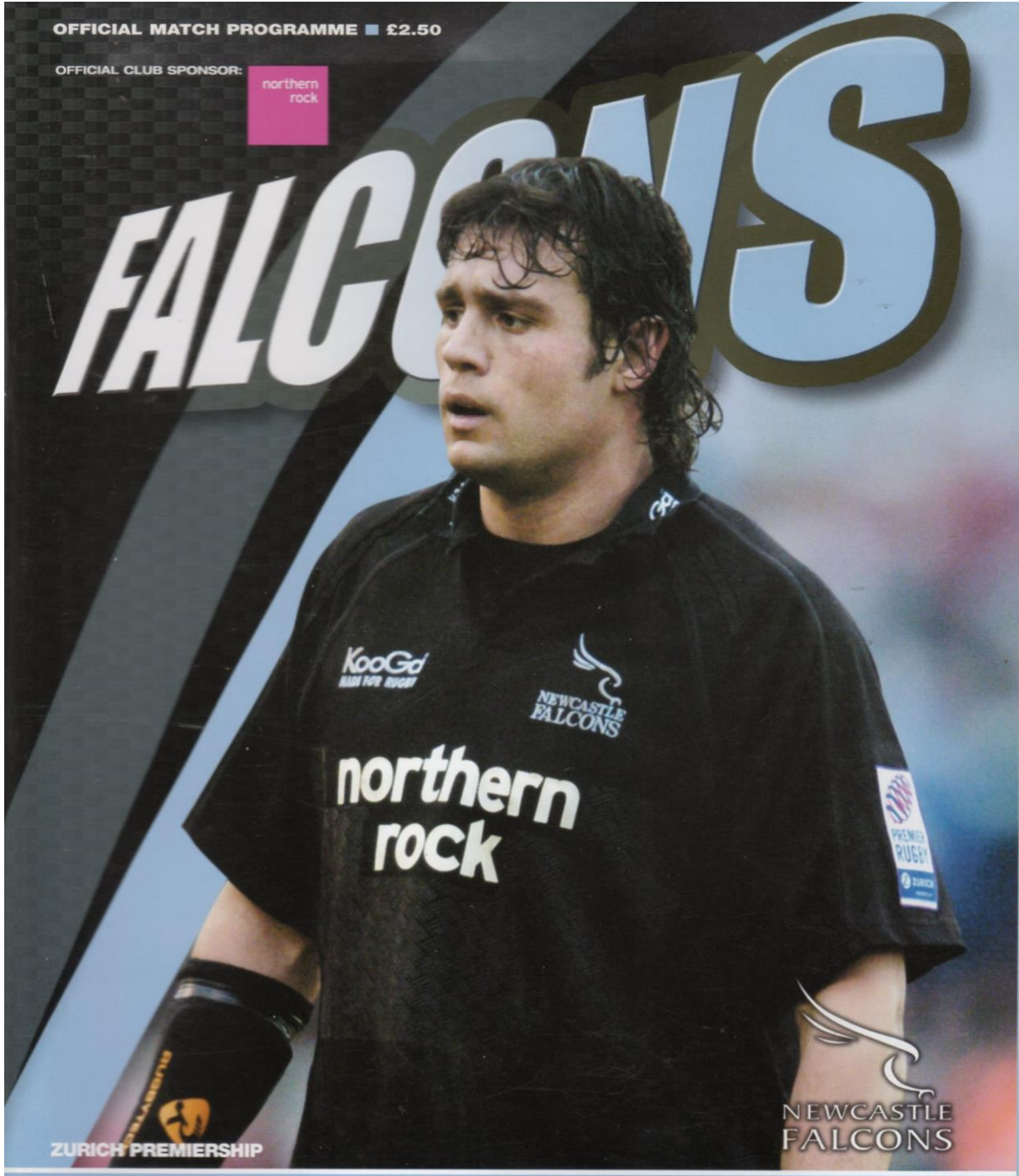


OFFICIAL MATCH PROGRAMME ■ £2.50

OFFICIAL CLUB SPONSOR:

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# FALCONS



ZURICH PREMIERSHIP

NEWCASTLE  
FALCONS

11 VS GLOUCESTER SUNDAY 27/02/05

KICK-OFF: 1.15PM



[www.zurichpremiership.com](http://www.zurichpremiership.com)

PREMIER  
RUGBY

ZURICH

O<sub>2</sub>

Gillette

POWERGEN

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THE TIMES

# Today's Teams

SUNDAY 27TH FEBRUARY 2005  
NEWCASTLE FALCONS vs GLOUCESTERNEWCASTLE  
FALCONS

Dave Walder	15	<b>FULL BACK</b>	15	Jon Goodridge
Tom May	14	<b>RIGHT WING</b>	14	Marcel Garvey
Mathew Tait	13	<b>OUTSIDE CENTRE</b>	13	James Simpson-Daniel
Mark Mayerhofer	12	<b>INSIDE CENTRE</b>	12	Terry Fanolua
Michael Stephenson	11	<b>LEFT WING</b>	11	Seti Kiolo
Mark Wilkinson	10	<b>FLY HALF</b>	10	Henry Paul
James Grindal	9	<b>SCRUM HALF</b>	9	Andy Gomarsall
(c) Ian Peel	1	<b>LOOSE HEAD PROP</b>	1	Nick Wood
Andy Long	2	<b>HOOKER</b>	2	Noel Curnier
Micky Ward	3	<b>TIGHT HEAD PROP</b>	3	Gary Powell
Luke Gross	4	<b>SECOND ROW</b>	4	Adam Eustace
Craig Hamilton	5	<b>SECOND ROW</b>	5	Alex Brown
Mike McCarthy	6	<b>BLINDSIDE FLANKER</b>	6	James Forrester
Cory Harris	7	<b>OPENSIDE FLANKER</b>	7	Jake Boer
Phil Dowson	8	<b>NO. 8</b>	8	Adam Balding
<b>REPLACEMENTS</b>			<b>REPLACEMENTS (FROM)</b>	
James Isaacson	16	<b>REFEREE</b> DAVID ROSE	16	James Parkes
Matt Thompson	17	<b>TOUCH JUDGES</b> STEVE SAVAGE STUART TERHEEGE	17	Terry Sigley
Geoff Parling	18		18	Mark Cornwell
Semo Sitati	19		19	Peter Buxton
Ollie Phillips	20		20	Alex Page
Lee Dickson	21	<b>PLEASE NOTE:</b> Team line-ups may change before kick-off	21	Brad Davies
Toby Flood	22		22	James Bailey

## MATCH RECORD

FALCONS POINTS																			
GLOUCESTER POINTS																			
TIME																			
SCORER																			

BALL SPONSOR

THE  
**PROTECTOR**  
GROUP

PROGRAMME SPONSOR

**Hallgarten**

# In the chair

Firstly a warm welcome to our visitors from Gloucester, many of whom will have had to endure an early departure to make this game.

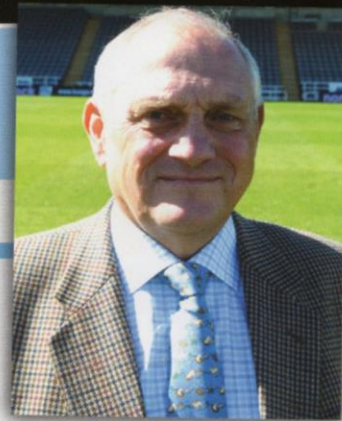
We have enjoyed some good battles with Gloucester in the north east in recent years, and the fact that three of the past four meetings at Kingston Park have seen the sides finish within three points of each other shows just what great competition there has been.

We have of course enjoyed a fantastic home record this season, with only one defeat at Kingston Park throughout the domestic and European campaign, and the

entertainment value has certainly been high with some dramatic contests.

This was evident in our last home match against London Wasps when a late penalty from Dave Walder clinched the game, but it is to the issue of respecting the goal kickers from both teams that I must turn today.

While the Falcons name may be a relatively modern one in terms of rugby, we do have a great deal of tradition at the club from our time as Gosforth and our decade or so in the professional game since then. As such, we still observe many of the game's great traditions, which include giving goal kickers from BOTH teams total silence as they prepare to take their kicks.



Sadly at the recent game against London Wasps this was not always the case, and although it was only a small minority of supporters who did not maintain this silence, the point still needs to be made that we as a club should respect the opposition kickers as well as our own.

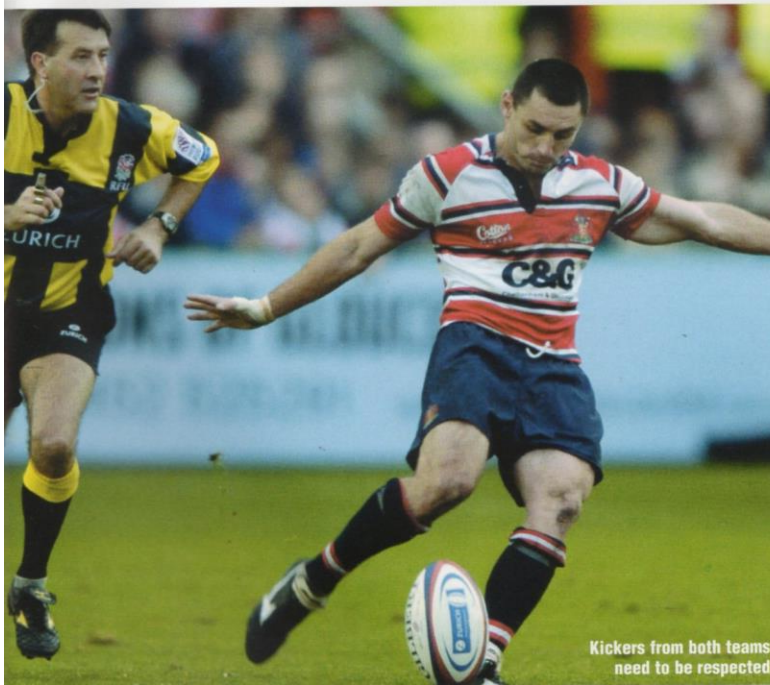
Having grown our support base enormously in recent years we realise that not all converts to rugby will be familiar with this tradition, which is understandable, but having made the point of including it in these pages hopefully we will get the message across and have no further problems in this regard.

Many of you will have noticed in the press this week that we have completed the signing of the Australian forward Owen Finegan for next season. I can tell you that plenty of hard work has gone into securing his signature, and that the coaches are excited about working with a player who has such international experience.

We have shown this season that we are capable of bringing top names to the club, and combined with our local players we believe we are now on the right track in trying to bring success to this club.

I hope everyone enjoys this afternoon's game, and also the TV screening of the Ireland v England game which is on in all of the club's bars afterwards.

**DAVE THOMPSON, CHAIRMAN.**



Kickers from both teams need to be respected

# Gloucester

BY JUSTIN HOPWOOD, GLOUCESTER RFC

**Gloucester arrive in the North East this afternoon on the back of a last minute win over their West Country rivals Bath last weekend.**

A 13,000 capacity Kingsholm witnessed a good old-fashioned derby last Saturday, with Academy product and Gloucester lad Brad Davies slotting an injury time drop goal from 45 minutes to seal the win.

The win took the Kingsholm club up to fifth place in the Zurich Premiership and back on course for a top three finish, and the target of an end of season play-off place.

The win over the old-rivals came on the back of a bad performance away at Quins, and Nigel Melville's team know that a showing like that has to be put behind them if they're to look at a top slot in the Premiership, not only for the play-offs, but also Heineken Cup qualification.

The disappointment at the Stoop came on the back of two West Country derby wins against Bristol Shoguns, in the Powergen Cup, and against Worcester in the Zurich Premiership in January.

Putting the Quins result to one side, Gloucester have three wins from four and have started to get back in

the groove after a disappointing Heineken Cup exit following a defeat to French champions Stade Francais in the middle of January.

The 17-16 win over Bath last weekend was much needed and, Nigel Melville and his team will be keen to put a mixed first half of the season behind them, and maintain that momentum with a win against Newcastle this afternoon.

Back in September Gloucester took the points from the Falcons with a 31-17 win at Kingsholm and the travelling Gloucester fans will no doubt be happy with a similar scenario today.

Although the Kingsholm club sit in fifth position in the Zurich Premiership coming into this weekend, there have been mixed fortunes for Gloucester in this season's campaign, with an immensely tough schedule through November, December and January that saw double headers against both Leicester Tigers and London Wasps.

The season started well for the Kingsholm club, as it kicked off the season with four consecutive victories, over Leeds, London Irish, Northampton and Newcastle.

A defeat away at Bath was the only loss in the opening seven clashes, as the West Country

entered the opening stages of the Heineken Cup.

As the autumn arrived, so did the injuries! The Gloucester



Jake Boer

squad was decimated with injury. At one point there were 13 front line players unavailable.

The 55-13 win at home over Ulster in the Heineken Cup proved crucial, as Gloucester lost Duncan McRae, Olivier Azam, Alex Brown, James Simpson-Daniel, Terry Sigley and Phil Vickery to injury, as well as Henry Paul, Andy Hazell and Andy Gomersall receiving international call-ups.

But Nigel Melville's team came through and a win over Sale Sharks in the Zurich Premiership at the end of November, back-to-back victories over Cardiff Blues in the Heineken, and a win at Welford Road against Leicester in the Powergen Cup got the team back into the groove.

As the injuries hit home, Melville and coach Dean Ryan had to go looking for new recruits, with the hooker position proving key.

Olivier Azam was ruled out for more than three months, although he returned to training this week, and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

# Glouces



James Forrester

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

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 in November, and was in impressive form in the Heineken Cup clashes.

Welsh international number two Meffin Davies and French 'A' international hooker Noel Curnier both signed on short terms deals, and Davies has been in good form, although he's missing today after playing for Wales yesterday.

Just like the rest of the Zurich Premiership clubs, fitness and injuries seem to rule team selection. After welcoming back James Simpson-Daniel in recent weeks, Gloucester lost Phil Vickery with a broken arm last weekend. But Welsh prop Gary Powell should return to the match-day squad today after missing the last eight weeks.



Duncan McRae