



OFFICIAL MATCHDAY MAGAZINE • PRICE £2.50 • ISSUE 6

LONDON WASPS

ZURICH PREMIERSHIP

V GLOUCESTER

21st NOVEMBER 2003

KICK OFF 7.45PM

YOU LEFT AS
CHAMPIONS OF
ENGLAND -

NOW COME
BACK AS
CHAMPIONS OF
THE WORLD!

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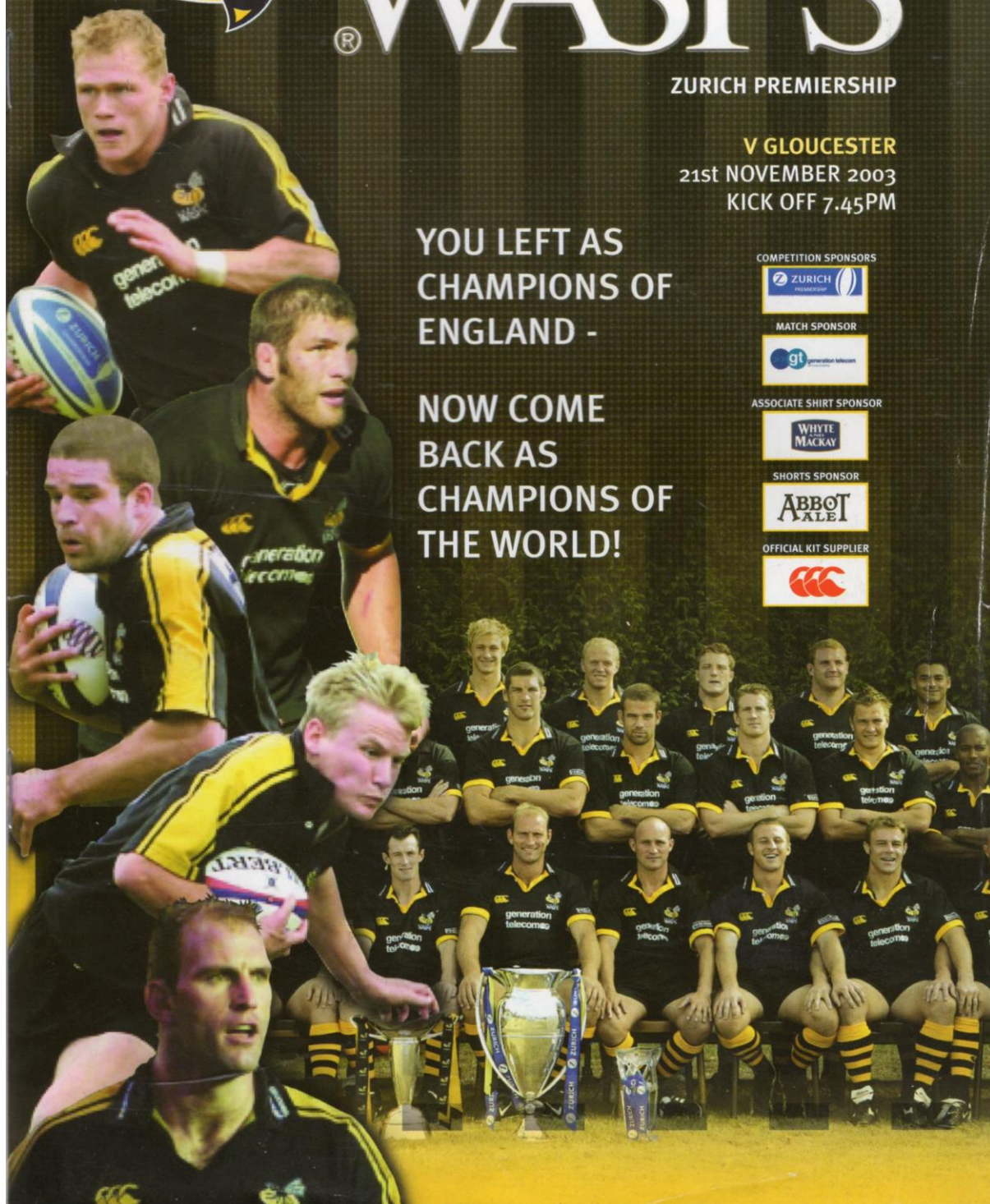
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RUGBY RIVALRY



ALWAYS A SHOWPIECE

Every now and then, certain sporting rivalries come to the fore and take centre stage in the hearts, minds and aspirations of the people involved. Rivalry has existed within mankind since the Stone Age and history always mentions the great battles between two tribes or leaders

Looking back, sport has created some fantastic rivalries. For football fans, they cannot help but rub their hands together in anticipation when England faces the old enemy, Germany. The same goes for boxing enthusiasts when Joe Frazier took on the great Muhammad Ali in what was built as the 'Thrilla in Manila'. That fight took place in the Philippines of all places but it still talked about as one of boxing's greatest rivalries.

One doesn't have to resort to a blood sport for rivalry. Tennis' John McEnroe and Bjorn Borg fought many battles on the world's circuits and many believe them to have been the greatest tennis players of all time.

Tomorrow will see the England rugby team take on current World Champions Australia, in what has become a Northern v Southern Hemisphere rivalry. The game is for a simple trophy, but at stake is a balance of power that looks to be heading north for the next four years. While all eyes are focused down-under, tonight sees the start of a two-part sequel.

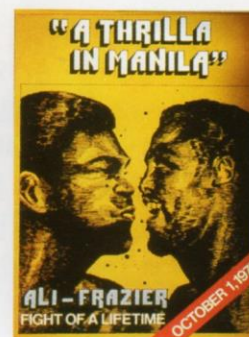
The battles mentioned above are seen on a world scale and tonight's game is only a small fraction of what those were. However, to the handful of Wasps and Gloucester supporters,

tonight's game is as important as a Frazier v Ali or McEnroe v Borg.

When the Black & Gold Army crushed the Cherry & Whites at Twickenham in May, the rivalry between the two sides escalated to a new level. It started when Nigel Melville left London for the West Country life. Many of the current Wasps squad, started their careers under Melville and when he left, there was a sense of disappointment at how quickly he upped and walked out the door. Melville left Wasps near the bottom half the league and took charge of Gloucester. Warren Gatland was left holding the reigns and guided the team to safety for the latter part of the season.

Then when the sides met for the two league games last season, honours were even. Gloucester ran away with the league and was first in line to book their place in the Twickenham final. Wasps took a slower approach, launched their campaign around December and finished second, 15 points behind the Cherry & Whites.

The final for the record, was a one-sided affair with Gatland's side demolishing Melville's 39-3. That result was the catalyst for a rivalry that is going to explode this season. The talk around Gloucester Rugby Club was that the Zurich Premiership Final was to be never mentioned or spoken about again. It was a bad



day for West Country rugby and banished to the deepest, darkest realms of the memory banks for anyone associated with the club. You knew once this season's fixture list came out, the Wasps v Gloucester game was highlighted in both clubs, fans and coaches' calendars. Even our friends at SKY Sports realise the significance of this game and moved it to tonight for maximum coverage and will show the game live.

However, one cannot get away from the fact that many of the stars from that Twickenham final will be missing tonight. Therefore, it seems the rugby gods have decided that when Dallaglio and Co return, they will face the full wrath of Gloucester next May at Kingsholm. In the meantime, Melville and his side will want revenge in what has been a difficult season for all.

The great thing about rugby is that we all know it will be a tough physical battle on the field, but after the game, Melville and Gatland will share a beer, the players will mix and the World Cup final will be discussed.

The Melville v Gatland mind games will take part off the field, but the battles on the field to take note of, if playing, will be between Jake Boer and Paul Volley. Boer, who won the Zurich Premiership Player of the

London Wasps v Gloucester

MATCH PREVIEW

Year Award for the 2002/03 season seems to constantly shine in a Gloucester shirt. The South African-born flanker spent the early part of his Premiership career at London Irish, where he was named player of the season in 1999/00. Boer (which means farmer in the South African Afrikaans language) is a fantastic tackler who works tirelessly in the loose. Farmers are known to be strong, no-nonsense characters – Boer is such a character and will keep the Wasps pack fighting for every inch of field space. His desire to win is unmatched.

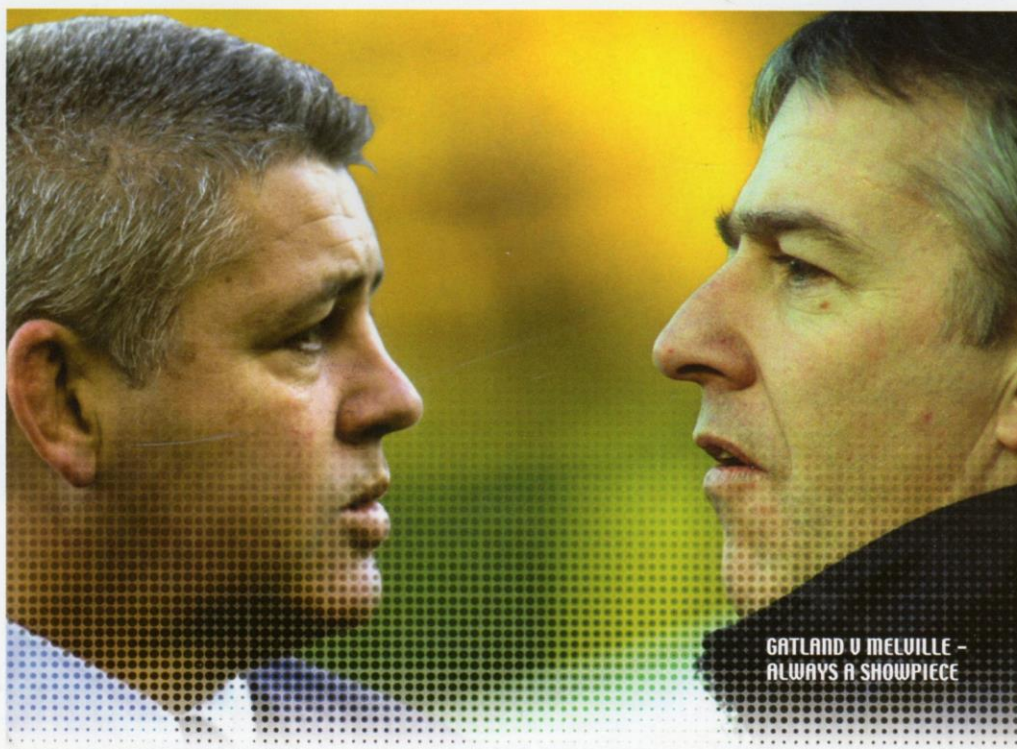
His opposite flanker, Paul Volley, is another tireless workhorse in the

‘To Wasps and Gloucester fans it’s more than a game, it’s a rivalry that’s become as important as England winning the world cup tomorrow’

pack. Volley, who has played at No.6 this season but has said he prefers

No.7, is another character who fights for field space. The question of who you would prefer standing behind you if confronted by someone was asked a few weeks ago around the club. The answer of Mr Volley came up numerous times. Volley is the player everyone wants to go into battle with. A Boer v Volley battle is by no means pretty, but always mouth watering.

This game might not seem like a big deal to other clubs and fans and the result might not get printed beyond the shores of the UK. However, to Wasps and Gloucester fans it’s more than a game, it’s a rivalry that’s become as important as England winning the world cup tomorrow.



**GATLAND V MELVILLE -
ALWAYS A SHOWPIECE**

TODAY'S OPPOSITION



Results in the last couple of weeks have been mixed for Gloucester fans, but with more than 10 frontline players out through World Cup commitments and injury both Nigel Melville and Dean Ryan have been calling in all their resources for the last few fixtures.

Despite recent results, there have been some superb performances this season, including moments of magic from Jon Goodridge against Saracens, James Simpson-Daniel against Leeds and brilliant defensive displays to limit Leicester to three and Harlequins to no points at all in the Premiership.

Tonight sees the first meeting between Gloucester and London Wasps since the Zurich Premiership

final in June of this year. Since that fixture Nigel Melville and Dean Ryan have made a number of changes to their squad with the likes of Ludovic Mercier and Olivier Azam moving on. Coming in over the summer were Alex Brown and Paul Johnstone from Bristol Shoguns, former Wasps scrumhalf Alex Page, Steve Brotherstone from Newcastle and Aussie flyhalf Duncan McRae.

Just like Wasps, the Cherry and Whites have been without a number of World Cup players. Phil Vickery,

Trevor Woodman and Andy Gomarsall have been with the England set-up and Terry Fanolua came back from Samoa duties with a broken thumb. Argentine prop Rodrigo Roncero returned to Premiership action two weeks ago and Thinus Delport may be back in first-team action this weekend.

The season started with a 22-8 win over newly promoted Rotherham at Kingsholm, but was then followed by a narrow loss to London Irish at the Madejski Stadium. Their home

form continued the following week with a good win against Saracens in front of the Sky Sports' cameras.

A journey to Newcastle saw the Falcons come out on top in round four of the Zurich Premiership before the Cherry and Whites returned to winning ways against Leicester, again in front of the Sky cameras.

Nigel Melville's team got its first away win of the campaign in a 16-0 victory against Quins at the Stoop in the middle of October and this was followed up by a 24-19 win at home against Leeds which saw Simpson-Daniel touch down twice.

The beginning of November saw Gloucester narrowly miss out against Northampton in a passionate affair that saw one red card and a number of yellows shown at Franklin's Gardens. The defeat at Saints was followed by the recent Bath defeat and last Saturday's cup clash against London Irish.

Off the field there have been some exciting stadium developments at Gloucester Rugby Club. The club has teamed up with its loyal supporters to launch the Kingsholm Supporters Mutual (KSM),

a new supporters' trust established to raise £2 million towards exciting stadium development plans.

The new stadium development is set to offer the club and the city a great facility that will help the Cherry and Whites grow as a club both on and off the field.

Looking back at the last 12 months, prior to the 2003/04 kick-off, there had been some of the most memorable times in the 130-year history of the club, with a successful Powergen Cup campaign and a superb nine-month control on the regular Zurich Premiership season.

In most years, supporters, players and coaches couldn't have asked for more, but the disappointment of a Heineken Cup exit and defeat to Wasps in the Zurich Premiership final, have made the club even more determined this year.

After last Saturday's showing, Gloucester come into today's game hoping to build on their current standing in the Zurich Premiership.





LONDON WASPS

GLOUCESTER

TRY
CONVERSION
PENALTY
DROPPED KICK

TRY
CONVERSION
PENALTY
DROPPED KICK

www.wasps.co.uk

TODAY'S REFEREE : A Rowden | TOUCH JUDGES : S Terhegge & A Reay
No.4: R Maybank TELEVISION MATCH OFFICIAL : R Rees

TOM VOYCE

15- FULLBACK FULLBACK -15

JON GOODRIDGE

SHANE ROSIER

16- WING WING -16

MARCEL GARVEY

FRASER WATERS

17- CENTRE CENTRE -17

ROBERT TODD

MARK DENNEY

12- CENTRE CENTRE -12

HENRY PAUL

JOHN RUDD

11- WING WING -11

JAMES SIMPSON-DANIEL

MARK VAN GISBERGEN

10- FLYHALF FLYHALF -10

DUNCAN MCRAE

ROB HOWLEY (C)

9- SCRUMHALF SCRUMHALF -9

SIMON AMOR

CRAIG DOWD

1- PROP PROP -1

RODRIGO RONCERO

TREVOR LEOTA

2- HOOKER HOOKER -2

CHRIS FORTEY

WILL GREEN

3- PROP PROP -3

ANDY DEACON

MARTIN PURDY

4- LOCK LOCK -4

ALEX BROWN

RICHARD BIRKETT

5- LOCK LOCK -5

MARK CORNWELL

IAN CLARKE

6- FLANKER FLANKER -6

JAKE BOER (C)

PAUL VOLLEY

7- FLANKER FLANKER -7

JAMES MERRIMAN

MARK LOCK

8- NO.8 NO.8 -8

PETER BUXTON

REPLACEMENTS

ALEX KING

16 16

CHRIS COLLINS

PHIL GREENING

17 17

ANDRIAN OLIVER

PETER RICHARDS

18 18

NICK WOOD

JONNY O'CONNOR

19 19

ADAM EUSTACE

JOHN HART

20 20

LUKE NARRAWAY

PETER SCRIVENER

21 21

ALEX PAGE

TIM PAYNE

22 22

THINUS DELPORT

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