

NEC HARLEQUINS v GLOUCESTER | 31<sup>ST</sup> August 2002 Kick Off 3.00pm

vol. 1 No.1

# Quins

MATCHDAY MAGAZINE



£2.50



QUINS DEFEAT  
GLASGOW BUT  
LOSE TO BEZIERS  
FULL STORY INSIDE

RUGBY ROUNDUP

## JASON LEONARD

QUINS CAPTAIN PREVIEWS  
TODAYS GAME AND THE  
SEASON AHEAD

REVIEW OF THE  
TWO PRE-SEASON  
FRIENDLIES

[www.quins.co.uk](http://www.quins.co.uk)

NEC  
HARLEQUINS



## GLOUCESTER



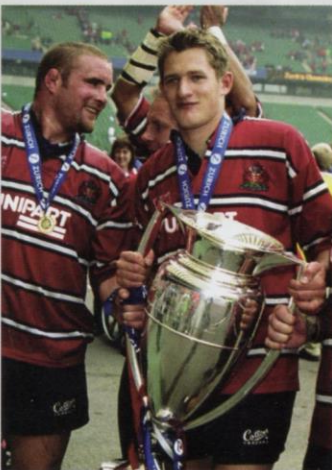
By James Bennett  
Media & Marketing Executive  
Gloucester RFC

ON THE WHOLE, GLOUCESTER ENJOYED A VERY SATISFYING END TO THE 2001/02 SEASON. AFTER FINISHING THIRD IN THE ZURICH PREMIERSHIP, BEHIND PERENNIAL CHAMPIONS LEICESTER TIGERS AND THE LEAGUE'S SURPRISE PACKAGE SALE SHARKS, ON THE 8TH JUNE THEY PLAYED BRISTOL SHOGUNS IN THE ZURICH CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL AT TWICKENHAM.

After destroying Newcastle at home and Sale Sharks away in the previous rounds, the stage was set for Gloucester to take on Bristol in a true West Country showdown, between the leagues oldest teams. Although it was not a great spectacle, as the occasion and long season perhaps got the better of a few players, it was still a pulsating match and with 23 points coming from the best buy of the season, fly half **Ludovic Mercier**, and a try from man-of-the-match **Jake Boer**, Gloucester won the day 28-23.

Gloucester's form throughout last year and particularly in the lead up to the season's climax was excellent, but perhaps they have still not fulfilled their potential. At Kingsholm, the Cherry and Whites were almost unbeatable, suffering just one defeat at home to Premiership Champions Leicester. However, it was Gloucester's away form that prevented them from challenging the Tigers more strongly.

In European competition, Gloucester swept all before them in the pool stages and then on a cold, wet, windy night they won a tricky Anglo-Welsh fixture against Ebbw Vale in the quarterfinals of the Parker Pen Shield. Unfortunately they failed at the penultimate hurdle, as they lost to the Sale Sharks in a nail-biting semi-final that the Cheshire side won by a solitary point.



Lessons were learned and towards the end of the season, under the guidance of new Director of Rugby **Nigel Melville**, who replaced a tearful **Philippe Saint-Andre** after the Quins match last season, Gloucester began to raise their standards and tread new ground. With away wins coming at Bristol and Leeds, it seemed that they had finally exorcised the demons that had plagued them away from home.

Gloucester have pre-seasoned well. A successful tour to South Africa and competitive games against an invitational Durban Rovers side and the Natal Sharks were followed by a double-header of home and away matches against Newport.

Gloucester enjoyed the best of the spoils winning both fixtures, breaking the 50-point barrier twice in the process. Especially pleasing for the Cherry and Whites was the fact that **Nigel Melville** made 11 changes to the side that played away to Newport and yet still fielded a very strong team.

It is this strength in depth that could finally see Gloucester fulfil their promise and, once more, mount a serious challenge to the Tigers this season.

On the field, **Nigel Melville** has added **Peter Buxton**, **Thinus Delport**, and **Simon Amor** to a very strong squad. Off the field, Melville has enticed **Dean Ryan** away from the Shoguns and these two, along with **Rudi Meir**, a skills and conditioning coach from Australia, and **Wayne Diesel**, the former Springbok physio, hope to provide the support and coaching that this squad needs to succeed.

# THE TEAMS - HEAD TO HEAD

## NEC HARLEQUINS V GLOUCESTER

Date: Saturday 31 August 2002 (KO 3pm) .



### NEC HARLEQUINS

15	Nathan Williams
14	Matt Moore
13	Will Greenwood*
12	Chris Bell
11	Ben Gollings
10	Paul Burke *
9	Matthew Powell
1	Jason Leonard* (Capt)
2	Keith Wood*
3	Laurent Gomez
4	Bill Davison
5	Alex Codling*
6	Ace Tiatia*
7	Pat Sanderson*
8	Tony Diprose*
16	Marco Caputo*
17	Bruce Starr
18	Jim Evans
19	Luke Sherriff
20	Scott Bemand
21	Rob Jewell
22	Viliame Satala*

### GLOUCESTER

15	Thinus Delpont*
14	James Simpson-Daniel
13	Terry Fanolua*
12	Robert Todd
11	Tom Beim*
10	Ludovic Mercier
9	Andy Gomarsall*
1	Trevor Woodman*
2	Chris Fortey
3	Phil Vickery*
4	Rob Fidler*
5	Mark Cornwell
6	Jake Boer
7	Andy Hazell
8	Junior Paramore*
16	TBC
17	TBC
18	TBC
19	TBC
20	TBC
21	TBC
22	TBC

Referee: Steve Lander Touch Judges: Tim Miller & Stuart Terheege

\* Denotes international