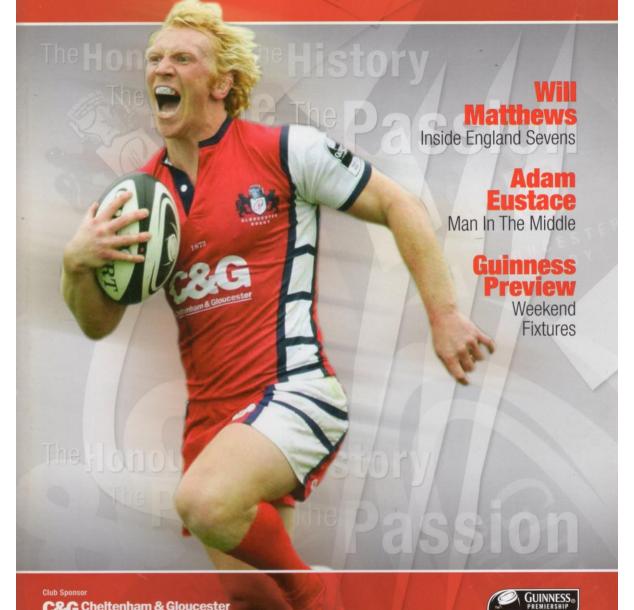
Gloucester Rugby Official Matchday Magazine | 2005/06 Season | Issue 06 | Price £3.00









C&G Cheltenham & Gloucester













vs Saracens

Saturday 26th November | Kick Off 12.30pm







In association with

Balding

THIS AFTERNOON we welcome Saracens to Kingsholm for Round Nine of the Guinness Premiership.

We know they are a highly talented and motivated side, who are well coached by Steve Diamond. They have produced a solid run of performances and results and beat us three times last season.

But to be quite honest

- and I mean in no way to be
disrespectful to Saracens - it
wouldn't matter who we were
playing this weekend.

We will have waited six days for the chance to put right the wrongs that occurred in our defeat against London Irish last Sunday and I don't think anybody can wait for the opportunity to go out and express themselves at Kingsholm once again.

Nobody who turns up at Hartpury College everyday, trains so hard it hurts or pulls on a Gloucester shirt at the weekend needs telling we didn't produced the good at the Madejski Stadium. It was a performance that didn't represent the ethos we

all pride ourselves in or reach the standards we set ourselves for a club like ours.

There have been no excuses offered in the aftermath but sometimes things don't go according to plan and now we have to move on. After we lost to Leicester we really built ourselves up for the Irish game but once again we started poorly – a characteristic of our last two defeats – and we have been unable to shrug off our slow start.

We gave away 18 soft points and when you do that you cannot

expect to win a game. Nobody could fault the commitment or endeavour but if it's not applied in the right manner and directed properly, it almost contradicts itself.

We have always prided ourselves in being a tight unit on and off the field but we need to get back to having a crack with a smile on our faces this afternoon.

I hope you get behind the boys this afternoon. With so many injuries and international call-ups, some of the less experienced guys need all the vocal support we can get.

Help us to what would be a very important victory this afternoon.

The Passion

Cyril Thomas, who passed away this week, was known as 'The Master'. He was one of the best hookers never to play for England and is fondly remembered by Citizen sports editor Mark Halliwell.

A Gloucester Rugby Tribute

ORMER Gloucester captain Cyril Thomas, once described as the "finest hooker never to play for England" has died at the age of 76.

Mr Thomas, known as 'The Master', played his first game for Gloucester in 1947, and retired in 1960 having played 362 games for the club, scoring 29 tries.

He played his first game for Gloucestershire in his first season with Gloucester, having moved to Kingsholm from Lydney. In a unique situation,Mr Thomas also had international trials for England and Wales.

He played alongside the likes of Jack Watkins, Alan Wadley and Peter Ford for the club, and hung his boots up on December 31, 1960. His final game was an 8-3 win over Newbridge at Kingsholm.

Playing colleague and current club president Peter Ford, who skippered Gloucester at the time of Mr Thomas' retirement, said he was a magnificent player.

"He was a great player, and the quickest striker of a ball I ever played with." he said.

"He liked the scrum to be solid and steady, then he would hook the ball out as quick as a flash."

Away from rugby, Mr Thomas had a successful career in the police force, serving all over Gloucestershire, including Newent and Stroud.
He then transferred to Hertfordshire Police, and also served with the Metropolitan Police's National Crime Squad, working on a number of highprofile cases.

Mr Ford said: "I remember on one occasion that he was driving up from the Forest for a game and he gave a chap a lift.

"The chap said he was a heavyweight boxer, and told Cyril all about a number of crimes he had committed. "He didn't realise that Cyril was a policeman, and Cyril drove him straight to the police station and arrested him.

"He played 362 games for Gloucester, which is an amazing achievement, especially when you think of the game today. Anyone who plays 200 games these days is doing well." He is survived by wife Mary, four daughters and seven grandchildren.

His funeral will be held at Gloucester Crematorium on Monday November 28 at 11am, with refreshments afterwards at Gloucester Rugby Club.



"He was a great player, and the quickest striker of a ball I ever played with."

The History





Gloucester Rugby 27

Newcastle Falcons 20

Saturday, October 29 Kingsholm Attendance: 12,500 Referee: Ashley Rowden

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



EAD COACH Dean Ryan paid a glowing tribute to Gloucester's rising young stars following a critical Guinness Premiership victory over Newcastle.

A backline with an average age of 23 produced a performance of verve and maturity beyond their years to down the Falcons in front of a capacity gate at Kingsholm.

Anthony Allen, on his Premiership debut, carried ball, made his tackles and displayed an authority beyond his years to form a genuine cutting edge with James Simpson-Daniel.

There was also an excellent carrying and positional performance from full-back Olly Morgan, who looked as accomplished as

Newcastle's Matt Burke, a former Wallaby international.

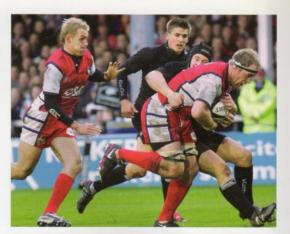
"I thought some of the young guys were simply outstanding," Ryan said. "When you look at their inexperience and the company they were keeping, they were superb.

"I think our backline had an average age of 23 and when you look at who they were

up against, some of their composure and maturity in such a big game was excellent.

"When you look at the talent on both teams, the future of English rugby looks in safe hands - there were some outstanding individual performances out there."

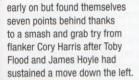
Gloucester just about had the edge in terms of pressure











It proved to be the wake-up call Gloucester needed. When they created some territorial pressure three minutes after Newcastle's try, Quinton Davids controlled a line-out and James Forrester scored on the short side.

The pressure mounted on Newcastle and Ludovic Mercier punished every offence with a series of penalties that took the home side 17-7 ahead.

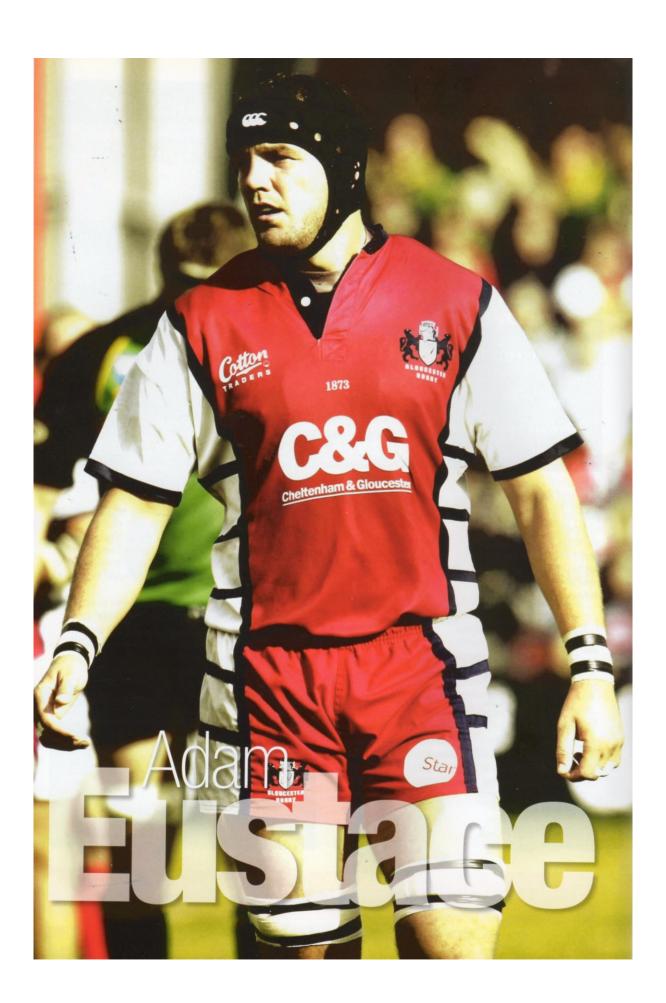
But Newcastle got themselves back in the match when Owen Finegan controlled a line-out, James Grindall linked with Jonny Wilkinson and the England number 10 linked with Hoyle to race through for the score.

It got Gloucester's pulses racing sufficiently for them to up the pressure and after Adam Balding, Adam Eustace and Allen had all sustained an attack close to the posts, Peter Richards dived over to complete the move.

However, it took a Mercier penalty 16 minutes from time to seal the victory for the home side.



TheHistory



Come in number 4



There is more, much more, to a line-out than a simple throw and a catch. One of the game's major areas is a strategic contest of chess that requires careful planning and perfect execution. As Adam Eustace explains to the matchday programme, running a successful line-out is an art form in itself.

ASTERMINDING a successfully operating line-out in the increasingly tough battlefields of the Guinness Premiership is one of the most demanding features of a modern day rugby player.

The eight-man game of physical chess is a battle of wits, strategy and composure as much as sheer strength and can be one of the most deadly forms of attack and defence available to any side who has an effective operation.

At Gloucester, Alex Brown is the master tactician. He is a specialist in the art of dissecting the opposition calls, defensive structure and jumping sequence. But because of his neck injury, the burden has fallen on Adam Eustace to keep Gloucester's set-piece ticking over.

"Alex Brown usually takes the responsibility because he has been doing it for the last

10 seasons on one stage or another," Eustace said. "But Dean [Ryan, head coach] has asked me to take the responsibility since Browny has been out of the team and it is a massive challenge.

"The line-out is a game within a game - something that needs to be calculated and planned - because it's such an important part of the contest.

"I have been chucked in a bit at the deep end and it's not just something you can just turn up and expect to get right first time because there is a lot of pressure.

"We have to look at how different line-outs are set-up, how they defend, analyse the videos and then work out our plans about how we are going to counter-act it."

Gloucester's line-out seriously struggled against London Irish last weekend. Bob Casey and

Nick Kennedy successfully cracked the codes set up and denied Eustace and his teammates the chance to execute moves that would have got possession moving much quicker.

"Teams do defend differently but London Irish did a really good job in denying us middle or back ball," he said. "They gave us front ball but that

"I've been chucked in a bit at the deep end and it's not something you can just turn up and expect to get right."

meant we couldn't use it off the top of the line-out where we could have been most effective.

"If you look at the stats, the London Irish line-out is always near the top - they did a good job on us."



"I want to show a bit of leadership, play well and show some of the new players the way."

Eustace, who is in his seventh season at Kingsholm, is never short of competitive spirit, plays somewhere approaching the edge on a consistent basis and is enjoying an extremely solid start to the season.

He is predominantly a front jumper when Brown is in the side but has shifted to the middle during his new role.

"I think this year was the first time I have started the first game of the season," he said. "I am 26, but not a young guy any more in terms of experience. When I was coming through I had blokes like Andy Deacon and Dave Sims to drag me along and I am in that sort of position now.

"I want to show a bit of leadership, play well and show some of the new players the way. Dean has given me the responsibility of the line-out and I not only want to do well for him and the team but also myself.

"I do have a lot to prove to myself. Last Sunday was really frustrating because we were trying our hardest but it didn't go our way.

"It is a huge learning curve for me and I would like to think I am getting better all the time and I want to come out of it a better player."

Eustace took over from Brown as Gloucester went into European Challenge Cup action and he is brutally honest about the level of performances since.

They easily overcome Bayonne and Bucuresti but once back in the Premiership against the menacing likes of Ben Kay, Casey and Kennedy, Gloucester have struggled.

"Bayonne and Bucuresti really didn't challenge us defensively from the line-out," Eustace said. "Newcastle had a 20year-old in the second row who was inexperienced and maybe those games gave us the pretence we were better than we were

"When we came up against an international second row against Leicester we had a much tougher time and the same thing happened at London Irish. The main thing is to analyse and prepare well so we progress.

"A good line-out caller will take everything in that is going on around him – the defensive structure, whether the ball is going to the front, middle or back and try and prevent it. When that part of the game is over they have to get around the field, carry some ball, hit the rucks and mauls and make tackles.

"Everybody has to trust in what is going on – this is a huge learning curve but I am determined to come out of it a better player."

The Pride



ACTION PREMIERSHIP



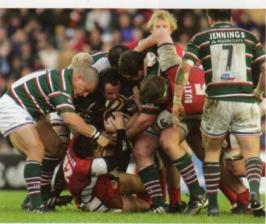


Leicester Tigers 25 Gloucester Rugby 20

Saturday, October 29 Welford Road Attendance: 16,815

Referee: Tony Spreadbury

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





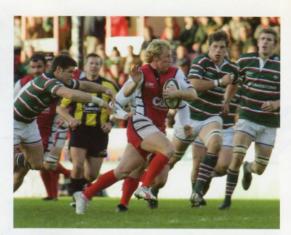
"We lost the game because for 30 minutes in the first half we got outmuscled," Ryan admitted.

down the left.

"It's the most physical places to come. We knew there was an element of sacrifice with the line-out, but that wasn't decisive in the game.

"We left ourselves too much to do and at times we looked a young side without the experience to deal with situations in a tough environment like this. "But we scored two brilliant outstanding tries and that can give us confidence. We wanted quick ball but simply couldn't get it quickly enough because I felt we looked dangerous in the backs."

Gloucester cut the deficit to 15-13 at the break when Simpson-Daniel made a brilliant break and Allen was able to take his inside pass





The Hono

CLOUCESTER suffered their second Guinness

Premiership defeat of the

season at Welford Road -

Tom Varndell's two tries

firing Leicester to victory.

Even without 16 players due

call-ups, Leicester were well

worth their victory despite two

excellent tries for Anthony Allen

to injury and international

and Olly Morgan.









and surge away for his first Premiership try.

But Leicester cranked up the pressure immediately after the break and Vardnell scored their third try when he came across from his opposite wing to score following a period of concerted pressure.

After the introduction of Jake Boer and Terry Fanolua, Gloucester mounted a recovery mission and raised the prospects of a grandstand finish when Fanolua and Simpson-Daniel created space in midfield and Olly Morgan completed the move with another good finish in the far corner.

However, Leicester managed to take the fire out of Gloucester's late rally to collect the points

and leave Ryan's side with only a bonus point for their efforts.



he History



James Simpson-Daniel

Despite no action at Kingsholm for a week or so, Peter Arnold has kept his ear to the ground and even found himself agreeing with Austin Healey, whatever next.

Arnold



T'S GOOD to have the past couple of weeks behind us. It's becoming a truism to state that it's very difficult to win away games in the

Premiership,

so to have to visit two of the strongest fortresses in the game during the three Autumn International weekends was always a bit much to ask.

It certainly didn't help to be without our two England players, and injuries to the three 'B's' – Brown, Boer performances of last season. Perhaps the less said the better.

Of course, the other side of this coin is that, if away wins are hard to come by, then you must make damned sure you win your home games.

Starting today, one hopes.



and Balding - at the same time made things even more difficult, but let's not make too many excuses. We could, and possibly should, have beaten Leicester, but allowed them to get away from us in the first 20 minutes or so. Things might have been so different if that beckoning try had been taken just after half time, but there you go.

The London Irish game was a sad disappointment, and reminded me of some of the inexplicable lack-lustre

ON THE TELLY

ID YOU watch BBC2's 'Rugby Special' on the Sunday following the England-Australia match? If not, you missed some very interesting comment from Leicester's Austin Healey, who had, of course, been playing against Gloucester the day before.

In essence, he remarked that James Simpson Daniel had played a blinder against the Tigers, and that, if it was up to

The Honour

him, he would play Sinbad in the centre for England.

Like most people, I don't always agree with the ebullient Mr. Healey, but as on this occasion, he'd been watching events at Welford Road from the closest possible quarters, you have On being asked if Mike's experience of huge sporting occasions was helpful to her in her own career, she answered firmly in the affirmative, and also added that he was so incredibly laid back that he calmed things down for her.

I don't know whether that's

it's worth pointing out that a below-strength French side put them to the sword much more efficiently than England did, and that doesn't auger well for the Six Nations.

Early days yet, of course, but, so far, I haven't seen anything from the other northern hemisphere sides which need overly concern the England camp, but time will tell.

How did you think our two lads performed on their return from injury? Personally, although I didn't think either of them looked quite back to their peak, they did many good things, even if one or two lapses did show up from time to time. Certainly, both Tindall and Phil Vickery seemed to merit an extended run in the squad.

Young Andrew Sheridan, deservedly, got all the rave reviews, but it's worth remembering that he couldn't have destroyed his opposite number in the tight in the spectacular way that he did if the other corner of the front row had not been tied down solidly by our own Raging Bull.

On average I'd say, eight out of ten, and both of them can only get better if the dreaded Kingsholm injury jinx doesn't strike again. Surely it can't. Can it?

DOWN TO EARTH

THEN CAME the All Blacks game, which brought things down to earth and re-established the true order of things. There is no doubt that England gave New Zealand a hell of a fright, and with a bit of luck, could even have won the game.

I'm bound to say that I raised an eyebrow at some of the

All Black tactics. Perhaps I'm biased, but there must be a suspicion that they didn't worry too much about how they stopped England, just so long as they did. After all, no referee wants to hand out three yellow cards against the same side in one half of an international if he can help it.

I thought that, again, we can be quite proud of our two representatives. They both played their hearts out, and must have been absolutely shattered by the time the final whistle went.

But it will be nice to have then back. They have been missed.

WELL DONE MARCEL

WASN'T IT nice to see that Marcel Garvey was drafted into the Barbarians squad the other week.

If Marcel had played he would have joined a very long list of Gloucester Barbarians, stretching back through the mists of time, and I can't think of anyone whose game matches the traditional Baa-Baa style so closely as young Master Garvey. It probably won't be his last opportunity for that most prestigious outfit, and one wonders who will be next. We can all think of a fair few possible candidates.

On a similar subject, it was also good to see Messrs Jack Forster and Danny Pointon (where have we heard that name before?) featuring among England U19 ranks. It would be good if either or both of them were to feature when the U19's take on their Australian counterparts right here at Kingsholm a little later on.

Good luck to both of them.

"Simpson-Daniel and Mike Tindall as England's centre combination? Now there's a thought."

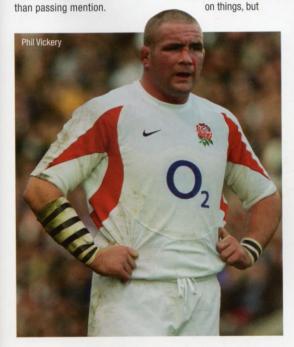
to take his opinions seriously. Simpson Daniel and Mike Tindall as England's centre combination? Now there's a thought.

Later on that week I also caught an interview, again on BBC, with Zara Phillips. Naturally, the main subject under discussion was her show jumping achievements, but Tins did get a more

a recommendation for a Premiership rugby player or not. Perhaps she could lend him a horse.

WHAT DID YOU THINK?

T'S ALWAYS nice to beat the Australians at anything, so the result of this year's first Autumn International was certainly pleasing. I wouldn't want to put a damper on things, but



The History





London Irish 25 Gloucester Rugby 10

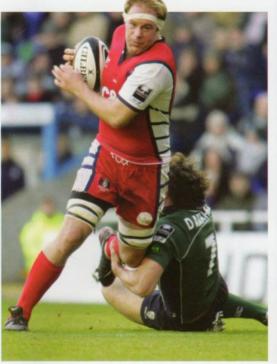
Saturday, October Madejski Stadium

Attendance: 9,027 Referee: Ashley Rowden

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







CLOUCESTER crashed to their second successive Guinness Premiership defeat at the hands of London Irish last weekend.

After losing both Jake Boer and Patrice Collazo in the first quarter to injury, Gloucester suffered at the deadly accuracy of Irish stand-off Barry Everitt,

who booted the hosts into a 9-0 lead with three early penalties.

By half-time the lead had been stretched to 15-3 - Gloucester's only points coming from the boot of Ludovic Mercier.

Head coach Dean Ryan took immediate action at half-time and introduced Peter. Richards at scrum-half, who kick-started Gloucester's rally with an industrious and livewire performance.

Despite losing Adam Eustace to the sinbin after 50 minutes, Gloucester established some momentum and when Richards charged down Everitt's

attempted clearance, he pounced to score and hand Gloucester some hope.

Mercier's conversion made it 18-10 but their onslaught didn't last. After Peter Buxton was shown a yellow card for dragging down a maul close to the line, the Irish made a mess

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of Gloucester's seven man scrum and replacement Ryan Strudwick strode through to score.

Everitt's conversion was the final act of a disappointing match for Gloucester, that dropped them to seventh in the Guinness Premiership table.

Ryan added afterwards: "There was an awful lot of endeavour, but if it's not pointed in the right direction on the field by key guys, it's worthless."

It was disappointing because we lacked leadership from decision-makers all over the field.

"We looked a confused and startled side as people looked to others to take responsibility.

"It's a concern for people in the side who are not up to the test. We made it clear we needed people to step up and they

"We need to take this on board collectively, regroup and



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Gloucester Bughy



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Olly Morgan		Ш		
Mark Foster				
Terry Fanolua				
Anthony Allen				
James Bailey				
Ludovic Mercier				
Peter Richards				
Nick Wood				
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Andy Hazel
Adam Balding
James Parkes
Gary Powel
Quinton Davids
Luke Narraway
Haydn Thomas
Jon Goodridge
Brad Davies

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
16
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Saracens				
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Dan Scarbrough			-	
Richard Haughton				
Mark Bartholomeusz				
Kevin Sorrell				
Tevita Vaikona				
Glen Jackson				
Kyran Bracken				
Kevin Yates				
Matt Cairns				
Ben Broster	11/			
Simon Raiwalui				
lain Fullarton				
Hugh Vyvyan				
David Seymour				
Ben Skirving				
Micky Ward				
Matt Thompson				

Micky Ward	
Matt Thompson	
David Wilson	
Andy Buist	
Ben Woods	
Lee Dickson	
Joe Shaw	

GUINNESS ...

Pos	Team	Pld	W	D	L	F	A	TF	TA	ТВ	LB	Pts
1	Sale Sharks	8	7	0	1	196	131	17	13	2	1	31
2	London Wasps	8	6	1	1	213	150	21	10	2	0	28
3	London Irish	8	5	0	3	176	150	17	14	2	2	24
4	Leicester Tigers	8	4	2	2	197	150	20	11	2	1	23
5	Worcester Warriors	8	5	1	2	154	153	12	15	0	0	22
6	Saracens	8	4	1	3	191	167	19	17	3	1	22
7	GLOUCESTER RUGBY	8	4	1	3	178	154	15	11	1	2	21
8	Bristol Rugby	8	3	0	5	140	169	9	14	0	2	14
9	Bath Rugby	8	2	1	5	141	184	9	15	1	1	12
10	Northampton Saints	8	2	0	6	135	185	14	17	0	4	12
11	Newcastle Falcons	8	1	1	6	145	171	13	15	0	4	10
12	Leeds Tykes	8	1	0	7	130	232	10	24	0	2	6

TODAY'S OFFICIALS

REFEREE: Sean Davey
TOUCH JUDGE 1: Bob Mullis
TOUCH JUDGE 2: Paul Dix
FOURTH OFFICIAL: Mark Tovey
REPLACEMENT REF: Tim Beddon ASSESSOR: Brian Campsall
TIME-KEEPER: Tony Turner

TODAY'S RESULT

GLOUCESTER:



