



Heineken® Cup

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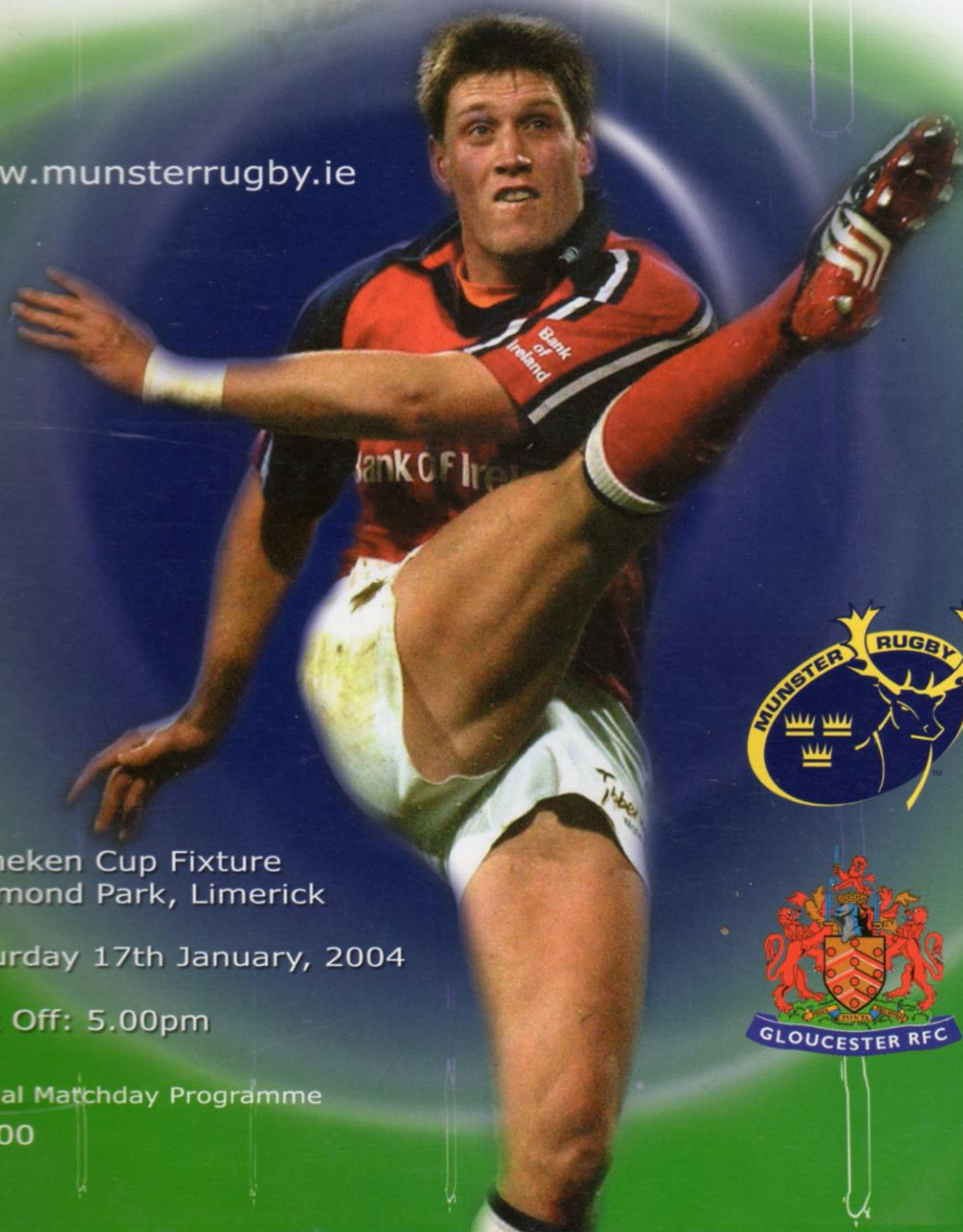
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Round Four

MUNSTER v Gloucester

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Heineken Cup Fixture
Thomond Park, Limerick

Saturday 17th January, 2004

Kick Off: 5.00pm

Official Matchday Programme

€4.00



MUNSTER V GLOUCESTER

Some Statistics to note.

by Des Daly

- Munster have won all six Heineken European Cup Pool games which they've played against English clubs at Thomond Park.
- No English (or Scottish) club competed in 1995 / 96, the first season of the Heineken Cup.
- The English clubs absented themselves for the 1998 / 99 season as did Heineken from the sponsorship of the competition.
- Munster have played seven different English clubs in the Heineken Cup and five of these have visited Thomond Park.
- Today, Munster play Gloucester for the fourth time in the Heineken Cup; previously, Harlequins have provided the opposition in four of Munster's 15 outings against English club opposition in the Heineken Cup. The honours currently read 3 - 1 in Munster's favour against the Londoners.
- No current Munster squaddie has played in all 15 Heineken Cup games against the English clubs. Anthony Foley has played in 14 of the games - he missed the away loss to Harlequins in September 1997. He has scored two tries during these 14 games and won the Man of the Match award against Bath at Thomond Park in October 2000. John Kelly has played in 13 games.
- Munster are the only Irish province to have played Gloucester in European competition.
- On Saturday August 12th 2000, Munster lost 15-31 to Gloucester, captained by All Black star Ian Jones, at Thomond Park. On the day Munster fielded what was very much an A side, captained by Killian Keane and including John Kelly, Jason Holland, Jeremy Staunton and Alan Quinlan. Patrons were charged three punts admission.
- It wasn't until the second season of the Heineken Cup competition (1996 / 97) that Munster encountered English opposition. Wasps were soundly beaten by 27 points with Killian Keane contributing 19 points. Wasps bounced back and beat the reigning European Champions Toulouse 77-17 the following week.
- The first game (1997) against Harlequins in London is best remembered for the eleven tries which it produced and for Munster captain Mick Galwey being sent to the sin-bin after he was caught punching Keith Wood, skipper of the Londoners.
- Thomond Park was not available during the 1998 / 99 season, so Munster's three Heineken Cup home games (all wins) were played at Musgrave Park.
- In 1999 / 2K, Munster came from behind at half time to win both their games, each by a single point, against Saracens. The second win (in Limerick) assured Munster of a home quarter-final against Stade Francais.
- Munster's loss to Bath at 'The Rec' in October 2000 was the first defeat in their most recent nine competitive games and meant that for the first time in three years there was to be no Irish presence in the Heineken Cup Final.
- So far, 15 of Munster's 56 Heineken Cup games have been played at Thomond Park and Munster have won them all.
- Today Munster play their 16th game against an English club in the Heineken Cup and, co-incidentally, are seeking their 16th win in 16 outings at Thomond Park against all Heineken Cup visitors.
- Anthony Foley has made 55 Heineken Cup appearances before today's game. No other Heineken Cup player has appeared on the European stage on as many occasions. Mick Galwey has played 48 games, John Kelly 44, John Hayes 42, Ronan O'Gara 41, Peter Stringer 40, Peter Clohessy 39 and Alan Quinlan / Anthony Horgan 38.
- Munster's leading all-time provincial caps at the moment: Mick Galwey - 136, Anthony Foley - 115, Peter Clohessy - 103, John Kelly - 83, Mike Mullins - 81, John Hayes - 80, Frank Sheahan - 79, Ronan O'Gara / Alan Quinlan - 78, Anthony Horgan - 75.
- Diego Dominquez (Stade Francais) has recently added 40 points to the 552 points he took into this season's Heineken Cup. Second to Dominquez, Ronan O'Gara has now collected 555 points. These two players are the only two to have passed the 500 point milestone in Heineken European Cup competitions.
- Anthony Foley is the top try-scoring forward in the Heineken Cup. His recent two tries at home to Benetton-Treviso brought his tally to 16 tries in the competition and he has climbed from 7th to 4th place in the overall try rankings.
- Gloucester have appeared in six English Cup finals since 1972. They have won four times, lost once and shared the trophy in 1982. They are the current holders of the Powergen Cup, having beaten Northampton 40-22 at the end of last season.
- Gloucester were ranked second of the six English clubs admitted to the 2003 / 04 Heineken Cup pools. The Cherry and Whites won last season's Zurich Premiership League proper with 82 points from 22 games but were beaten 39-3 by London Wasps in the Championship Final held after the play-offs (a similar situation to that which has transpired in four of the last six AIB League Division One finishes).
- Gloucester RFC was founded 1873. The club has produced 49 England internationals, the first back in 1889. Among their number is a certain George Hook, capped in the second row in 1951 ! It couldn't be.....no, it's surely not possible ! Among their internationals best known to Irish followers are Don Rutherford, Steve Ojomoh, Mike Teague, Phil Blakeway, Phil Greening and Mark Mapletoft and Mike Burton (he of rugby tours fame)
- Gloucester supplied three players to the England squad for the 2003 Rugby World Cup - Andy Gomersall, Phil Vickery and Trevor Woodman.
- Gloucester have competed in the Heineken European Cup on two previous occasions 2000 / 01 and 2002 / 03. In 2001 they lost a semi-final to Leicester 15 - 19 at Watford, having beaten Cardiff at home 21 - 15 in the quarters. Last season they finished third in Pool 2 behind Perpignan and Munster even though all three clubs had won four games and lost two to finish on eight match points.
- To date, Gloucester are unbeaten in their nine Heineken Cup games at home and have had 50% success in their eight games away from Kingsholm. They have won all three Heineken Cup games which they've played already this season.
- Against Gloucester last season, Munster recorded their 14th consecutive Heineken Cup win at Thomond Park. Needing to win by 27 points and score four tries in the process, Ronan O'Gara landed the conversion of John Kelly's last-minute try to make the mathematics work and send Munster into the quarter-finals.
- Munster, with 14 international players on board (Anthony Horgan was yet to be capped), travelled to Leicester in April 2003 and knocked the double Heineken Cup champions out of the competition.
- Munster's two Heineken Cup Final appearances against English clubs were watched by 68,000 (v Northampton in London) and 78,000 (v Leicester in Cardiff) spectators respectively.



Jim Williams (C)

- 15 Shaun Payne
- 14 John Kelly
- 13 Mike Mullins
- 12 Rob Henderson
- 11 Anthony Horgan
- 10 Ronan O'Gara
- 9 Peter Stringer



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- 1 Marcus Horan
- 2 Frank Sheahan
- 3 John Hayes
- 4 Donnacha O'Callaghan
- 5 Paul O'Connell
- 6 Jim Williams (C)
- 7 David Wallace
- 8 Anthony Foley

- Replacements
- 16 James Blaney
 - 17 Gordon McIlwham
 - 18 David Pusey
 - 19 Stephen Keogh
 - 20 Eoin Reddan
 - 21 Jeremy Staunton
 - 22 Jason Holland



Munster v Gloucester

Thomond Park
Sat. Jan. 17th
K.O. 5.00pm

Referee:
Joel Judge (F)

Touch Judge 1:
Eric Berdos

Touch Judge 2:
E. Briquet Campin

Commissioner
Henry Blake (I)



Jake Boer (C)



- 15 Jon Goodridge
- 14 Marcel Garvey
- 13 Terry Fanolua
- 12 Henry Paul
- 11 James Simpson-Daniel
- 10 Duncan McRae
- 9 Andy Gomarsall



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- 16 Chris Collins
 - 17 Paul Johnstone
 - 18 Rodrigo Roncero
 - 19 Adam Eustace
 - 20 James Merriman
 - 21 Alex Page
 - 22 Robert Todd



Clothing Supplier to the Munster Rugby Team

Heineken Cup



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Round Four



A WORD FROM THE CHERRY AND WHITES

Today sees the second instalment of the Gloucester Vs Munster story, with the Cherry and Whites making the trip to Ireland after a good result last Saturday at Kingsholm.

Gloucester may sit top of the Pool but the entire set-up knows that there is even more work to be put in to get towards quarter-final qualification.

Prior to last weekend's big game at Kingsholm, Gloucester had put a good run together in the Zurich Premiership, which culminated in a well-earned away victory at Leicester Tigers, which saw Henry Paul pick up another man of the match award.

The previous weekend saw some great festive entertainment at Kingsholm with Gloucester edging a close encounter against NEC Harlequins 18-17.

The points picked up against Leicester and Harlequins saw Nigel Melville's team receive a big confidence boost after a disappointing result at Headingley against Leeds earlier in December. The Cherry and Whites moved up to fourth place in the Zurich Premiership before returning to European action.

Including the Leicester and Quins games, results in the last month picked up after a disappointing November. December also saw victories over Northampton, Treviso and Bourgoin.

In addition to the recent run of results, there has also been the bonus of seeing the likes of Trevor Woodman, Henry Paul and James Simpson-Daniel setting the pitch alight with some superb performances. Simpson-Daniel scored again last weekend to take his season's try tally to 10, including what could be the try of the season against Treviso in Italy, when he ran rings around the Italian side from his own 22 line. The talented wing-man has put his World Cup disappointment behind him and made the best possible statement, by showing everyone what he is capable of through pace, power and rugby ability. But Simpson-Daniel isn't the only one to be touching down regularly. Trevor Woodman has also started to get accustomed to the smell of the try line.

The 27 year-old prop scored a scintillating try against Northampton on his return to Cherry and Whites action at the beginning of December. That 30-metre solo effort was backed up with another against Quins. Woodman was on hand after Delpoit picked up a kick in his own half, Simpson-Daniel combined and the England loose-head powered over.

During the World Cup period the Cherry and Whites were without a number of key players. Phil Vickery, Trevor Woodman and Andy Gomarsall were with the England set-up and Terry Fanolua came back from Samoa duties with a broken thumb. Argentine prop Rodrigo Roncero saw action with the Pumas, and Thinus Delpoit was key in South Africa's campaign.

However, their absence gave a number of players the opportunity to impress from the start of the 2003/04 Zurich Premiership campaign.

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. The 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. This was followed up by a 24-19 win at home against Leeds that 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 yellow shown at Franklin's Gardens.

The defeat at Saints was followed by two defeats, to Bath and Wasps respectively, before the team got back to winning ways in December.

Off the field stadium developments have taken a leading role. The Club teamed up with its loyal supporters to launch the Kingsholm Supporters Mutual (KSM), a new supporters trust established to raise funds towards stadium development plans.

Although the new development was put back just before Christmas, with the intended target of this coming summer postponed, the next two months will prove key as the KSM and management plan for the summer of 2005.

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, it has 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.

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