

Gloucester

RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB



**EXCLUSIVE MARCEL
GARVEY INTERVIEW**
**UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL
WITH SIMON AMOR**
VIEW FROM THE SHED



vs Saracens

ZURICH PREMIERSHIP FIXTURE

SATURDAY 5TH OCTOBER 2002

KICK-OFF 3.00PM

Baan Club Sponsor
www.baan.com



WELCOME FROM...

Charlie Little
Marketing Manager

Today, it is a pleasure to welcome the Saracens team to Kingsholm and, for me personally, to also welcome the new Season Ticket Holders and supporters of Gloucester Rugby Club.

There is no doubt that the Saracens set up is an impressive one and that they have led the way in many initiatives, but I am pleased to say that over the last year we have increased our efforts in the Commercial and Marketing areas



Our revamped website now hosts well over 200,000 page impressions a month with breaking news and features constantly updated. Certain issues are always raised but we read the message board daily and respond where and when we can. We do not ignore any comments made by our users.

Once online, we now have the first fully integrated ticket office in English rugby. You have immediate

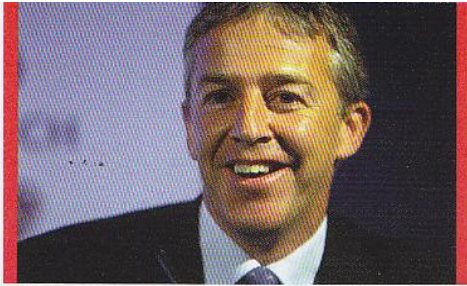
access to the availability and can see where in the grandstand your chosen seat is located – unless you prefer the standing option!! Similarly, we have led the way with our SMS text messaging service. Such is our development that it made the Sunday newspapers within an article from Paul Ackford.

Furthermore, and eventually I hear you cry, we have got the merchandise element of our website online. This has provided a staggering level of interest and, if proof were needed, confirms the level of support for the Cherry and Whites. Globally, we have reached Saudi Arabia, America, Nigeria and Singapore in less than a month and as our European profile grows, supporters from as far East as Russia and West as France have bought online. More locally, most counties in England have had a representation within our online merchandise as well as every corner of Gloucestershire. It gives the club a very useful tool to measure the reach of the Club and our popularity.

“...IN LESS THAN A MONTH SUPPORTERS FROM AS FAR EAST AS RUSSIA AND WEST AS FRANCE HAVE BOUGHT ONLINE.”

Amidst all this success there remains the realisation that there is much to do. We have only put in some of the building blocks for us to grow our levels of customer service and professionalism. What we have achieved this year has been satisfactory but there are many areas in which to improve. Future developments are all aimed at growing the profile and interest in Gloucester Rugby throughout Gloucester and the wider community.

On behalf of us all at Gloucester Rugby Club, I would like to thank the Saracens supporters who have made the journey today to Kingsholm. The atmosphere that reverberates around Fortress Kingsholm, week in week out, is a testimony to the nature of all the rugby supporters here and what makes the traditional and unique experience here at Gloucester so special. ■



NIGEL'S NOTES...

Nigel Melville

Director of Rugby

Good afternoon and welcome to this afternoon's Zurich Premiership match against Saracens. It gives me great pleasure to welcome the Saracens players, supporters and coaching staff to Kingsholm and particularly Wayne Shelford their new Director of Rugby.

Obviously Wayne needs few introductions in rugby circles, firstly as an All Black legend, secondly as a popular and inspirational figure with Northampton and more recently Director of Rugby at Saracens. As we prepared for this game, the one thing we do know is that Saracens will be well prepared this afternoon and in a confident mood having beaten Northampton so convincingly last week.

Last weekend we made that familiar trip to Bath having never won a league game at the Rec since Leagues began. A draw simply wasn't good enough to put that record to bed, however, it did throw up a couple of positives for the squad.

We were into the final minute, winning 21-18, when the decisive penalty was awarded to Bath right in front of the posts. On current form there was no way Ollie Barklay would miss, the game was a draw. It was a case of two points lost for Gloucester and a disappointed team headed back to the changing rooms. Whilst we sat in silent reflection the Bath team and supporters were celebrating their second home draw of the season outside on the pitch!

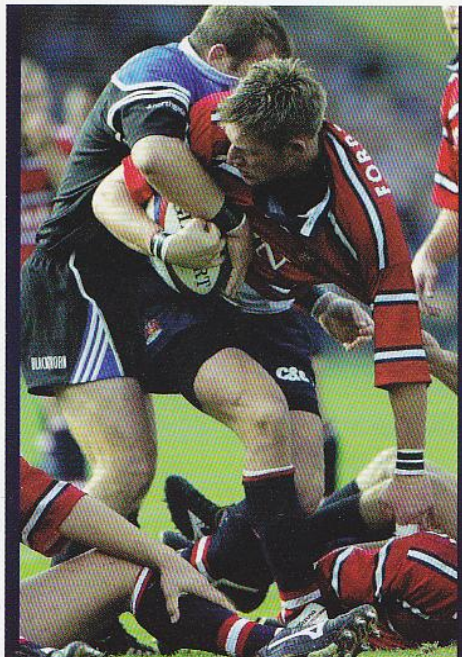
The lessons learnt were many and varied; we have obviously set ourselves some tough goals and have lifted our team's unit and individual standards to a higher level. We no longer feel that dropping points away from home is acceptable, and remain fiercely determined to improve every aspect of our play. Our supporters (the most passionate in the land) have raised their expectations too!

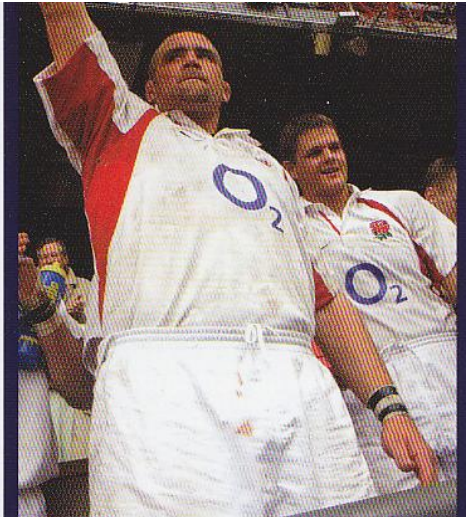
And so to refereeing – a hot subject at Kingsholm this week. We were not happy with Steve Leyshom's performance last week, slugging him off at the after-match press conference may make me feel better – but it does not solve anything – and as Dean Ryan found out last season it can be very expensive (£2,000).

Having viewed the video on Sunday we took the decision to speak to Colin High, Head of the English Elite referees, to discuss each decision and the overall impact they had on the game. We felt the scrum was poorly managed, the tackler was not removed from the tackle area and a number of penalties awarded both ways were incorrect. Colin agreed to take these points back to the referee and believed that positive action could be taken to improve these areas of Steve's game. Referees and players are always striving for perfection, and so feedback is valuable part of this process.

This week the Elite England players spent Monday and Tuesday with Clive Woodward, the remainder of the squad were in 'Wayne's World' recovering from their various injuries from the weekend. Thinus Delpoorts heavy acne attack was diagnosed as Chicken Pox, Junior Paramore's black eye was confirmed as a broken cheekbone and Andy Hazel had an operation on his damaged foot. A week that started slowly however, has certainly picked up momentum and we are looking forward to a tough physical game this afternoon.

Have a great afternoon and get behind your Cherry and White's! ■





CAPTAIN'S CORNER

Phil Vickery
Club Captain

I think we were all disappointed with the result at the Rec, because I don't think we have ever had a better chance of beating Bath down there.

Looking at the bigger picture though, in the first five games of the season we have managed four wins and an away draw, no-one else can match that record so far. We also have a chance today to get another home win and put the memories of the Bath game behind us.

It was Bath's Cup Final that day. We are top of the League and everyone wants a piece of the action. When we go out, we have to perform every time because when you are in our position every team you play against raises their game and wants to take you apart because you are the side to beat. It is something we are going to have to get used to.

Leicester have had to learn to deal with this situation and we have to do so now. We are still a learning team, we have a lot of young players in the squad and we are still developing. The Bath game and the experience was a useful learning tool for all of us in the squad. For me as a Captain and for many of this team, we didn't put the game away but we will learn and take our performances forward.

There were still many aspects of the game that went well for us. We did a lot more than in previous games away from home this season. We kept to many of our patterns and the game was there to be won. Because of the Bath syndrome perhaps we tried too hard and that caused us to make mistakes. But we have learned from

that and I think it will stand us in good stead for the rest of the season.

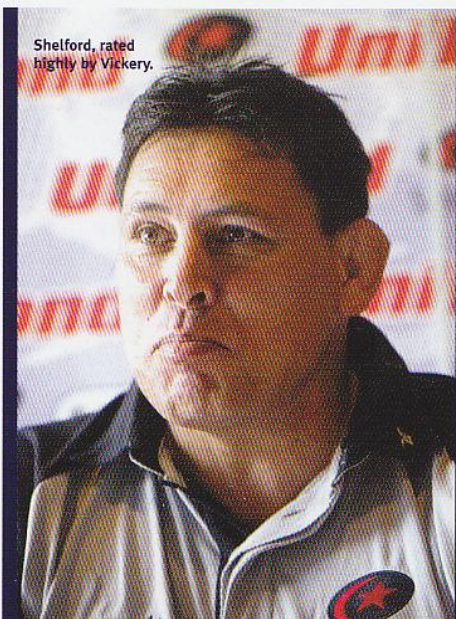
As a team and as individuals, we always want to improve and last weekend's performance would have given everyone a short, sharp shock. Certainly this has focused our minds, but we have a perfect opportunity today, at home to Saracens who showed last week what they are capable of, to put things back on track.

Saracens have some excellent individuals in their squad.

“SARACENS ARE HIGHLY MOTIVATED AND IN BUCK SHELFORD THEY HAVE A COACH WHO WAS ONE OF THE BEST PLAYERS EVER IN MY OPINION.”

They are highly motivated and in Buck Shelford they have a coach who was one of the best players ever in my opinion. He knows a lot about the game and he will have found out a lot about his new team in the last few weeks, and whichever Saracens team takes the field today, they are sure to be 100% committed.

We start today with an unbeaten record, but going unbeaten all season is not what motivates me because everyone loses at some point. Today we are at home, in front of our fans and no-one in this squad wants to lose here. A few boys were down after last week, but today, on our pitch, we have the perfect opportunity to get our momentum back and get things back on track.



GLoucester 24 LEICESTER TIGERS 03

The United's next game is away at Northampton on Monday 7th October. Kick off 7.30pm.

UNITED FRONT

2002/2003 UNITED FIXTURES

THE GLOUCESTER UNITED KICKED OFF THEIR SEASON WITH A FINE WIN AGAINST A STRONG LEICESTER SIDE AT KINGSHOLM ON SEPTEMBER 23RD.

Boosted by a Daren O'Leary try, the ex-Quins man imperious in the back three, another try by youngster Nick Southern and a fine kicking display by Sevens star Simon Amor, the Gloucester second string destroyed a very strong travelling Leicester team.

Gloucester had the first chance to notch a score when Leicester were penalised for going over the top at a ruck. Simon Amor, in charge of kicking duties dragged his effort just wide. He made no mistake with his second effort. Leicester were penalised for playing the ball on the floor and from dead in front, thirty-five metres out Amor was on target.

Amor added a further penalty before Gloucester's industry was rewarded with a well worked Daren O'Leary try on thirty minutes. The Premiership's all-time top try scorer finished off a backs move that was started with a Josh Frape break and involved Goodridge. Amor converted.

Leicester did manage a score themselves minutes later. A quick break by centre Hipkiss stretched Gloucester, Steve Booth made the second incursion and as he was stopped, a desperate Gloucester defence were penalised for killing the ball in front of the posts. Luke Myring converted and Andy Deacon was sent to the sin bin for his follies. Down to fourteen men in the dying moments of the first half Gloucester had to withstand wave on wave of Leicester attacks. They held firm and went into the break 13-3 to the good.

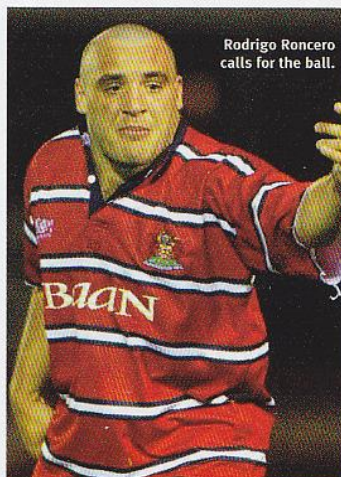
At the start of the second half, and back to a full compliment of players, the Gloucester scrum began to put the squeeze on the Leicester pack. The Cherry and White backs were also full of zest and were keen in the tackle.

Simon Amor, then kicked another penalty and from the re-start was able to show his pace and he scampered up the blind side of a ruck after shaping to kick. The game continued at a staccato pace. Each side made handling errors that broke the flow of the game. The Gloucester defence remained strong throughout and after a period of toing and froing, Nick Southern scored a try to break the deadlock and seal the game for Gloucester.

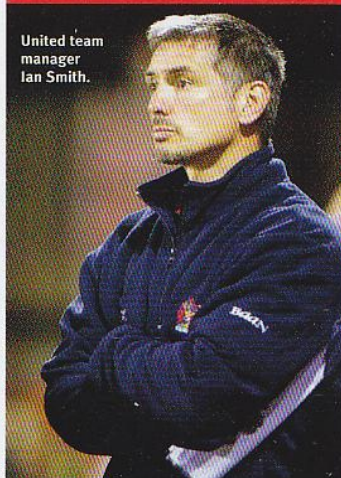
Clive Stuart-Smith, who enjoyed a fine night for the United, made the try. He sniped at the base of a ruck and wriggled free of his marker. He drew the cover defence and fed Southern, who was bounding up on his inside. Amor missed the conversion but at 21-3 with five minutes to go Gloucester were not to be caught.

Amor then added a further penalty to complete a fine personal display and an excellent team performance.

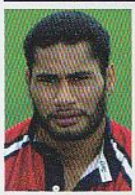
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30 Sept 02	19:30	H	Worcester		Postponed
07 Oct 02	19:30	A	Northampton		
29 Oct 02	19:30	H	Bristol		
02 Dec 02	19:30	A	Harlequins		
30 Dec 02	19:30	H	Northampton		
07 Jan 03	19:30	A	Newport		
27 Jan 03	19:30	A	Bristol		
10 Feb 03	19:30	H	Coventry		
24 Feb 03	19:30	A	Worcester		
10 Mar 03	19:00	A	Leicester		
07 Apr 03	19:30	H	Harlequins		
28 Apr 03	19:30	H	Newport		



Rodrigo Roncero calls for the ball.

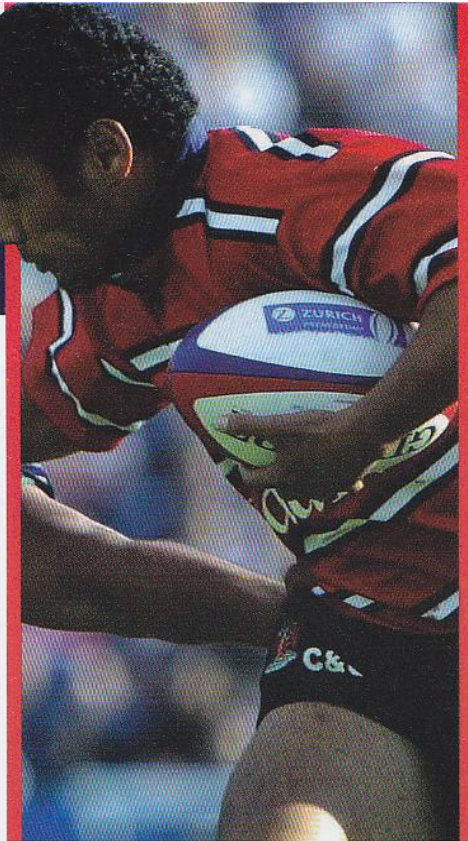


United team manager Ian Smith.



Position: Centre
 DoB: 03.07.74
 Height: 183 cm
 Weight: 87 kg
 Previous Auckland Club: Otanuhu
 Int: Manu
 Honours: Samea

Terry Fanolua



Strengths

Nigel Melville has said that with Gloucester's evolving fifteen-man style of rugby he needs forwards who can play as backs and backs that can play as forwards. As a back who doesn't look out of place fighting for possession at the bottom of a ruck, Terry Fanolua is one player that epitomises the philosophy of 'real rugby'.

His courage and desire lead him to places that he maybe ought not to be, but he remains a vital piece in the Gloucester jigsaw.

His versatility also gives Nigel Melville plenty of options and cover behind the scrum.

Weaknesses.

If there is a downside to Terry's game, and all will be hard pushed to find one, then it is perhaps that unfortunately, Terry's big hitting style of defence can lead to his downfall. His offensive style of tackling can mean he is vulnerable to a quick change of direction.

High Points

Terry just loves Rugby and loves paying for Gloucester. To that end every day and every game seems to be a high point. Recently, after a barren spell in the Clubs history, he has been involved in some massive games. He cites the Championship Final at the end of last season as a very special game to be involved in and says that after Gloucester's last involvement in the Heineken Cup, that saw them through to the Semi-final stages at the first time of asking, he can't wait for it to kick off this season.

Low Points

Fanolua is a rugby lover from a nation of Rugby Lovers. Anytime he is not playing, through injury is a low point for him.

Terry on Gloucester

This is certainly the best start to a season since I have been at the Club. I think that this is down to the organisation and the professionalism that the new coaching staff have brought to training and preparation.

Also, they are trying to develop a new game plan for us. We are now starting to adapt if things aren't going right and we have the players to do that. Nigel and Dean are asking everyone to buy into this game-plan but it takes time. Everyone is happy though and there is a great team spirit around the Club, probably because we are winning,

Terry on Saracens

We don't want to be too overconfident today. We want to be confident but not cocky. Saracens are a very good team with some very good players involved. We though are unbeaten this season and we want to keep it that way. Particularly at home. We want to make Kingsholm a fortress and win all our games here, for the fans and ourselves, that is just something that we want to do.

I believe that if everyone buys into our game plan and we play as well as we can, then there is no reason why we should be beaten at home this season.

Across the professional divide, today's fixture is one to spark the emotion of a Gloucester supporter. On April 27, 1996, a 12,000 full house (though many more, no doubt, will claim they were here) saw Saracens beaten 17-10 in what we thought was a winner takes all match. The losers, we were told, would be relegated. As it happened, both stayed up.

the draw at Bath, almost as a recovery vehicle ahead of the clash with Munster, and there will be no room for error against a side now coached by former All Black coach Wayne "Buck" Sheldford. He's been working hard on toughening Saracens up, and this was amply illustrated against Northampton last weekend, where for long periods all they were doing was defending.

PETER BUTLER

BBC RADIO GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Rarely since, apart possibly from the Heineken Cup matches against Llanelli and Cardiff, can Kingsholm have crackled as it did that day. The noise when Tony Windo burrowed his way over for a try still rings in my ears when I think of it, and it's an atmosphere I hope is replicated for Munster's visit here next Saturday. Interestingly too, three of the Gloucester team that day are still with the club, though Pete Glanville's duties are now off the field. The other two may both play this afternoon, side by side in the pack. Rob Fidler and Mark Cornwell have remained durable performers and loyal to the cause. Sarries' England flanker Richard Hill is their sole survivor, but a major one at that.

The question now is...can Gloucester close out this first part of the domestic season top of the Premiership. The only blot in the opening five games was the inability to deliver a win at the Rec last Saturday, but some consolation will be drawn from Leicester's third loss of the season against Bristol. Marcel Garvey's hat trick here against the same opposition will heighten the expectation for today, but he was tightly marked at Bath and only had one break of note. Still, the possible pairing of Garvey and Simpson-Daniel on the wings is mouth watering.

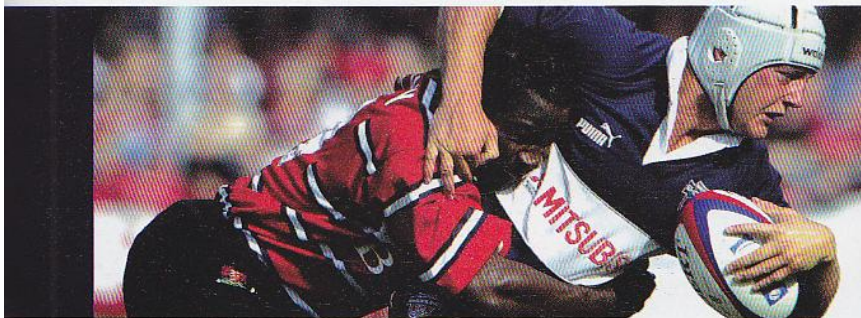
Today's game assumes added importance after

However, Saints were kept at bay, and an excellent kicking performance by former Leicester fly half Andy Goode chiselled out a third Premiership win.

At the Rec meanwhile, Dave Ellis passed BBC Radio Gloucestershire's Ian Randall on his way down the gantry at the end of the match and pronounced Steve Layshon's display with the whistle as the worst he'd seen in his life. No room for misinterpretation there then. The real sign of a serious championship contender is the ability to win in all conditions, and letting a nine point lead slip in the last 14 minutes will have weighed heavy on a few shoulders around Kingsholm this week. Thankfully there was no early try conceded, as against Quins, Sale and Bristol, instead it was the inability to nail a result that looked secure. Saracens may get the backlash today, but if history is anything to go by, this is a home banker, as both teams have done remarkably badly without the comfort blanket of their own surroundings to help them. If Sarries are to break that run, they'll look to the artistry of Castaignede, the power of Benazzi, and the class of Bracken and Hill, plus, possibly, the raw talent of Ryan Peacey, a former Gloucester boy who made his Premiership debut last Saturday. It would be quite an occasion for him to be involved today.

I do hope Nigel and Dean's master plan gets back on track today, with the excitement of the Heineken Cup just around the corner. As I'm sure you know, the BBC has the rights to the tournament, with Grandstand here next Saturday, but there are other options for those without a ticket or access to a television. BBC Radio Gloucestershire has match commentary next Saturday, and for all the

The ability to follow Gloucester via your mobile is also being extended. As you know the club offers a scores driven text service to your phone, and with Radio Gloucestershire you can have your say on the match you've seen. You text us from your mobile - 07786 201413 is the number - and we read out your comments on air. All we ask is that you identify yourself



Marcel Garvey proved just how good he is with an emphatic hat trick past Bristol last week.

remaining pool matches except the one in Viadana, where sad to say local facilities make it impossible. The commentary is also available on the Gloucester Rugby Club Website www.gloucesterrugbyclub.com

and keep the comments clean. The football fans have taken to this like a duck to water, so redress the balance by letting us know what you think !!

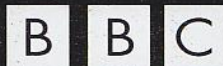
The games will obviously have a high profile on the radio too - the frequencies, in case you've forgotten, are 104.7 FM and 1413 AM.

Meanwhile....roll on 3 o'clock...

C'mon Glaws!

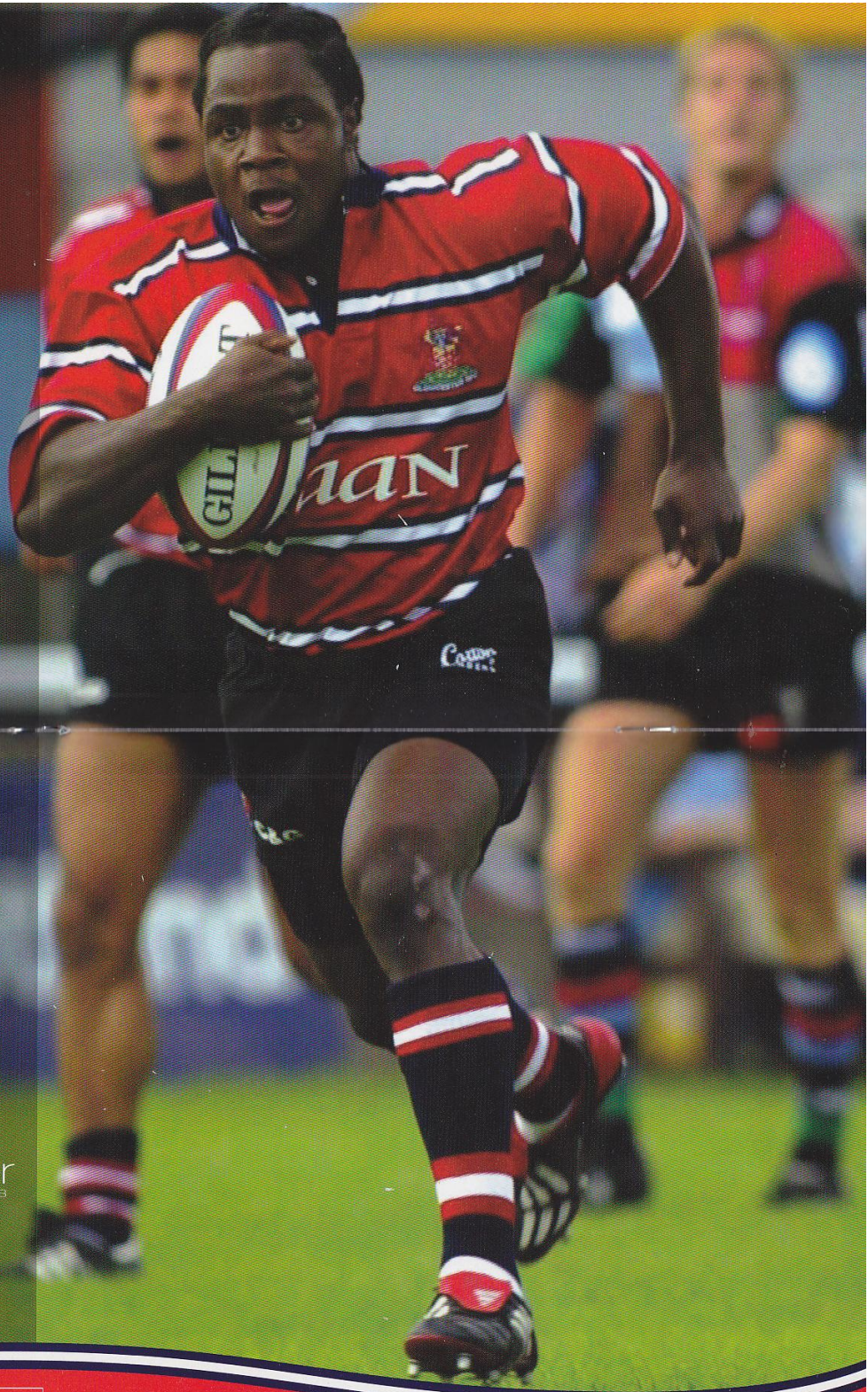
RADIO GLOUCESTERSHIRE

104.7 FM & 1413 AM



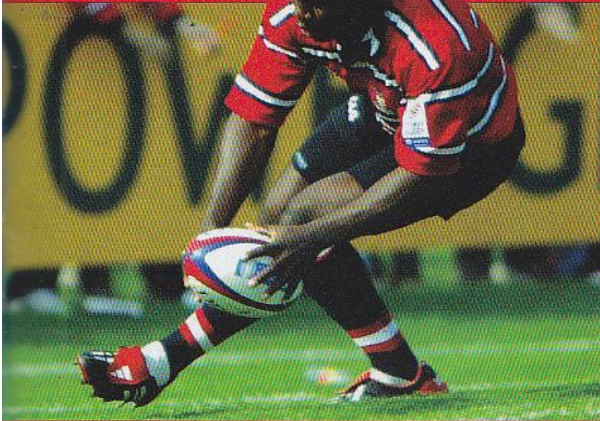
FIRST FOR COVERAGE OF THE CHERRY & WHITES

Marcel Garvey



Gloucester
RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

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“...it was unusual for the young winger NOT to score at least one try a match.”

JUST WHO IS MARCEL GARVEY?

After five rounds of Premiership matches, the question that will surely be on the lips of every other Premiership manager is just who is Marcel Garvey.

Marcel Garvey, or ‘Murray Garufey’ as he was once famously referred to on the London Irish tannoy, is the young Gloucester winger who has positively exploded on to the Premiership scene this season.

He began the Premiership season with a try in the opening game against Harlequins, his first ever Premiership start, and then he notched up a match winning hat trick against Bristol at Kingsholm to really announce himself to the Rugby World.

To those outside Kingsholm, he started the season as a relatively unknown quantity, but after five tries in two pre-season matches against Newport, to add to the four he has now scored in the Premiership and the obligatory media interest that followed, Marcel Garvey has become a household name.

The story of his rise to these dizzy heights begins at St Peter’s School in Gloucester. He arrived as an eleven-year-old schoolboy and was already showing signs that he had a lot of natural sporting talent.

Dave Pointon, Rugby Master at St Peters and long time Gloucester Rugby Coach remembers how the young Garvey arrived as a raw but talented athlete.

“At that early stage, he was showing that he had great potential in sport, but at that time we weren’t sure which one he would chose. He had a lot of natural talent but needed to work very hard at developing his skills to take him to this level”, says Pointon, who is now responsible for the 1st team’s technical analysis.

As well as the compulsory Rugby involvement at St Peter’s, Garvey also showed a healthy interest in Basketball, a sport that Pointon believes helped to develop his ball handling skills.

Garvey played in his year group team throughout his time at school and stood out at this early age, but Pointon feels that it was his progress into St Peter’s senior rugby squad, at the age of sixteen, at a time when St Peter’s were enjoying a healthy run in the latter stages of the Daily Mail Cup that really brought his skills to the fore.

“We were playing rugby all round the country and Marcel was fortunate to be playing with, and against, some of the top players of his peer group, which encouraged him to flourish. Sometimes players need to be around the top players to show how good they are”, explains Pointon.

Such was Marcel’s development within this healthy rugby environment that Pointon admits that it was unusual for the young winger NOT to score at least one try a match. ►►

PLAYER PROFILE

"With the players around him and the amount of ball we were winning, Marcel had plenty of opportunities to finish off and he took them regularly. Sometimes he would do something very special, but he was always prolific, he could always beat opponents", says Pointon.

Try scoring and the ability to do something out of the ordinary is a special skill and one that Garvey has retained through his meteoric rise to public attention in the first team. His hat trick against Bristol epitomised all that is good about his game.

The ability to beat defender's (ten for his first try against Bristol), and change direction without losing pace (remember the swerve around Comtepomi for his hat trick), are natural talents that rely on his low centre of gravity and piston-like legs that can power away in an instant. He has always been keen to work on his fitness and strength, the results of such hard work are evident to all when he removes his shirt.

He can run 100 metres in a time below eleven seconds but was never really interested in athletics, preferring the team sports to individual events. This team spirit is evident when the young Garvey is quizzed on his rise to prominence.

"I feel exactly the same as I did as when I was younger. I am doing something I love to do. I was just doing my job, and I was doing it for the team mainly", he admits with alarming modesty.

When talking to Marcel about the game of rugby and his role in a wonderful West Country Derby win against Bristol, one realises that here is just a young boy, who loves to play rugby and loves the city and team of Gloucester. He thinks nothing of his hat-trick against Bristol, not due to a new-found big-headedness, but rather that as a winger Garvey sees this as his job within the team.

He admits that it was a dream of his to play for Gloucester as a youngster and when at the age of seventeen he was accepted into the Gloucester Rugby Club Academy, he realised that he may have a chance to do it. The fact that his first senior hat-trick came at his beloved Kingsholm then made it all the sweeter.

"It was awesome to receive a standing ovation from the whole of Kingsholm", says Garvey.

Unfortunately for Marcel the British media love to build up new stars and spent now time in heralding the young Cherry and White as the next Jason Robinson. The quick feet, the stocky build bringing about obvious comparisons.

Garvey is quick to deflect these comparisons and also dampen the stratospheric expectations that have followed his three-try performance.

"I am not Jason Robinson, we may have some similarities, with our quick footwork but he is at a different level from me, he has played for England and the British Lions and I am still learning the game".

My aim at the start of the season was to get into the squad for the Harlequins match I did that and that was great now people are talking about me as an England player".

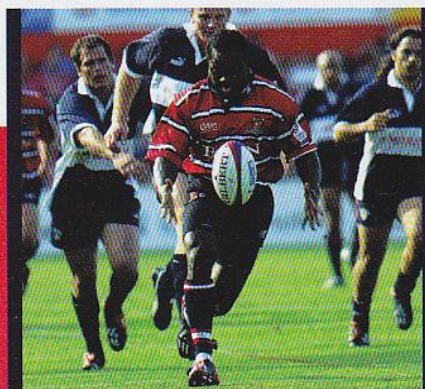
"I think the expectation is asking a lot of me; I'm still nineteen and still learning the game. There are still a lot of things that I need to work on in my game so it's all a bit early" says Garvey.

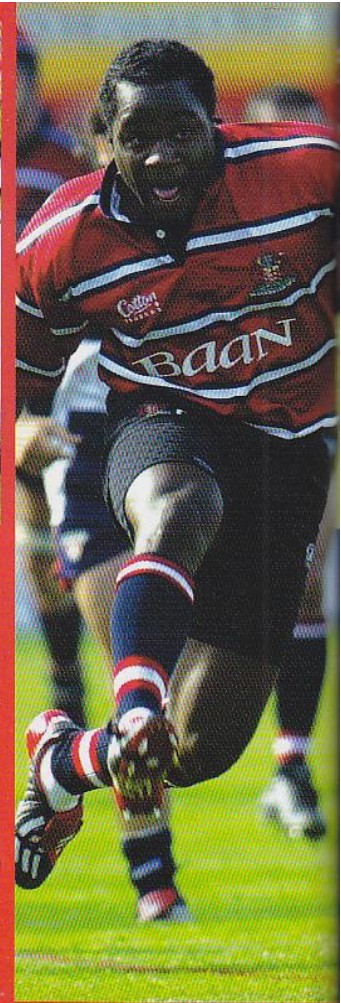
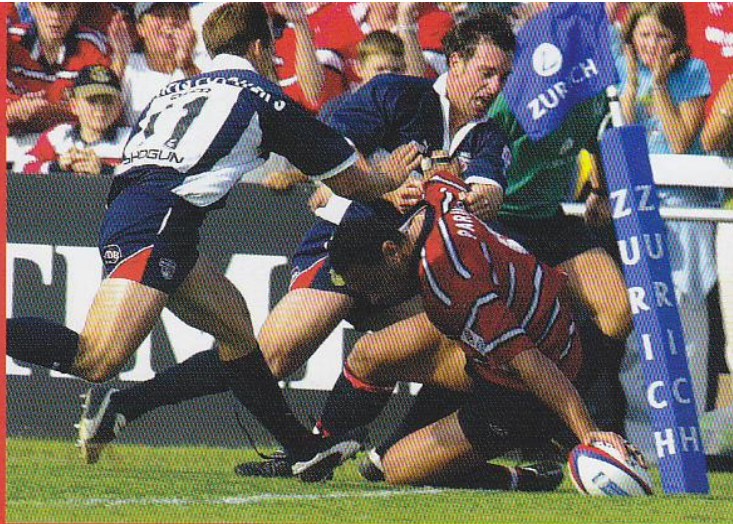
During his time at St Peter's Garvey was also able to play junior rugby at local Club, Widden Old Boys, under the tutelage of Andy Brown. Garvey's mentor spoke to the young protégé and told him just to keep going and keep his head down, sound advice in today's media-fuelled hype inflated environment.

Garvey accepted the plaudits but has reaffirmed his intention to keep learning his trade and keep living his dream.

Dave Pointon sums up his position best; "Youngsters must be able to dream. Loads of them come to Kingsholm and dream about playing for Gloucester. Marcel Garvey is living that dream for them. In time, like they do when they go to see Jason Robinson, fans may come to watch Marcel Garvey", he says. ■

"It was awesome to receive a standing ovation from the whole of Kingsholm"





KINGSHOLM SATURDAY 21 SEPTEMBER 2002



GLOUCESTER 45

TRIES: GARVEY (3), BOER, PARAMORE, MERCIER

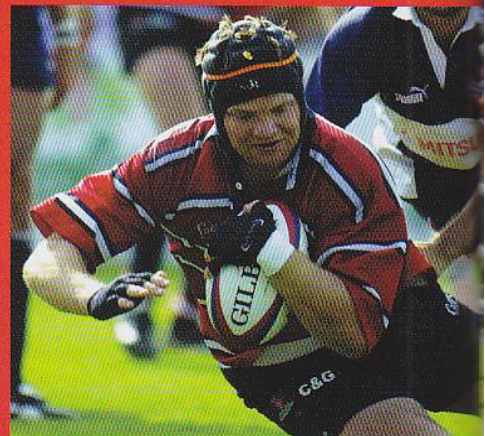
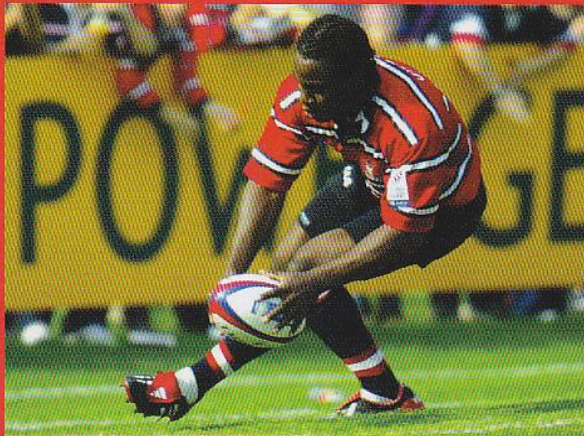
CONVERSIONS: MERCIER (3) PENALTIES: MERCIER (3)



BRISTOL SHOGUNS 18

TRIES: DANIEL, ARCHER CONVERSIONS: CONTEPOMI

PENALTIES: CONTEPOMI (2)



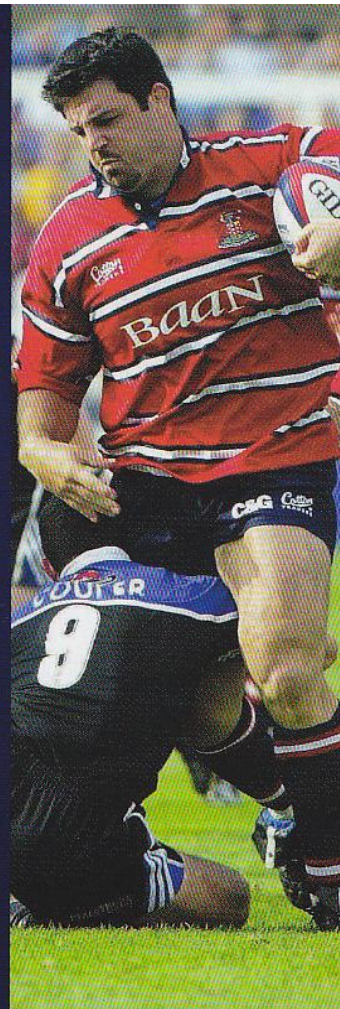
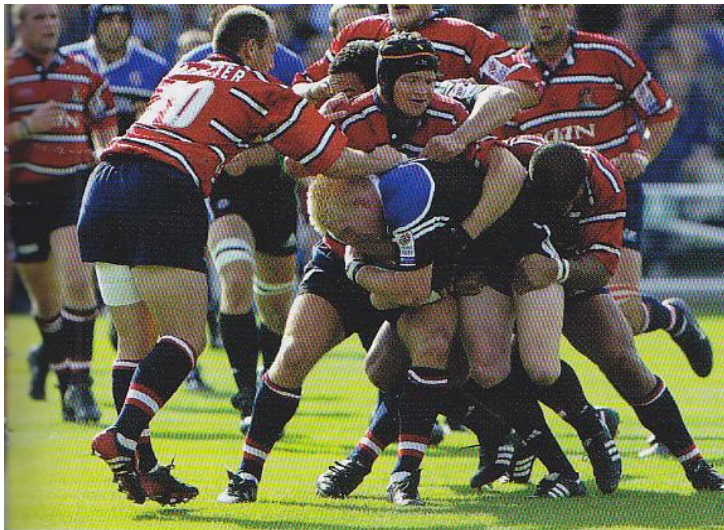
(Top Left) Junior Paramore scores his second half try.

(Top Right) Marcel Garvey kicks ahead and follows through to score his third try of the match.

(Middle Left) Marcel Garvey scores his first try under the posts.

(Middle Right) Jake Boer scores his second half try.

(bottom Left) Junior Paramore is tackled by Bristol's Neil McCarthy.



THE REC SATURDAY 28 SEPTEMBER 2002



BATH RUGBY 21

PENALTIES: **BARKLEY (6)**

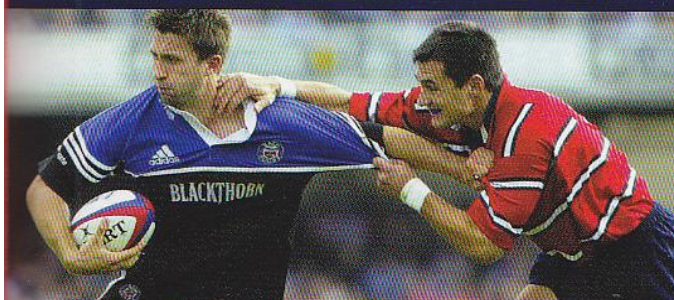
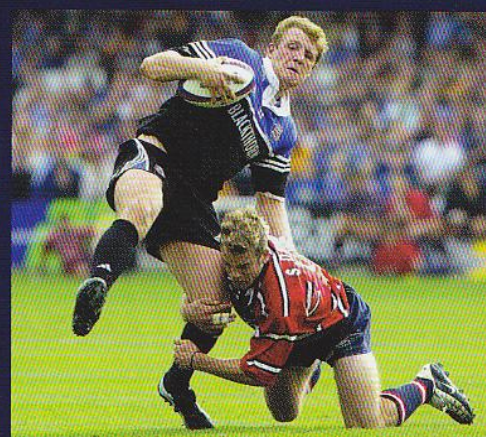
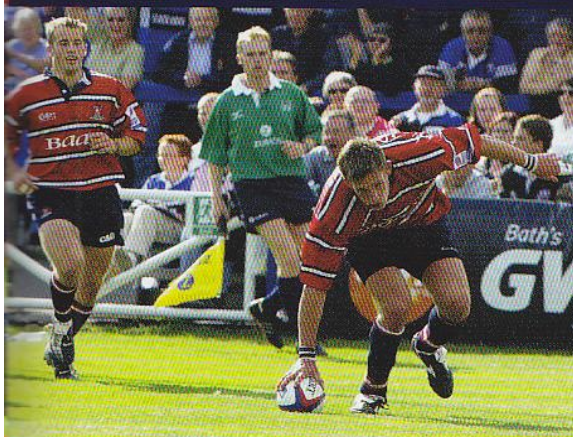
DROP GOAL: **MALONE**



GLOUCESTER 21

TRIES: **FORRESTER, PAUL** CONVERSIONS: **PAUL**

PENALTIES: **MERCIER (2), PAUL**



(Top Left) Bath's Alex Crockett is stopped by Ludovic Mercier, Jake Boer and Robert Todd.

(Top Right) Olivier Azam is halted by Bath's Gareth Cooper.

(Middle Left) James Forrester scores his first half try.

(Middle Right) James Simpson-Daniel tackles Bath's Mike Tindall.

(Bottom Left) Thinus Delport tackles Bath's Simon Danielli.

Fans Eye View

With Bob Fenton

How can you tell that Gloucester have come a long way in a short space of time? Listen to the conversations of the people on the way out of The Rec last Saturday for a start.

Having just seen a distinctly unambitious Bath side kick their way to a draw, you would have thought by some of the post-match conversations that we had lost, such was the expectation of a win. Even Rob Fidler said that the team felt that they had just endured a 50-point defeat, rather than secured two points at a ground where we have not had a victory since Noah was trying to get his Arc to float. The closest we came was a 19 - 19 draw some five years ago, and we celebrated that like it was a victory.

Which gives us a bit of a clue as to why the Bath team went on a lap of honour as their fans went nuts: for them this was a real result. Despite being outscored by two tries to nil (we scored as many tries against them as they have managed so far this season!), and despite the fact that they could probably still be playing now and not have crossed the try line, the supporters viewed this as a huge success. Just goes to show how far the pendulum of power has swung in the last two years, doesn't it.

One comment that should be recounted here, was when one Bath fan approached 'Uncle Mike' after the game and told him gleefully that he was glad that they'd thrashed us again. "I think you'll find that 21-all is a draw, mate," replied Mike. The Bath lad then said that he meant last season's thrashing. Mike looked him straight in the eye and said, "No mate 12-9's not a thrashing. 68 - 12. That's a thrashing!" exit one Bath fan with tail firmly between his legs.

One other down-side of the draw was the cancellation of Chewy, Pauline and copious others planned take over of the top deck of a tour bus for a celebratory trip around the

city had we got the win. That would have been a sight to be seen, but - alas - it'll have to go on hold until next season - unless we get them in the cup, of course.

Talking about draws, it's a bit odd to see how many of them there have been in the Premiership recently - three so far this season and we are only in week five. It used to be so rare that the planets would need to be aligned in a certain position before you would see one of these freak results, now they come along at the rate of almost one a week.

Why is that - surely it can't be that the referees are awarding tit-for-tat penalties, can it? Certainly last Saturday a draw seemed likely, in fact had there been an on-site bookie available I would have bet my mortgage on referee Steve Leyshon awarding a penalty to Bath for some obscure reason in those last few minutes. The fact that he was standing with his whistle in his mouth towards the end was a bit of a give-away, mind.

I don't know if I'm allowed to criticise the officials in the programme, but I will anyway (James can always edit this bit). From where we stand, it does appear that the touch judges have abdicated their responsibilities over the last two seasons, and will not make a decision other than to make a half-hearted guess at where a ball goes out. Mind you, sometimes they miss those completely. During the Bristol match the touch judge practically fell over a Bristol player he was so far over the line. And somehow the illustrious official still failed to spot that he had the ball with him at the time and let play go on. What's that all about, if they miss something like that right under their noses how are they going to spot dangerous or foul play happening on the other side of the pitch?

Recently Gloucestershire's own Chris White was on The Rugby Club talking about the pressure that was on



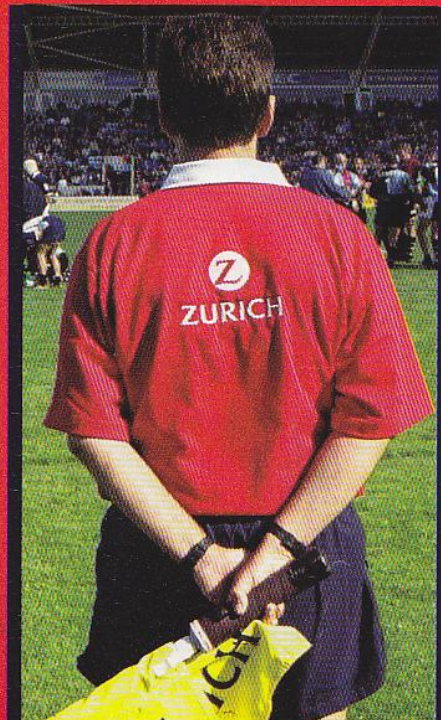
referees to get their decisions right. We all agree that they do have a difficult job to do that's for sure, and the two officials are there to help them. Not to wander about with their flags behind their backs watching the game.

The big question is, given that they are now professional, you have to wonder whether some of the referees are up to the job, in any other walk of life such inconsistency among people doing the same job week in, week out would not be accepted.

As an example, contrast Tony Spreadbury's handling of the Bristol game here two weeks ago with Mr Leyshon's whistle-happy activity at The Rec last week and you are in a chalk and cheese situation. It does seem that some of our officials believe that we buy our season tickets and pay our admission to watch them. Have they not twigged that the best referee's are the one's you don't see.

Of course we are told that some anonymous official in the crowd assesses referees after each match, do they exist or are they a figment of the RFU imagination? Has anyone ever seen one, spoken to one??? Do they wear a special badge and carry a clipboard - or have a pink carnation in their jacket button hole like a spy in a cheap thriller??? I think we should be told.

Anyway, down here in Gloucester we have several thousand referee assessors on the touchline at every game, and we're more than happy to offer the odd word of advice from time to time.



Peter Arnold

PERHAPS WE HAD IT COMING

So the 'Rec' bogey hasn't yet been broken. I don't think we can really complain, though. The words 'chickens' and 'roost' spring to mind.

Our two away wins this season have been achieved through an ability to bounce back at the death after a significant advantage had been surrendered. This time that didn't happen, although I must admit to being a little surprised that more added time wasn't played. I could well be wrong about that, and I suppose that if you live on the edge, then you shouldn't be surprised if you fall off now and then.

Peter Ford, former Club Chairman, England flank forward and Selector, used to say that it's not the number of games you win that decides your position in a league, but the number of games you lose. If he's right about that, and he usually is in such matters, then we're in a very healthy position with almost a quarter of the Premiership programme gone already. Five whole games, three of them played away from home, without a loss is something any side would happily settle for. It does seem, looking at results around the country so far, that away wins are going to be like gold dust this year. And we've got two of them in the bank, plus an invaluable two points at Bath.

Could be a lot worse.

'GARVEY'S MATCH'

As usual, I took the precaution of taping the Sky coverage of the Bristol match, a game that will undoubtedly go down in Kingsholm mythology as 'Garvey's Match'. Playing certain parts of such a tape repeatedly can be very revealing, and in some cases, surprising. Quite frequently, you can be quite sure you saw or heard something or other when, in fact, - you didn't.

I was reminded of that danger when playing close attention to Stuart Barnes's commentary, and particularly to one highly controversial remark he made.

"If that man's name wasn't Henry Paul" he commented, "I doubt if he would be on the field."

Sure - he did say just that, and the remark has been interpreted, in some quarters, to mean that 'Barnsey' didn't think that Henry has sufficient talent to be starting in a Premiership game. Taking in the whole context, I don't think that was what he meant at all.

Earlier in the programme, Clive Woodward had made it quite clear that he would like James Simpson-Daniel to get in more game time than he's had so far this term. He also intimated that Tom Beim had by no means dropped out of the reckoning. I think that was what the commentator had in mind. In effect, he was saying that if there were not the obvious desire to develop Henry





"Henry Paul's vision and execution played an absolutely pivotal role in that mesmerising try..."

Paul into an international-class Union player, then either James or Tom would probably have been in the line-up.

Perfectly fair thing to say, under the circumstances, and underlines the severe dilemma which Nigel Melville and Dean Ryan are facing at the moment. It's what an American friend of mine calls the 'Grade A problem' - the one you don't worry about. The Grade B Problem would be if we didn't have any class acts to fill those positions.

In any case, if Barnes had been denigrating Henry, he would have had to eat his words a bit later, when Henry Paul's vision and execution played an absolutely pivotal role in that mesmerising try which started with James Forrester's break from almost under his own posts and ended with Junior Paramore going over in the opposite corner.

I was also intrigued by some of Bristol Coach, Peter Thorburn's comments. First of all, he reckoned that his side was 'still in the game' with only 15 minutes to go. Yeah, right. At eight points down I suppose he was mathematically correct, but no one who saw the game can really think that Bristol was really going to reverse the demolition being inflicted on them by that time.

He was also reported, on his club's web site, as saying that you can't make too many mistakes against Gloucester because "They're too cynical for that". I wonder if he really did say that? Seems an odd word to choose, and I think it more likely he said 'Clinical'

He did. However, finish his interview by saying "I think we've seen the Champions, today." Time will tell, but it was nice of him.

Two other comments from the Rugby Club programme struck me. One was

the description of Marcel Garvey as a 'pocket battleship version of Jason Robinson'. Perhaps so, but we all know what happened to the 'Bismarck', don't we ?

The other was an exhortation to young Marcel to keep his feet on the ground and not get carried away by all the hype. I don't think we need worry on that score. He is, after all, an ex-Widened Old Boy and they're not famous for breeding prima donnas over at Tuffley Avenue.

IT'S YOUR SHOUT, STEVE !

It seems to be our season for freak injuries. First we had a peculiar mishap concerning Andy Hazell's big toe, sustained before he even got on to the field, and now we have an even stranger one, not even sustained by a player.

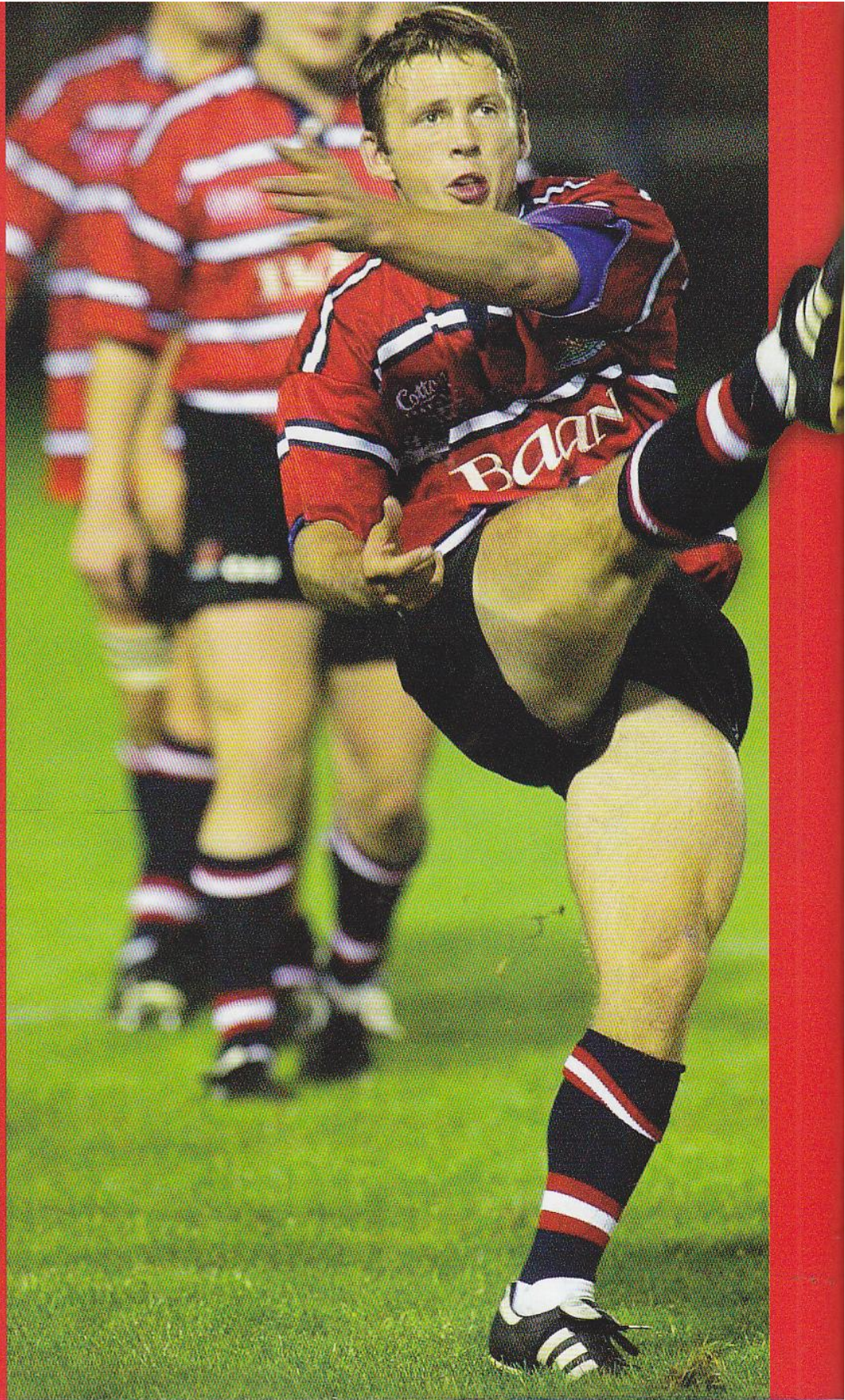
It seems that Steve Hayes, of Reservoir Road, who reckons "never to miss a match", was so carried away by Marcel Garvey's first try against Bristol that he shouted even more loudly than ever. In fact so much effort did he put into his appreciation that he actually managed to collapse a lung.

This resulted in his admission to hospital on the following day. I know that we're always exhorting fans to give as much vocal support as they can, but I don't think that the Management ever intended that anyone should go quite that far.

We all hope that Steve soon recovers and is back in full throttle before very long. I gather that he isn't really expecting to take his accustomed spot until next Saturday's Munster match, and so may not be here today.

Oh, come on Steve. You've got another lung to shout with, haven't you ?

TICKET AND INFORMATION HOTLINE 0871 871 8781



In a new feature this week, we caught up with recent summer signing Simon Amor. He took time out of a busy training schedule to go under the spot light as we let the fans get **Up Close & Personal...**

You have just joined Gloucester, what are your initial thoughts of the Club?

"The fans are everything that I was led to expect, the players are all legends, a great bunch of lads and as a Club, this is the most professional place I have ever been".

What are your goals for the season?

"I want to become a better player and would like to play for the 1st team in a few games and hopefully win the IRB world sevens Series with England".

What are your long-term ambitions?

"I would like to stay involved in the game for as long as possible, whether that is playing or coaching or working as an executive at a Club. I'm hoping to start an MBA soon so that should help. Ultimately, I would like to play for England at fifteen-a-side".

Who was the best or hardest player you have ever played against?

"When I was eighteen I played my first senior game for London Irish seconds against Bedford and there was a Canadian guy called Norm Hadley and he was massive. The best player though was probably Serevi. He is in a class of his own and could make you look very foolish".

Who is your sporting hero/ heroine?

"Ray Lowans; he is a golfer from a while back. I'm sure very few people will have heard of him, but he was so consistent in everything he did".

Away from the game, what do you do to relax?

"I like to keep my mind active. I hope to start an MBA soon. I like to keep using my brain to keep it ticking over otherwise you can go brain-dead".

What would be an ideal twenty-four hours for you?

"I think I would like to wake up on holiday in Spain or Majorca, go diving, snorkelling or water skiing off a boat, I'm into my water sports. Then perhaps have a round of golf in the afternoon and then perhaps go out in the evening"

When going out, what is your favourite tittle?

"If it is a soft drink it's Ribena or alcoholic then it's 'Blast away', which is a combination of reef and larger".

What is your favourite food?

"Chinese, I love Chinese food."

Which famous person, living or dead, would you like to take out to dinner?

"I think it would have to be someone like Jonathan Ross. I love his humour, I reckon it would be a very amusing evening".

What one personal item could you not be without at the moment?

"My new T.V. It's brilliant. It was the first thing that I bought with my first wage packet"

What is the best game that you have played in or seen?

"I was lucky enough that the first game I ever went to see at Twickenham was the Grand Slam decider between England and France in 1991. It was the game when England won the Grand Slam for the first time in ages and it was also the game in which Philippe Saint Andre scored the try that was started behind their own goal posts. Camberabero chipped infield and Philippe gathered and scored under England's posts".

What sort of music do you listen to?

"I like all sorts; I have a very eclectic mix. I'll listen to anything really".

What book are you reading at the moment?

"John McEnroe's autobiography. I like all kinds of autobiographies".

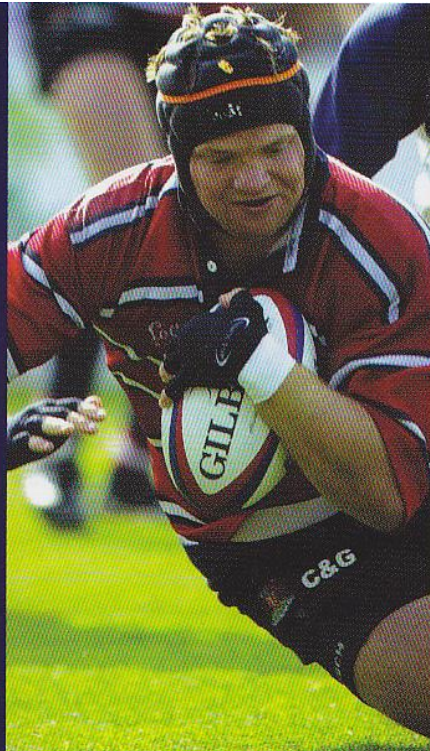
What is the best piece of advice you have ever been given?

"It was something like don't try to be what you're not. Basically be yourself and try to do the things that you are good at"

The Back Row

Alastair Downey of

The Citizen



WHAT MAKES a superlative tearaway back row? Better still, how can we rate the current Gloucester vintage? They might not quite be in the Teague-Gadd-Longstaff league just yet, but the Paramore-Boer-Forrester axis is eating up ground and opposition in one of the most imposing collective starts to a season for years.

Gloucester have always been renowned for their teak-tough forwards down the decades, but the current men at the back of Gloucester's scrum are more than purely brawny, bruising ball carriers. Nigel Melville has got his most destructive performers running into space and playing rugby. There is far more to their rugby horizons than simply clattering into the nearest contact.

It is a combination of balance and compatibility, pace and strength that has got Gloucester flowing. The hard man and inspiration in the midst of it all is Junior Paramore, the effervescent Samoan number eight who has a smile as broad as his shoulders and the power of a small speedboat. Virtually all his carries this season have made ground, while he has a sensational knack of picking up crucial tries.

Combine that with the leggy, pacy, close quarter skills of James Forrester on the openside a position where he is a forward and a back but never totally one or the other you are three-quarters towards the perfect combination.

The youngster manages to blend good strength in

contact with a turn of pace around the field that his two heavy-hitting mates cannot match.

Making up the hat-trick is Jake Boer. The man is dedicated to pounding out all the unglamorous work few get down his channel on the blindside, while he can also operate as an openside, such is his thirst for work and pace.

Before the trip to Bath last weekend, he was Kingsholm's leading tackler with 54 hits in four matches. And while those three have commanded the regular starting places this season, Andy Hazell, Peter Buxton and Adam Eustace are more than capable of slotting right in. The competition for places is as fierce as the games themselves. That factor provides one of Gloucester's strengths and if the current incumbents drop below the stratospheric, there will always be someone there to take his place.

Today, Saracens and their own group of imposing forwards arrive at Kingsholm for another eagerly awaited Premiership fixture. With England ace Richard Hill in their ranks, arguably the best loose forward in Europe when on form, it promises to be an exciting afternoon. Schooled in probably the best international back row of all time of Sheldford-Jones-Whetton legend, 'Buck' will ensure his Sarries are no easy pushovers when it comes to the forward collision today. It should be good.

You can read Alastair Downey everyday in **The Citizen**.

An Evening With 'The Management'

A review of a great evenings entertainment.



What an evening! Introduced by Mark Cummings, BBC Radio Gloucestershire's mid-morning presenter, the event started with a short playback of Gloucester's six tries against Bristol to get the 250 Season Ticket Holders, who were in attendance at Kingsholm in the spirit for what lay ahead.

One of the first questions of the night was about the redevelopment of Kingsholm. Nigel Mellville replied that he personally would love to stay at Kingsholm and that it is still is one of a number of options. Although they could develop the sacred ground at Kingsholm, Nigel told us that it would not be an all singing all dancing ground but would perhaps retain some of the character it has now.

Witty comments did not stop there as questions about the standard of referees were directed from the floor to the panel, which consisted of Nigel Mellville, Dean Ryan, Wayne Diesel, Rudi Meir, Ed Archer and Dave Ellis. Dean Ryan commented that there are only six professional referees in the RFU, the most recent appointments were Dave Pearson and Roy Maybank, but he declined to comment further after previous encounters with the RFU. Mellville made it very clear that the problem was long term and that the RFU are a highly paid professional group and should come up with the answers and are accountable for these problems. This led the floor to an outburst in laughter when it was suggested that Martin Johnson and Mat Dawson should become professional refs when they hang up their boots as rugby players.

Rudi Meir and Ed Archer were asked more specifically about the fitness and condition of the players. Rudi answered telling the Season Ticket Holders that the squad is very strong and very fit, although there is room for improvement. Rudi was then asked what skills could be taught and how everyone in the squad benefited. He told the attentive audience that he doesn't coach in isolation with one player but that he focuses on CORE skills fro overall squad development and that he consults closely with Dean Ryan and Nigel Mellville. He pointed out that there is always room

for improvement and players don't often have it all.

The audience were again in fits of laughter when Dean Ryan told them about Dave Ellis and his free t-shirt give away at training on Monday morning after the Bristol game. The shirts are awarded to the players, for 'Biggest hitter,' '100% enforcer,' and the 'Best Defender'. Marcel Garvey won the big hit award for his hit on David Rees in front of the Grandstand, Phil Vickery the enforcer for 12 hits without a miss and Mr Consistency Jake Boer won the Best Defender award.

As most of the panel are only seven weeks into their Gloucester careers, the supporters were keen to know if their opinions of Gloucester had changed since their arrival. Dean Ryan jumped in first saying that he respected the club before being appointed as forwards coach, much to the delight of the fans. Nigel also replied with almost the same comment and they both added that before they were on the same side as the 'Shed' they found it a tough place to travel to and endured a lot of pressure as an away team, and to win at Kingsholm was something special. Wayne Diesel and Rudi Meir added that "The Kingsholm Factor" was one of the points that attracted them to the Club and this was also supported by Dave Ellis and Ed Archer.

Towards the end of the night, Nigel Melville was asked what he got out of evenings like these, to which he replied that they were very valuable, were relaxed and always have a great atmosphere. "It is hard on match days to chat with supporters, and then after the game, preparation begins for the next game, with video analysis and training, so its great to take time out and socialise on events like these", he admitted.

Panel members were thanked for their commitment to the evening and the Rugby club which, has achieved to date its best start ever in the Premiership. Long may it continue!!!

WHAT A RESULT!!!!!!!

Look out for our next event in November: An Evening with "THE NEW BOYS" including Pete Buxton and Simon Amor



14

GLOUCESTER

Henry Paul	15
Marcel Garvey	14
Terry Fanolua	13
Robert Todd	12
Tom Beim	11
Ludovic Mercier	10
Andy Gomarsall	09

Trevor Woodman	01
Olivier Azam	02
(c) Phil Vickery	03
Adam Eustace	04
Mark Cornwell	05
Peter Buxton	06
Jake Boer	07
James Forrester	08

Clive Stuart-Smith	16
James Simpson-Daniel	17
Simon Amor	18
Deacon / Roncero	19
Chris Fortey	20
Rob Fidler	21
Ed Pearce	22



SARACENS

14

SARACENS

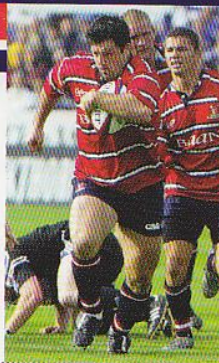
Adryan Winnan	
Ben Johnston	
Tom Shanklin	
Kevin Sorrell (c)	
Darragh O'Mahony	
Andy Goode	
Morgan Williams	

Andy Kershaw	
Joe Ross	
Johnny Marsters	
Craig Yandell	
Stuart Hooper	
Ryan Peacey	
Tony Roques	
Richard Hill	

Matt Cairns	
James Parkes	
Abdel Benazzi	
Kris Chesney	
Kyran Bracken	
Nicky Little	
Thomas Castaignede	

ZURICH PREMIERSHIP 2002/03

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	TB	LB	PTS
Gloucester	5	4	1	0	157	85	2	0	20
London Wasps	5	3	1	1	164	130	3	1	18
Leeds Tykes	5	3	1	1	149	108	0	1	15
Northampton Saints	5	3	0	2	131	99	1	1	14
Sharks	5	3	1	1	110	126	0	0	14
Saracens	5	3	0	2	137	135	1	0	13
Leicester Tigers	5	2	0	3	131	95	2	1	11
Newcastle Falcons	5	2	0	3	92	142	0	1	9
Bath Rugby	5	1	2	2	78	122	0	0	8
London Irish	5	1	0	4	110	135	1	1	6
NEC Harlequins	5	1	0	4	93	127	0	2	6
Bristol Shoguns	5	1	0	4	136	184	0	1	5



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Gloucester RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB



GLOUCESTER'S NEXT THREE MATCHES



MUNSTER

Heineken Cup
Saturday 12th Oct 2002
Kingsholm KO 3.00pm
Ticket Hotline: 0871 871 8781



VIADANA

Heineken Cup
Friday 18th Oct 2002
Stadio Luigi Zaffanella KO 8.45pm
Ticket Hotline: 0871 871 8781



LONDON WASPS

Zurich Premiership
Saturday 26th Oct 2002
Adams Park KO 2.00pm
Ticket Hotline: 01494 769 471



THIS WEEKEND'S FIXTURES

Saturday 5 October 2002
Sharks vs London Irish
Gloucester vs Saracens
Leicester Tigers vs Bath Rugby
NEC Harlequins vs N'castle Falcons
N'hampton Saints vs London Wasps

Sunday 6 October 2002
Leeds Tykes vs Bristol Shoguns

Ref! Link

TODAY'S MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: Donal Courtney IRFU
1st TJ: Roy Maybank RFU
2nd TJ: Hue Jones RFU