 metres out and Spice made good ground through a thicket of defenders before openside Steve Tandy scored close to the posts.

In the second half, Gloucester isolated the Ospreys threat by depriving them of the ball and field position for long

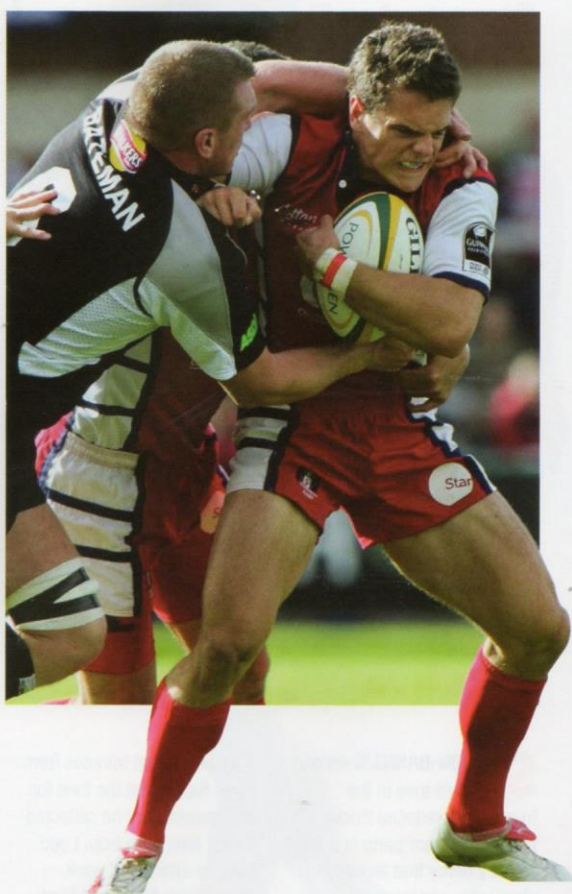
periods. Without playing well, Gloucester thoroughly dominated without making their pressure tell.

The tenacity of Jake Boer, the enthusiasm and panic caused by Andy Hazell in the contact and another tackle-fuelled performance by Alex Brown kept Gloucester on the go forward.

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The Honour





It became a test of endurance for the home side.

Mercier landed a 50th minute penalty to make the score 16-7 before the first real threat of the half. Thomas took a quick tap penalty, Mike Tindall linked with Jon Goodridge and he sent Simpson-Daniel on a weaving break that was stopped just short of the line.

Such was Gloucester's territorial control that the Ospreys struggled to escape for long periods and with nine minutes remaining the home side settled the match. James Forrester linked with Thomas from a scrum and Simpson-Daniel's delicate little roller was pounced on by Paul for the try that sealed the match.

The **History**



# Match Action



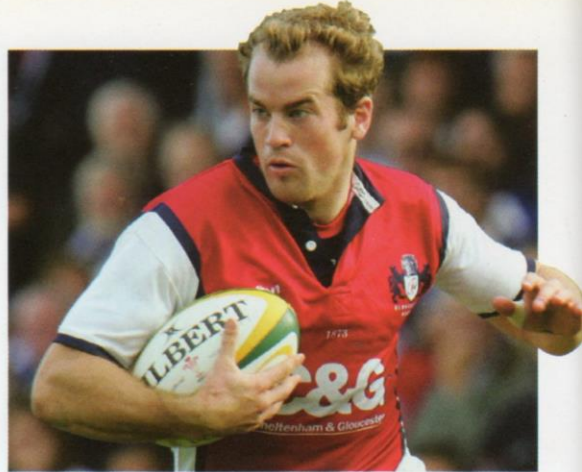
## Bristol Rugby 6 Gloucester Rugby 34

Sunday, October 9 Memorial Stadium  
Attendance: 5,018  
Referee: Sean Davey

### BEST POWERGEN CUP KICKERS

POS	NAME	TEAM	Good	Att	Kick%	Streak
1	Riki Flutey	London Irish	9	9	100.00%	All 9
2	Shane Drahm	Worcester Warriors	5	5	100.00%	All 5
3	Alex King	London Wasps	5	5	100.00%	All 5
4	Glen Jackson	Saracens	9	10	90.00%	Last 2
5	Mark Van Gisbergen	London Wasps	8	9	88.89%	Last 4
6	Gareth Bowen	Llanelli Scarlets	5	6	83.33%	Last 1
7	Craig Warlow	Newport Gwent Dragons	5	6	83.33%	Last 1
8	Ian Humphreys	Leicester Tigers	4	5	80.00%	Last 4
9	Ludovic Mercier	Gloucester Rugby	11	14	78.57%	Last 8
10	Olly Barkley	Bath Rugby	10	13	76.92%	Last 1
11	Nick Robinson	Cardiff Blues	9	12	75.00%	Last 2
12	Andy Goode	Leicester Tigers	5	7	71.43%	Last 1
13	Matthew Jones	Ospreys	4	6	66.67%	Last 2
14	Valentin Courrent	Sale Sharks	5	8	62.50%	Missed best
15	Bruce Reihana	Northampton Saints	8	14	57.14%	Last 3
16	Jonny Wilkinson	Newcastle Falcons	4	7	57.14%	Last 1

Qual: 5 place kicks at goal  
Under Streak, "Last 4" means has kicked last four place kicks in a row successfully



**SIMPSON-DANIEL'S** second and third tries in the tournament reduced Bristol to their component parts in a west country derby that lacked the physicality and intensity of the Guinness Premiership.

Gloucester fully deserved their second victory of the season at the Memorial Stadium, earning a bonus point victory that maintains their position at the head of Pool A.

A try after eight minutes from Peter Buxton set the tone for the contest after he collected a neat little pass from Ludo Mercier after good work from Olivier Azam and Mark Cornwell.

Bristol were restricted to a couple of Jason Strange penalties and the game was put beyond doubt before half-time.

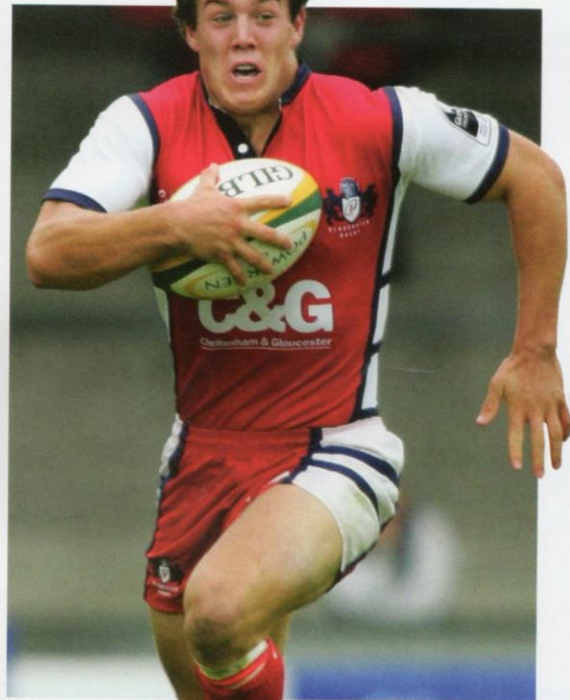
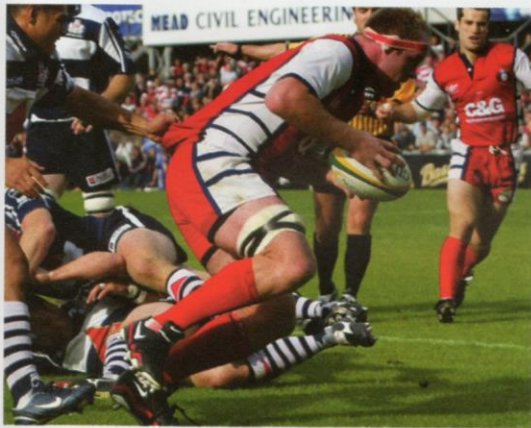
Gloucester drove a line-out deep into the heart of the Bristol defence and Mercier's little grubber was brilliantly taken by Simpson-Daniel who flicked the ball over his shoulder and down for the try.

The aim for Gloucester was to secure a bonus point victory and they got their third try seven minutes after the restart. Peter Buxton was

heavily involved in carrying possession forward from a line-out and Mark Cornwell followed up in his slipstream to pick up and crash over.

Mercier's conversion made it 27-6 and it was left to Simpson-Daniel to seal the win. Peter Richards fed Terry Fanolua bursting up the middle and his lovely little pass put Luke Narraway in the clear.





Anthony Allen added weight to the attack and Simpson-Daniel finished off the move with a cutting break to the line.

Ryan said: "We talked in great detail about the fact that this was a potential banana skin following our victory in the Premiership and we had to be very competitive to get the right

result," said Ryan. "We have worked hard on our defence and if you can get that part of your game right, you become hard to beat.

"We are far from the finished article but there are now 25 players in the squad who know what it is like to win and that is very important with what is to come."

The History



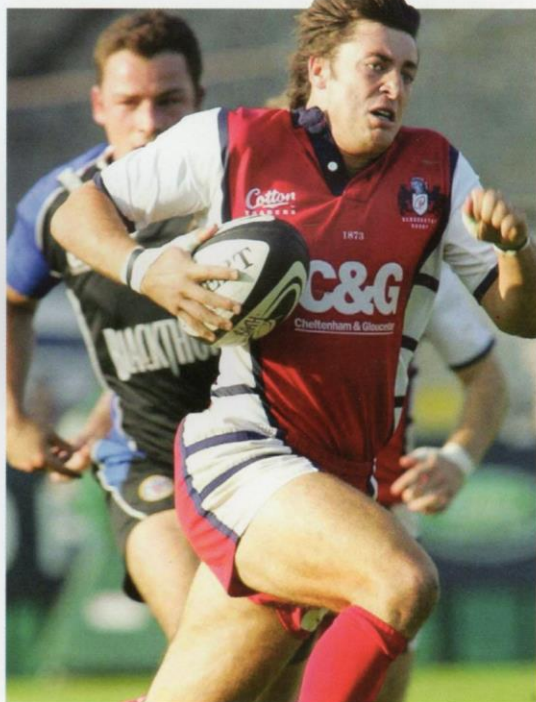
# Match Action



## Bath Rugby 18 Gloucester Rugby 16

Saturday, October 15  
Attendance: 10,800  
Referee: Dave Pearson

Pictures by Bruce Seabrook – GPA Images info@gpaimages.com



**G**LOUCESTER suffered their first defeat of the season – against their bitter rivals from the Recreation Ground.

They have still never won a league game at the Rec and came up against a Bath forward unit inspired by England lock Danny Grewcock.

Bath's victory was even more remarkable, coming as

it did after they played the entire second half with 14 men following the first-half dismissal of Andrew Higgins for a trip on Mike Tindall.

And they were even reduced to 13 men at one point after David Bory received a yellow card. It was only at this stage that Gloucester forged ahead with a brilliant solo finish from Rob Thirlby.

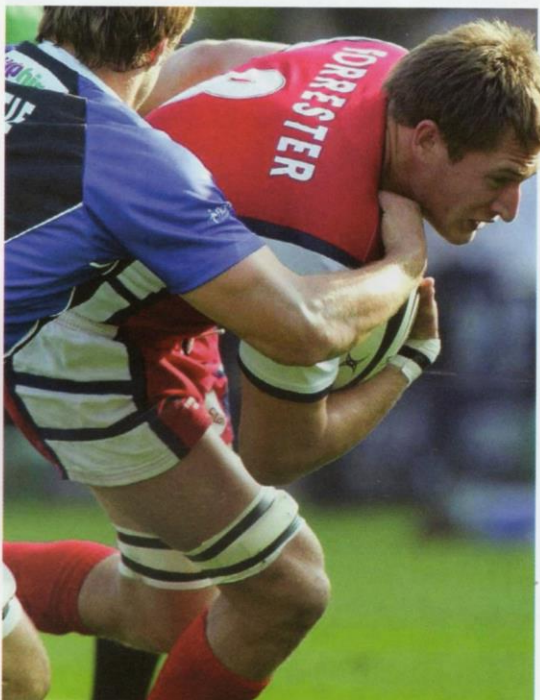
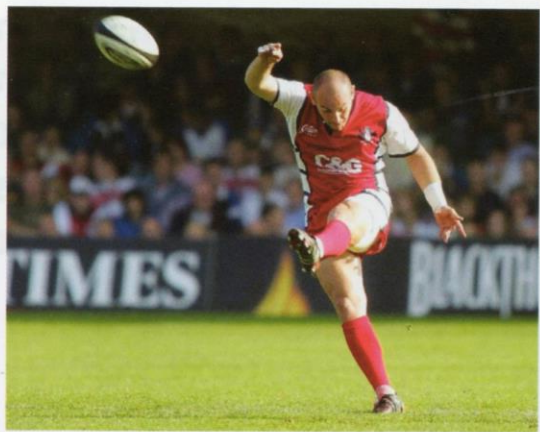
The contest was locked at 6-6 at the break – Olly Barkley and Ludovic Mercier exchanging two penalties apiece – but the home side immediately stretched their advantage to nine points after 52 minutes.

First, Chris Malone drilled over a 50-metre drop-goal before Barkley landed two penalties to increase the tension in the Gloucester ranks.

But when Peter Richards combined with Mercier and Henry Paul's long pass found Tindall, Gloucester created the move of the match and Thirlby picked a lovely angle to race past Barkley and in for the try.

Mercier's touchline conversion made the score 16-15 to Gloucester with seven minutes remaining. But with time ebbing





away, Barkley sealed a momentous victory for Bath with his fifth successful penalty to leave Gloucester heartbroken at the Rec again.

"We gave away too many penalties - when you've got Oilly [Barkley] and Molly [Malone] who can knock over penalties and drop-goals respectively,

you don't want to be giving those away. That's another thing we've got to address," Tindall said.

"That was our only downfall. Our defence has been outstanding all season and it didn't look like it was going to get broken down. The penalties they scored off were not ones we needed to give away."

The **History**



# Match Action

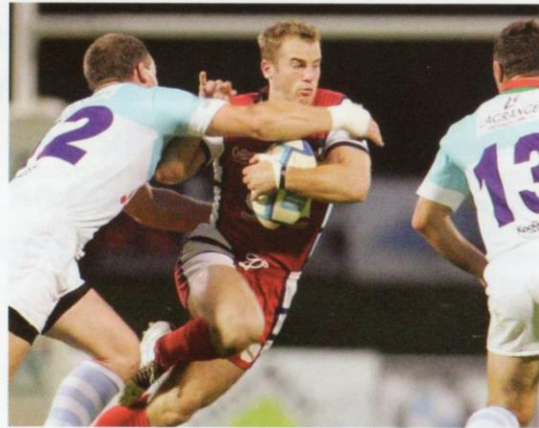
European Challenge Cup



## Bayonne 10 Gloucester Rugby 26

Saturday, October 22  
Attendance: 4,500  
Referee: Donal Courtney (Ire)

Pictures by Bruce Seabrook – GPA Images info@gpaimages.com



**D**EAN RYAN hailed Gloucester's victory in Bayonne last Saturday that got the European Challenge Cup campaign off to a winning start.

In atrocious conditions, Gloucester scored three tries to top the group after the opening weekend of matches.

There were some outstanding performances – particularly from Andy Hazell, Peter Buxton and Quinton Davids – but Gloucester were better all over the field and took the lead when Hazell was driven over from a line-out.

Ludovic Mercier kept Gloucester in charge with a series of penalties but there were no more

scores before half-time. However, immediately after the interval, Haydn Thomas scored on the short side following a period of pressure and a Bayonne turn-over.

Gloucester completed the victory when James Forrester sustained a move through the centre and when possession was recycled, Mark Foster

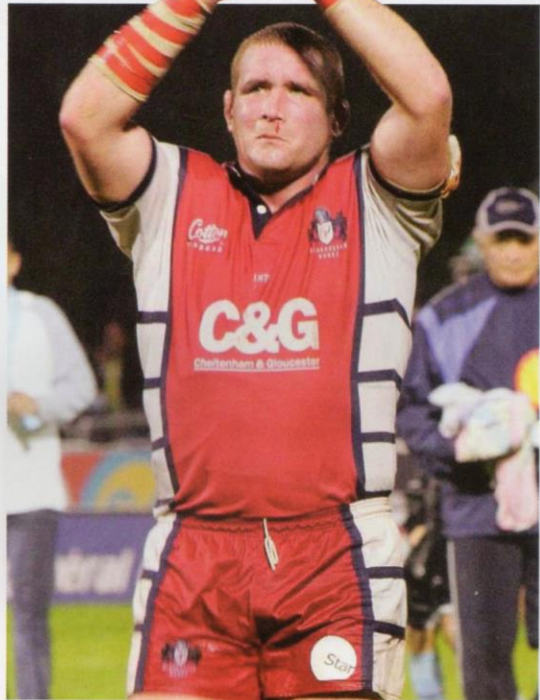
bundled through three or four tacklers and to the line. Bayonne grabbed a consolation try in the final minute when skipper Louis Massabeau was pushed over from a short-range line-out after Jonathan Pendlebury was yellow carded.

But that could not deflect from the importance of the victory and Ryan said:

ThePride

gloucester.rugby.co.uk





"I thought it was an outstanding performance, one of the best this season. It was the best shape we have had, we put Bayonne under great pressure and controlled the game.

"We worked ever so hard - I thought Quinton Davids was outstanding, Peter Buxton had his best game

of the season and it was just a very organised and committed performance.

"Any victory in France is good and we knew we would be under extreme pressure for 80 minutes - I am just delighted we have got back to winning ways and this is a great start for us."

The History



# Behind The Scenes

**It might be hard to believe, but history suggests Gloucester will have their work cut out today. Bucuresti arrive at Kingsholm with an unbeaten record with two victories in two attempts at Castle Grim, as **Dave King** investigates.**



Peter Ford

**B**UCURESTI'S first visit to Kingsholm was 49 years ago on September 15 1956 and a clash with Peter Ford's side.

All roads led to Kingsholm and there were more than 7,000 spectators in the ground with half an hour to kick off. The city's great and the good were special guests for the day and they included mayor Ald M. G. Lewis, the City High Sherriff – Mr J. F. A Cland, the City member (Mr M. Turner-Samuels, Q.C.) the Romanian

Minister in London (Mr N. Corcinschi), the Romanian legatator first secretary (Mr R. Vianai) and the Archdeacon of Gloucester (W. T. Wardle).

But pride of place went to 92-year-old Mr R. Perks, grandfather of Gloucester three-quarter Doug Perks. He had been following the club for more than 80 years. He saw his first match when he was 10 in the days when Gloucester played on the Spa. In the match itself, a tough, tight, tense contest developed. With 10 minutes remaining, Gloucester held a three-point lead but at the final whistle it was the Romanians who lined up to acknowledge applause as winners.

Two late tries shattered Kingsholm hopes and even a late penalty was scant consolation as Bucuresti claimed a 10-6 victory in Gloucester's first game against eastern European opposition.

The Bucuresti team were superbly fit and were a

constant danger especially with the length and accuracy of their kicking game, with full-back Alexandra Penciu their main dangerman.

Gloucester's main strength came with the power of the pack with Ford, George Hastings and D. A. Jones in particularly outstanding form. There was no score in the first half but five minutes after the interval Alan Holder put the home team ahead with a drop-goal from 25-yards.

Gloucester's full-back Ieuan Sheen set the visitors on their way to a memorable victory when he misfired a pass in his own 25 and Barbu pounced for a try that swung the game wide open.

Almost immediately a 50-yard breakaway by Krammer sent wing forward Viorel Morarie racing in for Bucuresti's second try. Full-back Penciu converted both to leave Gloucester trailing. A late penalty by Holder reduced the arrears in front of almost 10,000 supporters.



Gloucester: - I. Sheen; D. Perks, A. Holder, J. M. Jenkin, R. Blair; D. W. Jones, B. Reade; G. W. Hastings, C. Thomas, A. Townsend, D. A. Jones, B. Hudson, P. Ford (Captain), B. Green, D. I. Ibbotson.

Bucuresti: - A. Penciu; I. Dobre, C. Krammer, R. Nanu, A. Barbu; R. Chiariac, D. Ionesco (Captain); A. Teofilovic, N. Soculesiu, M. Blagescu, A. Marinache, V. Mladin, V. Moraru, E. Dumitrescu, L. Dorutiu.

Referee: - Mr R. J. Todd (Southampton)

Bucuresti's second visit to Kingsholm was on October 7th 1978.

Once again the match was decided in the closing stages, but this time it was the last kick of the match when a prodigious 45-yard drop-goal by full-back Bucos settled the match in favour of the visitors by 30 points to 28.

It was a match that thrilled the crowd with its wide ranging skills, superb kicking, a fiery forward battle and Gloucester replying to a 15 point deficit.

There were no fewer than 10 Romanian Internationals in the Bucuresti line-up but despite their heavy international flavour, they needed good fortune to get ahead when hooker Munteanu scored after a drop-goal attempt rebounded into his hands and he was able to escape the cover and score a try.

As usual Gloucester was indebted to goal kicking genius Peter Butler whose 20 points kept the hosts in touch. Four long-range penalties in the space of 17 minutes saw the home side catch and overhaul



**“The Bucuresti team were superbly fit and were a constant danger, especially with the length and accuracy of their kicking-game”**

the Bucuresti lead. With one minute of normal time remaining, Gloucester held a slender one-point lead but Bucos came to the rescue of the Romanians.

In the first half, the mobile Bucuresti forwards ripped through the Gloucester defence. Fly-half Alexandru opened the scoring with a fifth minute penalty and 6ft 5in number eight Bors went over for two tries both of which were converted. Butler, who captained the side

in the absence of John Watkins, landed his first penalty but Bucos, one of three kickers used by Bucuresti, responded with two more to give his team an 18-point lead.

Facing such a deficit, it would have been easy for Gloucester to have folded but they rallied when Steve Boyle thundered over following a short penalty. Butler converted and then landed his second penalty to make the half-time score 21-12 to the visitors.

The History





**“Gloucester required the accuracy of Butler, who dragged the hosts back into the match with four penalties ”**

Shortly after half-time Bob Clewes reduced the arrears with a try following fine play by Paul Wood, Butler and Lewis Dick the Scottish international who was making his debut but the momentum built up by the home side did not last.

Munteanu stretched Bucuresti's lead when he scored a try that was converted by Bucos converting. Gloucester required the accuracy of Butler, who dragged the hosts back into the

match with four penalties. It was a match played in the unaccustomed autumn heat and the visitors held on to secure a 30-28 win and their second successive victory at Kingsholm.

Gloucester: - Peter Butler; Bob Clewes, Eric Rooney, Richard Mogg, Lewis Dick; Chris Williams, Paul Wood; Gordon Sargent, Steve Mills, Alan Brookes, Steve Boyle, Adrian Turton, John Haines, John Orwin, P. Wood.

Replacements: - Paul Howell, Keith White.

Bucuresti: - M. Bucos; P. Ionusevic, I. Constantin, G. Nica, P. Motrescu; D. Alexandru, M. Paraschiv; C. Dinu, M. Munteanu, F. Ionita, G. Daraban, M. Ionescu, F. Murariu, G. Dumitru, E. Stocia Replacements: - E. Suciu, M. Ortelecan

Referee: - Alan Welsby.

On that same day Gloucester United travelled to Cleve with a back row that contained three players who would go down in Gloucester history – John Gadd, Mike Teague and Mike Longstaff.



## The Citizen Newspaper's **Ben Falconer** looks back at the career of a truly great Gloucester player who has sadly passed away.

Pictures courtesy of Paul Nicholls of The Citizen

### Roy Sutton

# Tribute



**T**RIBUTES have been paid to a true son of Gloucester whose place in the pantheon of city rugby greats is assured.

Roy Sutton represented Gloucester 222 times in the 1950s, earning a reputation as a breath-taking tackler at centre.

His death at the age of 77 marks the end of another link with an era which bears little resemblance to the professional game today. Born in the long-gone Columbia Street, a mere punt from Gloucester's ground on February 1, 1928, he never strayed far from the area known as Clapham in his lifetime. After schooling at St Mark's and Kingsholm, he left aged 14 to become a trainee electrician before joining the Navy for two years. He spent the majority of his working life with Dowty as an engineer.

Before joining Gloucester, he played for Coney Hill and Spartans. One of eight children, his mother ran a fruit and vegetable store from 1938 where the fish and chip shop now

stands in Kingsholm Road. He was believed to have first appeared for Gloucester in 1948 and had already played for Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and Lincolnshire when away with the Navy. His mother could watch him in action on the Kingsholm pitch from a first floor window over the road.

"She was proud of him but she used to watch through her fingers, because she didn't want to see him get injured," said Mr Sutton's widow Anne, 62.

Although he missed a pair of famous Gloucester victories over the then-mighty Cardiff, he scored a try in a 9-8 loss at the Arms Park and marshalled the mercurial Bleddyn Williams, his opposite number, who played in a dream midfield with fly-half Cliff Morgan.

"He was a very good tackler," remembered present Gloucester Rugby president Peter Ford, who captained sides Mr Sutton played in. "He was quite small but he was quite broad and his tackling was devastating and that was possibly his biggest asset.

Mickey Booth's sparkling club career at scrum-half started as Mr Sutton's ended and he appreciated his backing. "He was a wonderfully effective tackler," said Mr Booth. "He was not very big but they did not get past Roy very often. Even when he played against the great Bleddyn Williams, he gave a very good account of himself. "I first met him when he was captain of Gloucester United (the second XV) and he persuaded me to give it a go at Kingsholm. "He went on to the committee and was very good at that and was a great support to me." He died in September after a series of serious health problems.

Right to the end, he remained deeply interested in the club's fortunes - two days before he died, he wanted to know how Gloucester had fared against Northampton.



**"His tackling was devastating and that was possibly his biggest asset."**

The **History**

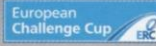




# Today's Teams



## Gloucester Rugby



## Bucuresti

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Olly **Morgan**

Rob **Thirlby**

James **Simpson-Daniel**

Mike **Tindall**

Marcel **Garvey**

Ludovic **Mercier**

Haydn **Thomas**

Nick **Wood**

Mefin **Davies**

Phil **Vickery** (c)

Adam **Eustace**

Quinton **Dauids**

Peter **Buxton**

Andy **Hazell**

Luke **Narroway**

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Rob **Elloway**

Patrice **Collazo**

Mark **Cornwell**

James **Forrester**

Peter **Richards**

Terry **Fanolua**

Simon **Amor**

**15 Full-Back**

**14 Wing**

**13 Centre**

**12 Centre**

**11 Wing**

**10 Fly-Half**

**9 Scrum-Half**

**1 Prop**

**2 Hooker**

**3 Prop**

**4 Lock**

**5 Lock**

**6 Flanker**

**7 Flanker**

**8 No.8**

### Replacements

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Cătălin **Fercu**

Eugen **Petre**

Robert **Dascălu**

Csaba **Gal**

Ionut **Teodorescu**

Dan **Vlad**

Iulian **Andrei**

Nicolae **Nere**

Marcel **Mihalache**

Paulica **Ion**

Cornel **Tatu**

Cosmin **Ratiu**

Stelian **Burcea**

Daniel **Carpo**

Mihai **Macovei**

Stere **Sponte**

Bogdan **Zebega**

Radu **Basalău**

Cristian **Mocanu**

Alexandru **Lupu**

Florin **Vlaicu**

Danut **Dumbravă**



### TODAY'S OFFICIALS

REFEREE: Tim Haynes WRU

TOUCH JUDGE 1: Ken Evans WRU

TOUCH JUDGE 2: Reg Hughes WRU

FOURTH OFFICIAL: Huw Jones-Williams RFU

### TODAY'S RESULT

GLoucester:

BUCURESTI:



# European Challenge Cup

[ercrugby.com](http://ercrugby.com)

Round Two