

THE OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME OF BATH RUGBY • PRICE £2.50

BATH RUGBY

VS GLOUCESTER
ZURICH PREMIERSHIP
SATURDAY 24TH FEBRUARY
KICK OFF 2.15^{PM}



MATCH SPONSORS



BLACKTHORN

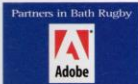


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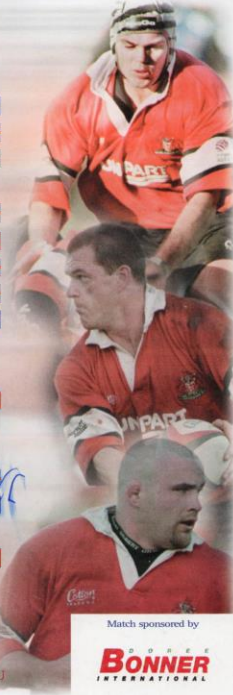
Get ahead of the game

THE teams



	Matt Perry	(15) Full Back
	Iain Balshaw	(14) Wing
	Kevin Maggs	(13) Centre
	Mike Tindall	(12) Centre
	Tom Voyce	(11) Wing
	Mike Catt	(10) Fly Half
	Gareth Cooper	(9) Scrum Half
	Simon Emms	(1) Prop
	Mark Regan	(2) Hooker
	John Mallett	(3) Prop
	Andy Lloyd	(4) Lock
	Steve Borthwick	(5) Lock
	Gavin Thomas	(6) Flanker
	Ben Clarke (c)	(7) Flanker
	Dan Lyle	(8) No.8

	Chris Catling
	Rory Greenslade-Jones
	Joe Ewens
	Jason Little
	Tom Beim
	Bryon Hayward
	Elton Moncrieff
	Trevor Woodman
	Olivier Azam
	Phil Vickery (c)
	Rob Fidler
	Ian Jones
	Jake Boer
	Andy Hazell
	Junior Paramore



replacements

	Jon Preston	(16)
	Andy Long	(17)
	David Barnes	(18)
	Shaun Berne	(19)
	Rob Thirlby	(20)
	Martin Haag	(21)
	Nathan thomas	(22)

	Andy Gomarsall
	Simon Mannix
	Chris Yates
	Jawad Djoudi
	Andy Deacon
	Mark Comwell
	Ed Pearce

Today's officials - REFEREE: Paddy O'Brien: NZ - TOUCH JUDGES: John Barnard & David Broadwell RFU



Bath Rugby Man of the Match sponsored by **The Bath Chronicle**



Match sponsored by **BONNER INTERNATIONAL**



VISITORS Gloucester

THESE ARE EXCITING TIMES FOR GLOUCESTER. THE CHERRY AND WHITES ARE ON THE VERGE OF SOMETHING SPECIAL- THE BIGGEST PRIZE IN CLUB RUGBY AND THE REALISATION OF A DREAM.

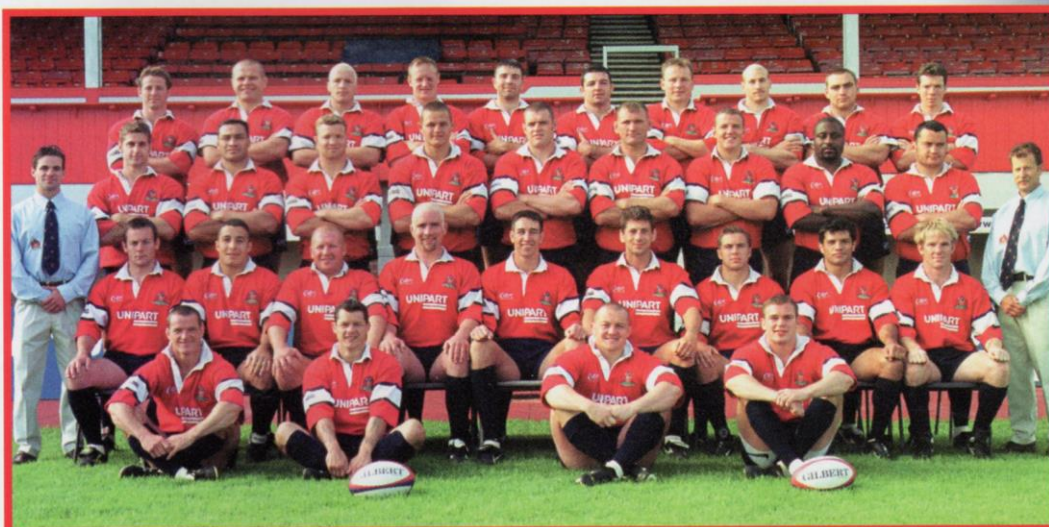
Although the possibility of playing in a Heineken Cup final depends entirely upon the outcome of next month's semi-final against Leicester Tigers, Philippe St. Andre's side have never been in a better position to lift some silverware.

Gloucester's Heineken Cup campaign has been heroic, and although they admit that they have been a little fortunate are nevertheless deserving of their semi-final berth. The French coach's composition of cosmopolitan stars from all corners of the globe may well have detracted from the club's strong tradition of developing home-grown talent, but few 'shed-heads' could complain about an electrifying run in Europe's premier rugby competition. The feat is all the more remarkable when you consider that this is Gloucester's first season of Heineken Cup rugby. The experience of double World Cup winner Jason Little and All Black legend Ian Jones has been massive, but it has been the leadership of captain marvel Kingsley Jones that has been the real driving force.

However this afternoon is all about the Zurich Premiership

and a fiercely contested clash with arch-rivals Bath Rugby. After a third place finish in the Premiership last season, the current campaign has been somewhat disappointing for St. Andre's men. Having lost at the Stoop on their last outing, they simply must win today to ensure a top eight finish and qualification to the prized Zurich Championship play-offs. Despite being four places behind Bath Rugby, the Cherry and White's breached a massive psychological barrier in November by recording a first ever victory at the Rec. in league or Cup.

They certainly possess the firepower to compete with the cream of English and European teams. The pack is back to it's bludgeoning best with England internationals Phil Vickery and Trevor Woodman the cornerstones to a massive scrum that prides itself on being the immovable object. Gloucester's back row is also emerging as one of the most powerful in the country with Samoan test star Junior Paramore linking up with former internationals Kingsley Jones and Steve Ojomoh. However obvious strengths up front act as an effective foil for the club's underrated backline. Internationals, Simon Mannix and Jason Little will relish the opportunity to prove that it is not just Bath Rugby who possess world class finishers and in Tom Beim and Chris Catling have two of the fastest players in the Premiership. Sit tight-this promises to be a cracker.



Gloucester Pictures Supplied By GPA Photography





KINGSLEY Jones



PLAYER focus

NEXT MONTH, GLOUCESTER'S CAPTAIN MARVEL KINGSLEY JONES WILL LEAD OUT GLOUCESTER IN THE BIGGEST MATCH IN THE CHERRY AND WHITE'S 128-YEAR HISTORY.

The fact that the westcountry club have made the semi-final in their first season of Heineken Cup rugby is testament to the 31-year-old flanker's gritty determination and unique leadership skills.

In mid September, Gloucester were a club in turmoil. With a huge injury list and a string of disappointing defeats, captain Ian Jones resigned his post. It was going to take a man of steel to turn around the club's fortunes and that is why Philippe St. Andre turned to Kingsley. The flanker was also a people's choice and although a Welshman, won over the hearts of the 'shed heads' with his heroic on field performances.

Kingsley moved to Kingsholm in December 1998, having gained 10 caps for Wales during the 1990's and also having the honour of captaining the Dragons. However a widely anticipated impact at his new club was wrecked after sustaining a ruptured achilles in only his third game.

Determined to prove to the club that he was a useful acquisition, Kingsley bounced back in gritty style to lead the club during the 1999/2000 season to third in the Premiership- the club's highest league position for over a decade.

Having been re-instated as captain this season, Kingsley was quick to help turn around the fortunes of a club that had promised so much but failed to deliver. The cherry and white's won their next four matches under the flamboyant Welshman, including a season-turning victory over Llanelli at Stradey Park.

Although he is quick to admit that his international days are probably behind him, Kingsley has not lost any passion for the sport and his club. He is a consistent flanker whose never-say-die attitude endears the Welshman to the Gloucester faithful. He is relentless in the loose, but more importantly has acted as a figurehead for a Gloucester side previously lacking in direction.