

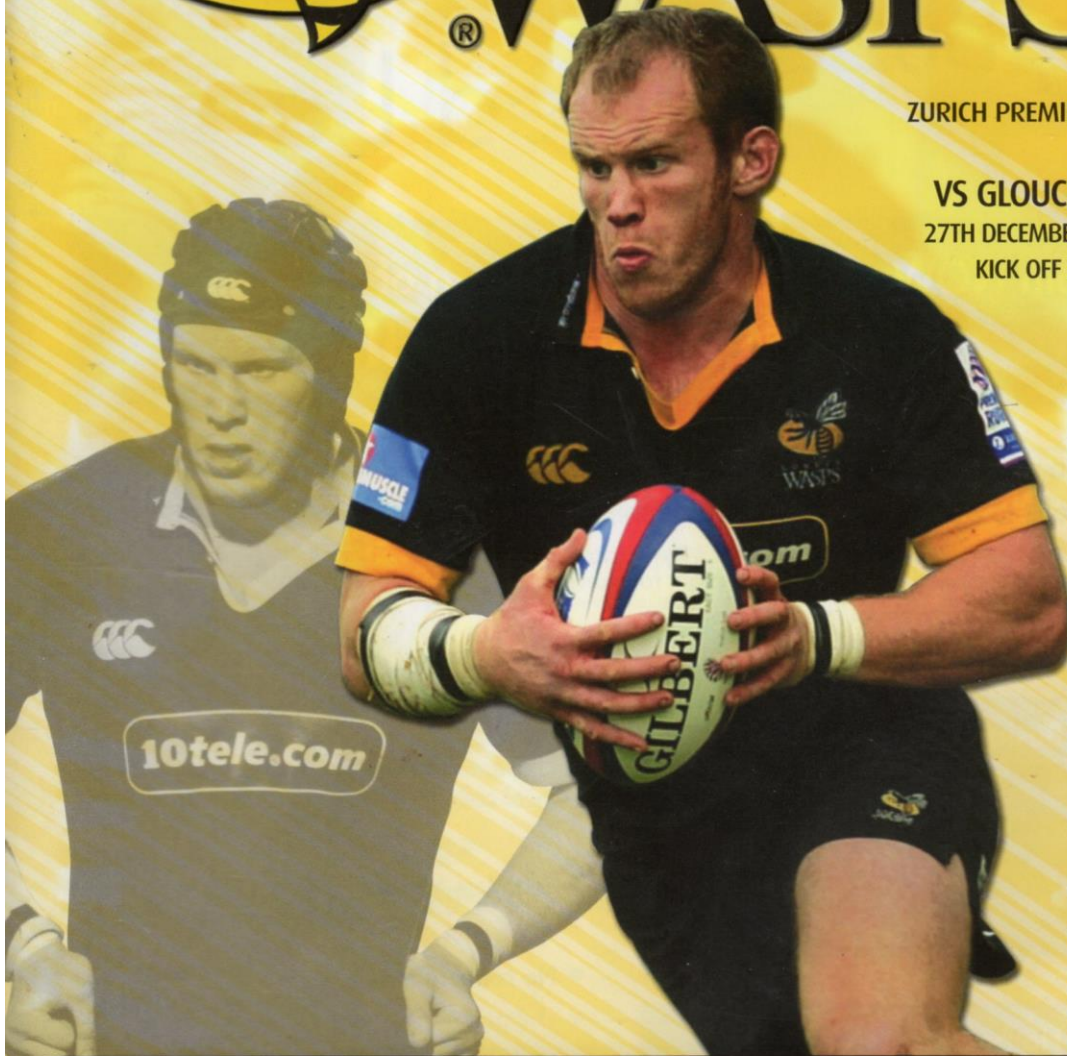
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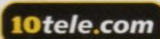
LONDON WASPS

ZURICH PREMIERSHIP

VS GLOUCESTER
27TH DECEMBER 2004
KICK OFF 3.00PM



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ZURICH PREMERSHIP

LONDON WASPS v GLOUCESTER

At Causeway Stadium, High Wycombe
Monday, 27th December 2004 – Kick-Off 3:00pm

LONDON WASPS

GLOUCESTER

15	Mark VAN GISBERGEN	<i>Full Back</i>	Jon GOODRIDGE	15
14	Josh LEWSEY	<i>Wing</i>	Marcel GARVEY	14
13	Peter RICHARDS	<i>Centre</i>	Terry FANOLUA	13
12	Stuart ABBOTT	<i>Centre</i>	Henry PAUL	12
11	Tom VOYCE	<i>Wing</i>	Seti KIOLE	11
10	Alex KING	<i>Fly Half</i>	Brad DAVIES	10
9	Matt DAWSON	<i>Scrum Half</i>	Andy GOMARSALL	9
1	Craig DOWD	<i>Prop</i>	Christo BEZUIDENHOUT	1
2	Ben GOTTING	<i>Hooker</i>	Mefin DAVIES	2
3	Will GREEN	<i>Prop</i>	Terry SIGLEY	3
4	Simon SHAW	<i>Lock</i>	Adam EUSTACE	4
5	Richard BIRKETT	<i>Lock</i>	Alex BROWN	5
6	Joe WORSLEY	<i>Flanker</i>	Jake BOER (c)	6
7	Jonny O' CONNOR	<i>Flanker</i>	Andy HAZELL	7
8	Lawrence DALLAGLIO (C)	<i>No 8</i>	Adam BALDING	8
		<i>Replacements</i>		
16	Jonny BARRETT		Noel CURNIER	16
17	Alistair MCKENZIE		Nick WOOD	17
18	James HASKELL		Peter BUXTON	18
19	John HART		James FORRESTER	19
20	Harvey BILJON		Alex PAGE	20
21	James BROOKS		Nathan MAUGER	21
22	Rob HOADLEY		James BAILEY	22

REFEREE: Roy Maybank
TOUCH JUDGES: Stuart Terhegge & Ashley Reay
NO.4: Sean Davey
TMO: -



gloucester RFC

Today's Opposition



The rivalry between Gloucester and Wasps is renewed today, six weeks after their last clash.

Gloucester come in to this afternoon's game on the back of four wins, with the latest being the 20-13 win at Welford Road just over a week ago. Results wise it's been a good December and late November, although the end of October and early November had really shaken the Gloucester side in terms of injuries to the first team squad and

their Premiership placing. The loss of Olivier Azam, Alex Brown, Duncan McRae, James Simpson-Daniel, Terry Sigley, Phil Vickery, the three England internationals (Gomarsall, Paul and Hazell), and Chris Fortey's serious ankle injury hit the West Country club hard.

The results in early November didn't go the way director of rugby Nigel Melville would have liked, even though the performances were improving week by week. The last game against Wasps in November came in the middle of this injury crisis, and coupled with international call-ups, the team suffered defeats against Leicester (away), Wasps and Saracens (away).

However, the 24-14 win at home to the Sharks at the end of November was a turning point, and even though an injury-hit side took the field in a bruising brace of Heineken Cup games against Cardiff Blues, their commitment and togetherness pulled Gloucester through. The Welsh side was written off by everyone apart from the Gloucester staff, who knew that it wouldn't be easy. A home win was followed by a bruising encounter away at the Arms Park that saw Gloucester take the four points. The last few weeks have given both Nigel Melville and coach Dean Ryan a greater

insight into the capability of the squad, with a number of players being called upon to step up in big games. Melville knew it was tough on some of them, but he was also pleased with the way they responded to feedback after games and improved the following week.

However, the injuries have meant that Gloucester's squad has been hit in certain departments, none more so than at hooker. Olivier Azam has been ruled out until February/March and Chris Fortey is recovering from a broken ankle. James Parkes, a summer signing from Saracens, made his debut as a replacement for Fortey in the win over the Sharks, and was in impressive form in both games against the Blues. With 21 year-old Rob Elloway as the only other registered hooker, the Gloucester management team have had to bring in two new signings. Welsh international number two Mefin Davies and French 'A' international hooker Noel Curnier have both signed short terms deals, with Mefin being in great form on his debut against the Tigers.

The Kingsholm club had a good result last weekend and will be looking to continue the good form when the Zurich Premiership resumes today.