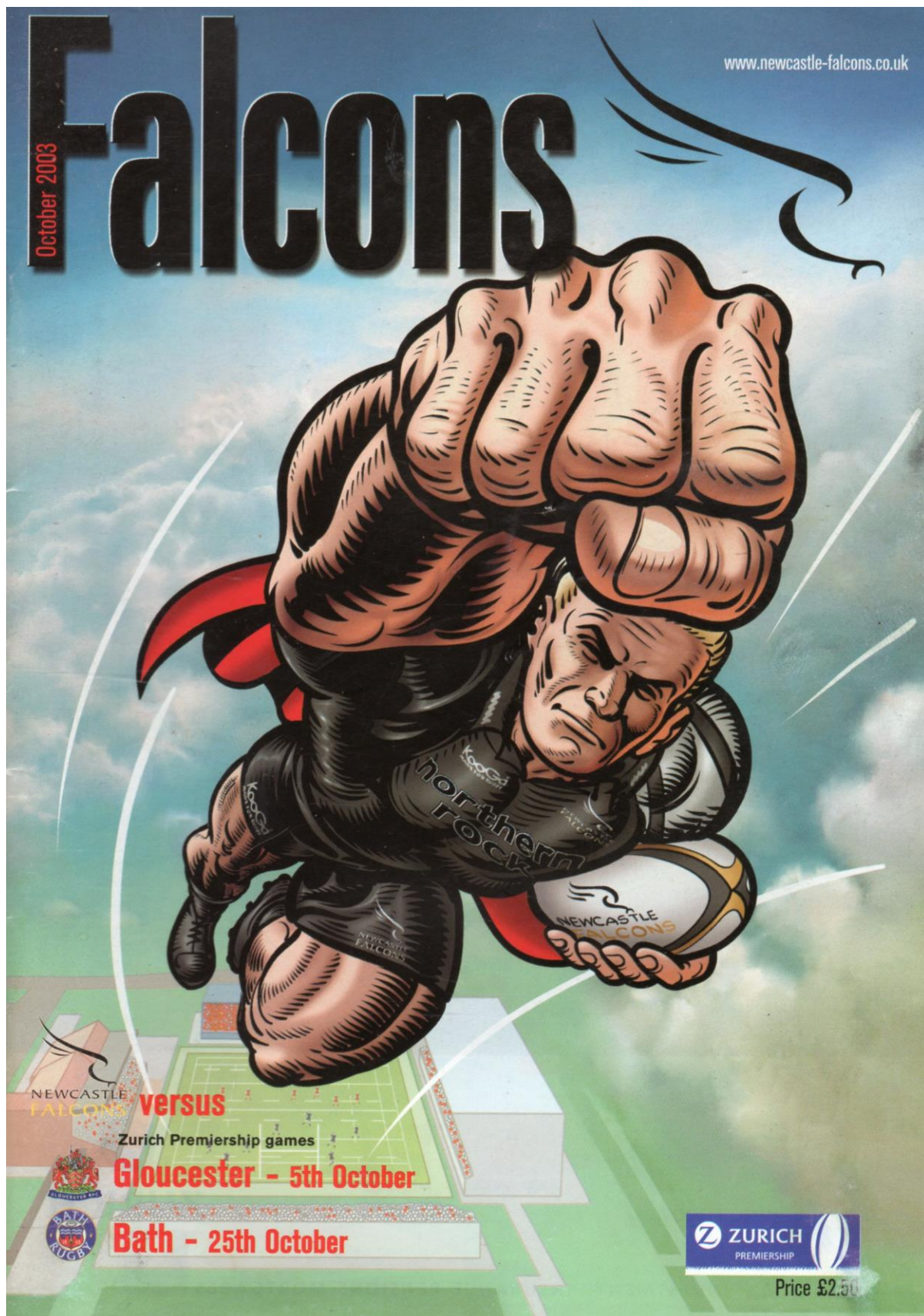


October 2003

Falcons

www.newcastle-falcons.co.uk



NEWCASTLE
FALCONS

versus

Zurich Premiership games

Gloucester - 5th October



Bath - 25th October



Price £2.50



Zurich Premiership Round 4
NEWCASTLE FALCONS vs GLOUCESTER

Sunday 5th October 2003

3pm kick off

Kingston Park, Newcastle

NEWCASTLE

| | |
|----|---------------------|
| 1 | Ian Peel |
| 2 | Nick Makin |
| 3 | Marius Hurter |
| 4 | Garath Archer |
| 5 | Mark Andrews (Capt) |
| 6 | Jon Dunbar |
| 7 | Warren Britz |
| 8 | Hugh Vyvyan |
| 9 | Hali Chariton |
| 10 | Phil Godman |
| 11 | Michael Stephenson |
| 12 | Mark Mayerhofler |
| 13 | Jamie Noon |
| 14 | Tom May |
| 15 | Ben Gollings |

GLOUCESTER

| | |
|----|----------------------|
| 1 | Paul Johnstone |
| 2 | Steve brotherstone |
| 3 | Adrian Olver |
| 4 | Alex Brown |
| 5 | Mark Cornwell |
| 6 | Jake Boer (Capt) |
| 7 | Andy Hazel |
| 8 | Junior Paramore |
| 9 | Alex Page |
| 10 | Simon Amor |
| 11 | James Simpson-Daniel |
| 12 | Henry Paul |
| 13 | Robert Todd |
| 14 | Marcel Garvey |
| 15 | Jon Goodridge |

Replacements:

| | |
|----|----------------|
| 16 | Micky Ward |
| 17 | Matt Thompson |
| 18 | Dave Wilson |
| 19 | Craig Hamilton |
| 20 | Phil Dowson |
| 21 | James Grindal |
| 22 | Joe Shaw |

| | |
|----|-----------------|
| 16 | Nick Wood |
| 17 | Chris Fortey |
| 18 | Adam Eustace |
| 19 | Peter Buxton |
| 20 | James Forrester |
| 21 | Josh Frape |
| 22 | Rory Teague |

Referee: Roy Maybank

Res Ref: Dave Pearson

Snr Touch: Brian Campsall

Jnr Touch: John Pearson

Introducing.....

The last 10 days have seen some interesting developments at Gloucester Rugby Club. Last Saturday the Cherry and Whites put in a superb performance in front of more than 10,000 supporters and the live Sky Sports cameras to defeat Saracens 30-7.

The well-tuned performance followed on from the launch of 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.

The 30-7 win over Saracens last weekend saw the return of James Simpson-Daniel to the Gloucester shirt after his summer with the England set-up. The highly talented winger was keen to impress and his flying dive over the try line said it all.

The Cherry and Whites previous two results have been mixed. The opening day saw Gloucester continue their two-year unbeaten Premiership record at Kingsholm with a 22-8 victory over league new-comers Rotherham.

But the following weekend a disappointing showing at the Madejski against a full-strength London Irish side saw the first defeat of the campaign, although an immense defensive effort saw Nigel Melville's team come away with a bonus point.

Coming into the new season, the last 12 months have been some of the most memorable 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 at Wasps in the Zurich Premiership final, has made the Club even more determined this year.

The summer months saw Nigel Melville and Dean Ryan recruit five quality additions to the squad. Alex Brown and Paul Johnstone joined from West Country rivals Bristol Shoguns. 24 year-old Brown has had an immediate impact on the team's line-out options, and 32 year-old Johnstone has slotted in well in the front row.

Joining up with the two Bristol boys have been Steve Brotherstone and Alex Page from Newcastle and Wasps



respectively. Both have enjoyed an active pre-season and start to the Premiership.

The final summer signing was former Saracens man Duncan McRae. The 28 year-old Aussie arrived in the West Country this week and will be available for his team's away trip to Harlequins in October.

With the new signings settling in, Gloucester's pre-season saw the likes of Leinster (twice), Glasgow and Northampton take on the Cherry and Whites. Nigel Melville's new-look team, which included a number of Academy recruits, secured two wins (against Glasgow and Northampton), a draw (17-17 all at home against Leinster) and one defeat away at Donnybrook.

Throughout the pre-season activity Gloucester were without the players who were fighting it out for a chance to compete in the World Cup.

Phil Vickery, Trevor Woodman and Andy Gomarsall all secured their tickets on the plane to Australia. In addition to the England stars, another three members of last year's successful squad are also absent. Prop forward Rodrigo Roncero will be competing for a place in the Pumas starting line-up, and Thinus Delpont and Terry Fanolua will be with South Africa and Samoa respectively.

With the World Cup on-going until November, both Melville and Dean Ryan have been working hard with the younger players to ensure they can provide the team with options, and at the same time combine well with the experience of the likes of Henry Paul, Andy Deacon, Robert Todd and Jake Boer.

The absence of six top quality players has meant players including Rory Teague and Brad Davies have had an opportunity to impress and stake a claim for a starting birth.

Five points from the 30-7 win over Saracens last Saturday see Gloucester come into today's game hoping to build a good early season record.