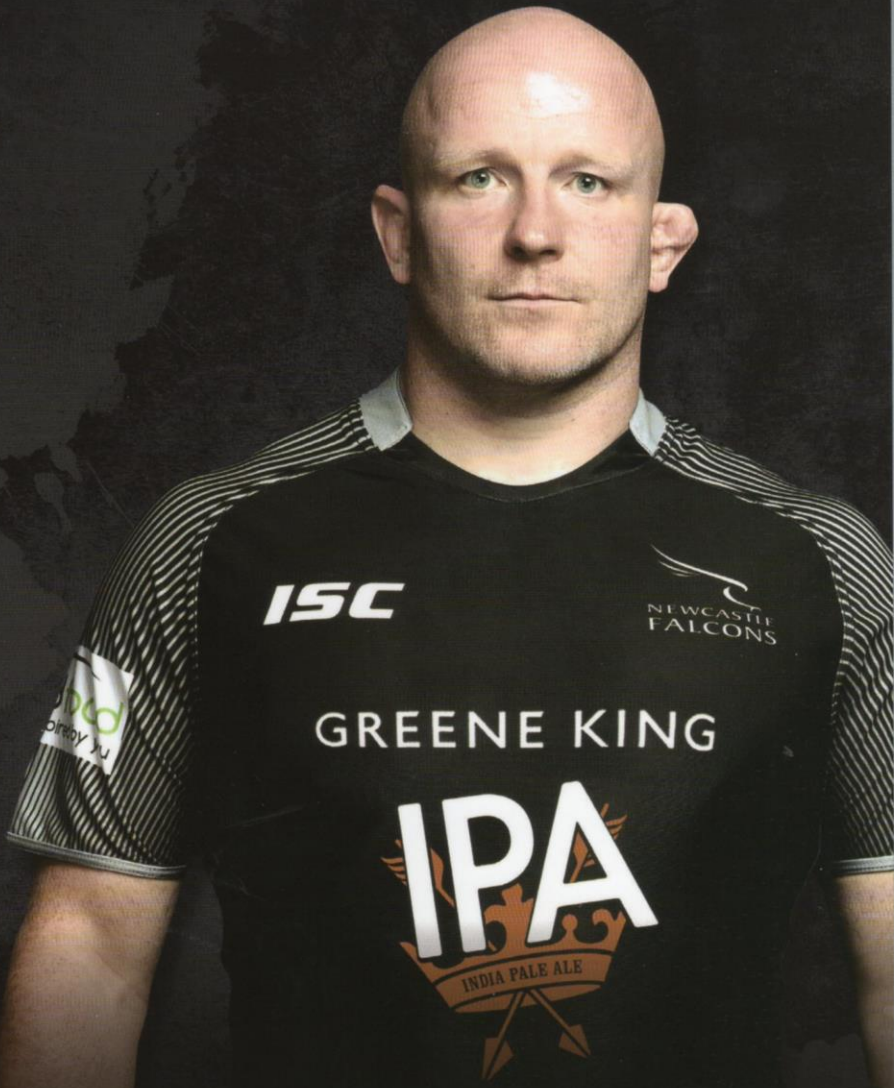


OFFICIAL NEWCASTLE FALCONS MATCHDAY PROGRAMME | SEASON 2017/18 | ISSUE 05 | PRICE £3.00



NEWCASTLE FALCONS



V GLOUCESTER RUGBY
AVIVA PREMIERSHIP
FRIDAY 24TH NOVEMBER 2017
KICK-OFF: 7.45PM



NEWCASTLE FALCONS



NEXT HOME GAME

DECEMBER 9, 2017

v BORDEAUX

EUROPEAN CHALLENGE CUP

KICK-OFF 3.15PM

Simon HAMMERSLEY	15	Tom HUDSON
Alex TAIT	14	Ollie THORLEY
Belisario AGULLA	13	Billy TWELVETREES
Juan Pablo SOCINO	12	Andy SYMONS
Sinoti SINOTI	11	Henry TRINDER
Joel HODGSON	10	Billy BURNS
Sam STUART	9	Willi HEINZ (captain)
Rob VICKERS	1	Josh HOHNECK
Scott LAWSON	2	Richard HIBBARD
Jon WELSH	3	John AFOA
Will WITTY	4	Tom SAVAGE
Sean ROBINSON	5	Ed SLATER
Mark WILSON	6	Freddie CLARKE
Will WELCH (captain)	7	Lewis LUDLOW
Nili LATU	8	Ruan ACKERMANN
Kyle COOPER	16	James HANSON
Sami MAVINGA	17	Val Rapava RUSKIN
Scott WILSON	18	Gareth DENMAN
Calum GREEN	19	Jeremy THRUSH
Gary GRAHAM	20	Jake POLLEDRI
Ruaridh DAWSON	21	Ben VELLACOTT
Toby FLOOD	22	Mark ATKINSON
Chris HARRIS	23	Henry PURDY

OFFICIALS:

REFEREE: JP DOYLE

ASSISTANT REFEREE 1:

TIM WIGLESWORTH

ASSISTANT REFEREE 2:

PETER ALLAN

TMO: CLAIRE HODNETT

CITING OFFICER: ANDY BLYTH



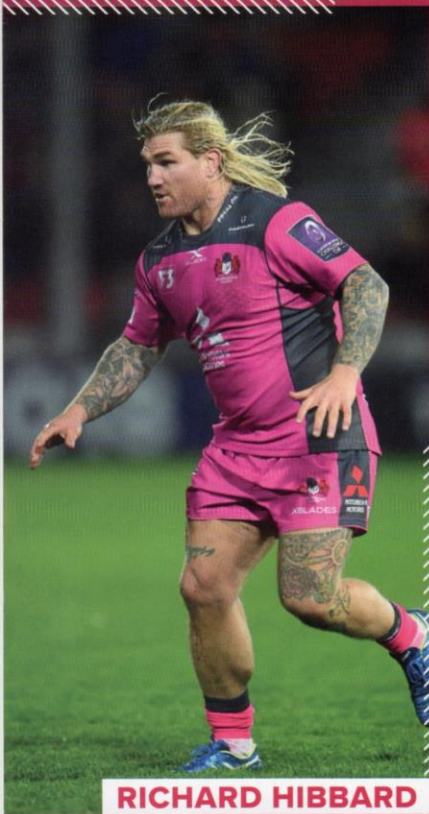
GLOUCESTER RUGBY

TONIGHT'S
VISITORS



GLOUCESTER RUGBY

THERE'S CERTAINLY A NEW LOOK AND FEEL ABOUT GLOUCESTER RUGBY THIS SEASON AS THE CLUB HAS EMBARKED UPON AN EXCITING NEW ERA.



RICHARD HIBBARD

While the core of the squad from last season has pretty much remained intact, a number of big names moved on in the summer, while there is of course a new man at the helm in the form of head coach Johan Ackermann.

August and September were an incredibly hectic time for the former head coach of Super Rugby's Lions, as Ackermann only linked up with the Cherry and Whites during their training camp in Portugal a few days before the club's pre-season friendly fixture in Dublin against Leinster.

However, despite the limited time available, there have been promising signs in Gloucester's outings so far this season while, understandably, there have also been some hiccups as the team comes to terms with its new identity and copes with a brutal injury list.

One of the club's summer signings, Jason Woodward, made the starting line-up in the thrilling win over Exeter on the opening weekend and scored the dramatic, game-winning try. Meanwhile a number of others – Ruan Ackermann, Fraser Balmain, Gareth

Denman, Val Rapava Ruskin, Ed Slater and Owen Williams - have all featured.

That win against the Chiefs has very much set the tone for the home performances as the Cherry and Whites have won all their games so far this season at Kingsholm, whereas success on the road has proved to be more elusive.

The opening-night victory was followed by defeats at Harlequins and Leicester before a return to Kingsholm saw a return to winning ways as Gloucester took the M5 bragging rights with a hard-fought win over Worcester.

The trend continued as a loss at Sale was followed up by an impressive home win over Northampton Saints, who came to Kingsholm leading the Premiership table and in a rich vein of form.

It's been a similar story in Europe. The opening European Rugby Challenge Cup fixture saw Gloucester travel to Pau, and a youthful looking side acquitted themselves well but were only rewarded with a losing bonus point for their efforts.

A week later, however, and an

FOUNDED
1873

3

PREMIERSHIP
FIRST PLACE
FINISHES



ZURICH
CHAMPIONSHIP
TITLE

CURRENT FORM

L W W

LAST TIME AT
KINGSTON PARK

16

14



GLOUCESTER'S HOME GROUND, KINGSHOLM

inexperienced Agen side were thumped 61-16 as the Cherry and Whites got their European campaign back on track.

But the return to Aviva Premiership Rugby brought about a step up in intensity, and the team rose to the occasion on their last outing on the road – the West Country local derby at Bath.

Having lost so many games in the final few minutes in the past couple of seasons, Gloucester have managed out to close out a few in the dying moments in 2017-18 and the win at Bath was as dramatic as they come.

Trailing by six points, Gloucester laid siege to the Bath line through multiple phases before Ed Slater drove for the line. The TMO took an age to deliberate but the decision went Gloucester's way, and Owen Williams held his nerve to slot the conversion and secure a 22-21 win.

Gloucester hope the self-belief gained from the win at the Rec will go a long way towards curing the club's away day blues, particularly with this evening's game in mind.

The Cherry and Whites will come into the game in good spirits, having made it three Premiership wins in a row with the hard-fought, memorable win against Saracens last Friday.

Similar levels of commitment and execution will be required this evening against a Newcastle side who will be looking to bounce back after defeat at Wasps last weekend.

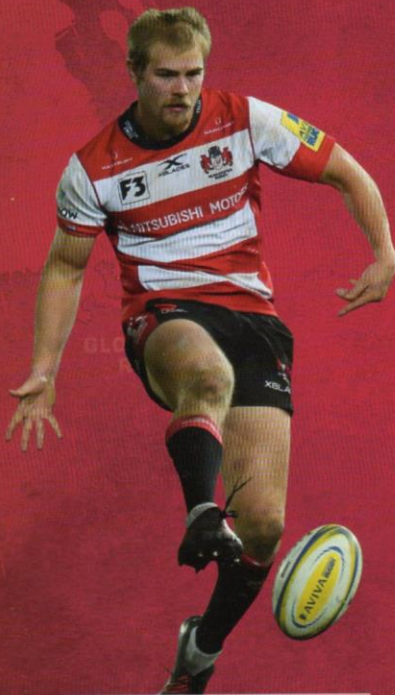
It promises to be a great game.



JOHAN ACKERMANN



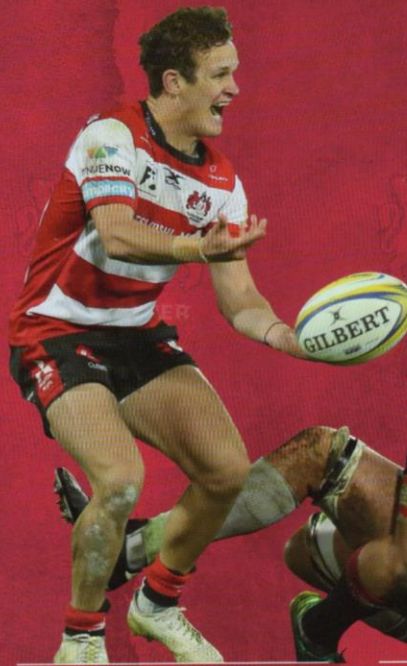
3 TO WATCH



TOM HUDSON

HAVING RETIRED FROM THE GAME DUE TO INJURY WHILST STILL A LEICESTER TIGER, HUDSON FOUND AN ALTERNATIVE METHOD OF TREATMENT WHILE WORKING FOR THE TIGERS IN A RUGBY DEVELOPMENT ROLE IN MALAYSIA.

The last few weeks have seen him start four matches for the first team, scoring three tries in the process including one against Saracens last weekend.



BILLY BURNS

THE YOUNGER BROTHER OF FORMER GLOUCESTER FLY-HALF FREDDIE, BILLY BURNS IS STARTING TO MAKE A REAL NAME FOR HIMSELF WITH THE CHERRY AND WHITES.

The former England U20 international is a regular in the first team squad, whether in his preferred position of fly-half or at full-back.

He has now made 81 appearances for the first team, scoring 275 points in the process. With Owen Williams possibly on Wales duty this weekend, Burns may well be pulling the strings in the number ten shirt this evening.



RUAN ACKERMANN

Head Coach Johan has made plenty of headlines so far this season, but son Ruan who also joined Gloucester this summer is catching the eye too.

A late arrival in pre-season, the 21-year-old back row forward was an integral part of the Lions march to the Super Rugby final last season and has continued that form in the Cherry and White of Gloucester.

Also represented the Barbarians against New Zealand this autumn.

HYLAND'S HISTORY

DESPITE BEING FAMILIAR FOES IN THE PREMIERSHIP ERA CLASHES BETWEEN NEWCASTLE FALCONS AND GLOUCESTER ARE A RELATIVELY RECENT PHENOMENON. AS KINGSLEY HYLAND POINTS OUT IN THE LATEST OF HIS JOURNEYS INTO THE ARCHIVE.

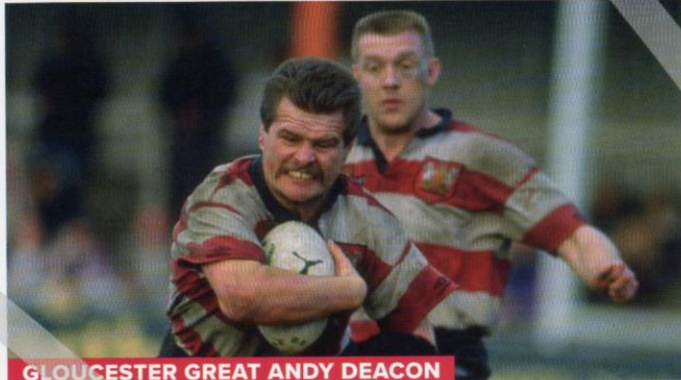
Fixtures between Newcastle and Gloucester were rare in the pre-professional days, with most encounters taking place in the national knockout cup.

Whilst Gloucester's 19-10 second-round victory in a fractious game at Kingsholm in 1978 was perhaps the most significant in that it denied Gosforth the chance to win a third successive John Player Cup, it is two more recent cup ties, less than three years apart and with very different outcomes, which stand out.

Season 1989-90 represented the nadir in Gosforth's fortunes in the post-war period.



newcastlefalcons



GLOUCESTER GREAT ANDY DEACON

Homeless for the season as work continued on the building of the new facility at Kingston Park, and rooted win-less to the bottom of the second division, many within the club feared the worst when they were drawn at home to Gloucester in the fourth round of the Pilkington Cup on February 10.

Entering the competition in the third round, Gosforth had narrowly seen off Fylde. Gloucester had beaten Wasps at Sudbury and were riding high in the first division. Gosforth had been playing their 'home' games at Percy Park but the cup-tie was moved to the Gateshead Stadium and attracted a crowd in excess of 3,000.

Gosforth tore out of the blocks with some ferocious rucking and aggressive defence, and forced their much-fancied opponents onto the back foot. Only the width of the post prevented the home side from taking a shock lead through a Graeme Spearman penalty.

Gloucester's forwards worked their way into the game and they took the lead on 13 minutes through a Tim Smith penalty, only for Gosforth to draw level with a penalty kicked by Jonathan Whisker from half way.

There was a suspicion of both a knock-on and offside in Gloucester's first try on 20 minutes but two Gosforth penalties saw the hosts lead 9-7 as the game edged towards half-time, only for a second penalty from Smith to give the visitors a 10-9 lead going into the break.

Two Gloucester tries through Jim Breeze and Kevin Dunn in the first ten minutes of the second half effectively took the game away from Gosforth.

Mike Hamlin went over for a fourth try on 61 minutes but Gosforth had the final say with six minutes remaining when they were awarded a penalty try following a blatant obstruction, a final score-line of 15-26 flattering the visitors.

The teams that day were:

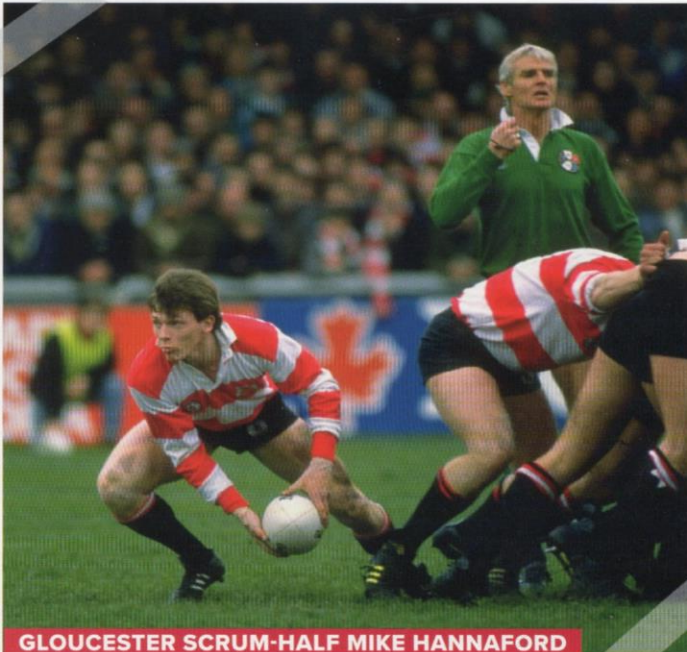
GOSFORTH: J.Whisker, D.Briggs, F.Short, C.Leslie, G.Spearman, P.Clark; D.Walker; M.Fraser, R.Parker, J.Lill, K.Westgarth, T.Roberts, J.Hall, N.Frankland, P.Smith.

GLOUCESTER: T.Smith, D.Morgan, R.Mogg, D.Caskie, J.Breeze, M.Hamlin, M.Hannaford; M.Preedy, K.Dunn, R.Pascall, N.Scrivens, J.Brain, J.Gadd, I.Smith, B.Clark.

Gloucester went on to reach the final where they lost heavily to rivals Bath, whilst league restructuring saved Gosforth from a catastrophic relegation.

Fast forward three seasons to November 1992 and things were very different. Now residing in their plush new home at Kingston Park, Gosforth had become Newcastle Gosforth and were sitting unbeaten atop the second division.

Gloucester were still a formidable force in the first division when they were



GLOUCESTER SCRUM-HALF MIKE HANNAFORD

drawn to play at Kingston Park in the third round.

In a match of such intensity that at the end home skipper Neil Frankland thought his side had lost, Newcastle emerged victorious 13-10.

The home side led 6-3 with two David Johnson penalties to one from Martin Roberts, but Gloucester took a 10-6 lead with a try from Tony Windo converted by Roberts.

With half an hour remaining Newcastle took the lead when the evergreen Terry Roberts crashed over from a lineout, with Johnson adding the touchline conversion in what was the end of the scoring.

The teams that day were:

NEWCASTLE GOSFORTH:
I.Chandler, T.Penn, R.Wilkinson,
A.Campbell (M.Beattie), M.White,
D.Johnson, S.Douglas; R.Fuller,
N.Frankland, J.Curry, S.Gibbs,

T.Roberts, G.Clark, P.Smith
(F.Mitchell), A.Meadows.

GLOUCESTER: M.Roberts, D.Morgan,
S.Morris, D.Caskie, J.Perrins,
N.Matthews, D.Cummins; T.Windo,
D.Kearsey, A.Deacon, D.Sims, R.West,
P.Ashmead, A.Stanley, P.Miles.

Roberts was one of only three players to have played in both games. Remarkably, he had also played in Gosforth's three Twickenham finals in 1976, 1977 and 1981.

Newcastle Gosforth got their come-uppance in the next round when they went down heavily at Northampton, but they did have the consolation that season of winning promotion to the first division.

Kingston Park was a very different place in those days. The East Stand and Clubhouse were very much as they are now, on the outside at least, but there was no North, South or West



FORMER SCOREBOARD OPERATOR JOHN STOKOE IS NOW THE FALCONS' TEAM MANAGER

Stands. There was about three steps of terracing behind the perimeter fence, some of which can still be seen on the north-east and south-east terraces.

What is currently the main car park was a floodlit training pitch. The grass playing surface on the first team pitch had not begun to experience the drainage problems which besmirched its later years, and was generally regarded as the best club surface in the country.

Of the home players who featured in these games only Neil Frankland was to play a significant role at the club after it had become Newcastle Falcons.

There was one other link to the modern era, however. The manual scoreboard operator that day was John Stokoe, currently the Falcons' long-serving team manager.