

Official Match Programme £3  
Season 2006/07 Issue 13

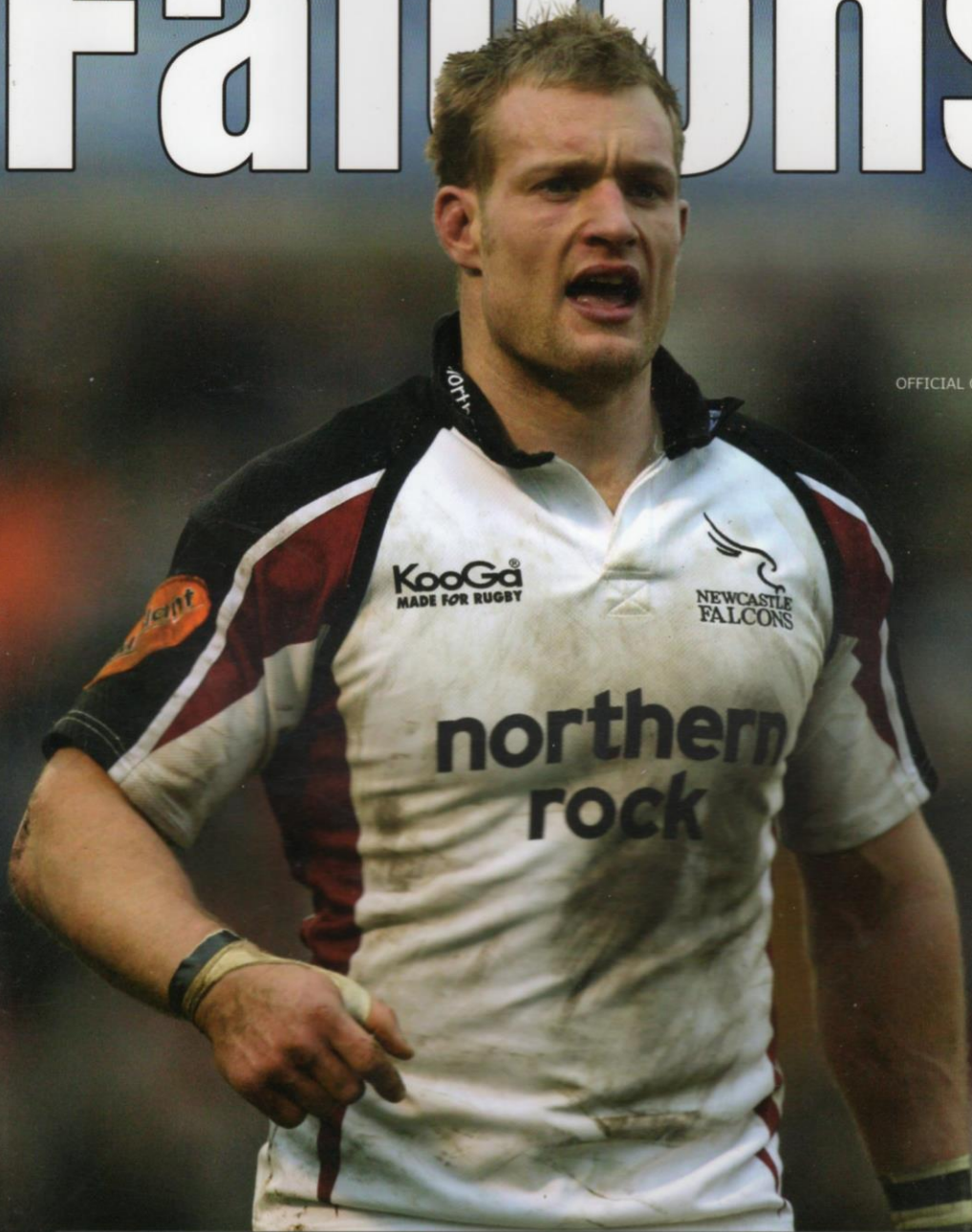
Guinness Premiership  
Friday April 13th 2007  
Kick-off 8.00pm

  
NEWCASTLE  
FALCONS V Gloucester

# Falcons

northern  
rock

OFFICIAL CLUB SPONSOR



GUINNESS PREMIERSHIP FINAL, TWICKENHAM, 12 MAY 2007

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# TODAY'S TEAMS

## Newcastle Falcons v Gloucester

### Friday April 13th 2007



Matthew Burke (captain)	15
Tom May	14
Mathew Tait	13
Jamie Noon	12
Toby Flood	11
Jonny Wilkinson	10
Lee Dickson	9
Joe McDonnell	1
Matt Thompson	2
Micky Ward	3
Mark Sorenson	4
Jason Oakes	5
Geoff Parling	6
Ben Woods	7
Brent Wilson	8

### REPLACEMENTS

Jon Golding	16
Andy Long	17
Andy Buist	18
Phil Dowson	19
John Rudd	20
James Grindal	21
Loki Crichton	22

<b>FULL BACK</b>
<b>RIGHT WING</b>
<b>OUTSIDE CENTRE</b>
<b>INSIDE CENTRE</b>
<b>LEFT WING</b>
<b>FLY HALF</b>
<b>SCRUM HALF</b>
<b>LOOSE HEAD PROP</b>
<b>HOOKER</b>
<b>TIGHT HEAD PROP</b>
<b>SECOND ROW</b>
<b>SECOND ROW</b>
<b>BLINDSIDE FLANKER</b>
<b>OPENSIDE FLANKER</b>
<b>NO.8</b>

### REFEREE

Tony Spreadbury

### TOUCH JUDGES

Don Helme & Adam Hughes

15 Iain Balshaw
14 James Bailey
13 Mike Tindall
12 Anthony Allen
11 James Simpson -Daniel
10 Ryan Lamb
9 Rory Lawson
1 Nick Wood
2 Olivier Azam
3 Carlos Nieto
4 Will James
5 Marco Bortolami (Captain)
6 Peter Buxton
7 Andy Hazell
8 James Forrester

### REPLACEMENTS

16 Rob Elloway
17 Jack Forster
18 Adam Eustace
19 Jake Boer
20 Peter Richards
21 Willie Walker
22 Mark Foster

PLEASE NOTE: team line-ups may change before kick-off

## MATCH RECORD

<b>FALCONS POINTS</b>																								
<b>GLOUCESTER POINTS</b>																								
<b>TIME</b>																								
<b>SCORER</b>																								



IN OPPOSITION

# Gloucester



Marco Bortolami



[www.newcastle-falcons.co.uk](http://www.newcastle-falcons.co.uk)

**I**t will not have come as a great surprise to those who know their rugby onions that Gloucester failed to end their Bath jinx last Saturday, but they will hope to return to the top of the Guinness Premiership tonight.

Their 21-21 draw at the Rec – the venue Gloucester supporters lovingly call ‘The Wreck’ enhanced their play-off credentials but head coach Dean Ryan has insisted they must maintain their control of matches during the run-in.

Gloucester’s season has been one of consistency, built on the back of an unbeaten home record and some crucial victories on the road that has created a hard to beat streak in Ryan’s charges.

They opened their season with a derby victory over their nearest and dearest – youngsters Jack Adams and Olly Morgan scoring the tries in their 24-19 success against Bath.

They then got the better of Harlequins at the Stoop in a far more disjointed performance that was revved up by a virtuoso performance from scrum-half Peter Richards, who produced one of the tries of the season and an outstanding performance against Worcester.

From the beginning of the campaign they have been tagged as one of the favourites for the final stages of a number of competitions but Ryan is only too well aware that his group of players have only just begun their journey – emphasised when they finished third in their Heineken Cup pool.





Andy Hazell

"Our ambition is to be at the top end of Europe but our journey has only just begun," he has said. "There will be some pain along the way but we have an exciting and developing group of players who all work tremendously hard to try and be successful.

"We are on a journey together and there is a long way to go. What has been pleasing is that we have endured a number of injuries but still progressed well. We are capable of making a number of changes and still be very competitive."

Gloucester's new-found freedom, partly orchestrated by design and partly by necessity, ended in triumph over London Irish last season in the European Shield final. But by then, the wheels were already in motion for this campaign.

Under the stewardship of Ryan and his assistants Bryan Redpath and Denis Betts, Italian duo Marco Bortolami and Carlos Nieto joined from Narbonne and Viadana respectively in two of the highest profile signings of the close season.

Bortolami has already shown what an outstanding athlete he is and is a natural leader of growing reputation in Gloucester's pack and Nieto is regarded as one of the best tighthead props in the Six Nations.

Christian Califano, once voted in the all-time best French front row, switched from Agen and has been a revelation – offering immediate set-piece quality and a perfect learning base for youngster Jack Forster.

There were other additions too. With Ryan Lamb initially out of action with an ankle injury, Willie Walker took his opportunity in the number 10 shirt, while both scrum-half Rory Lawson and lock Will James have the potential to make serious impacts.

Iain Balshaw completed the summer recruitment drive from Leeds and with the likes of Andy Hazell, Peter Buxton and Alex Brown playing some outstanding rugby up front, Gloucester have enough quality all over the field to do some real damage as victories over Sale and Wasps would testify. It has meant that Ryan's biggest job has been managing the vast expectation on his squad.

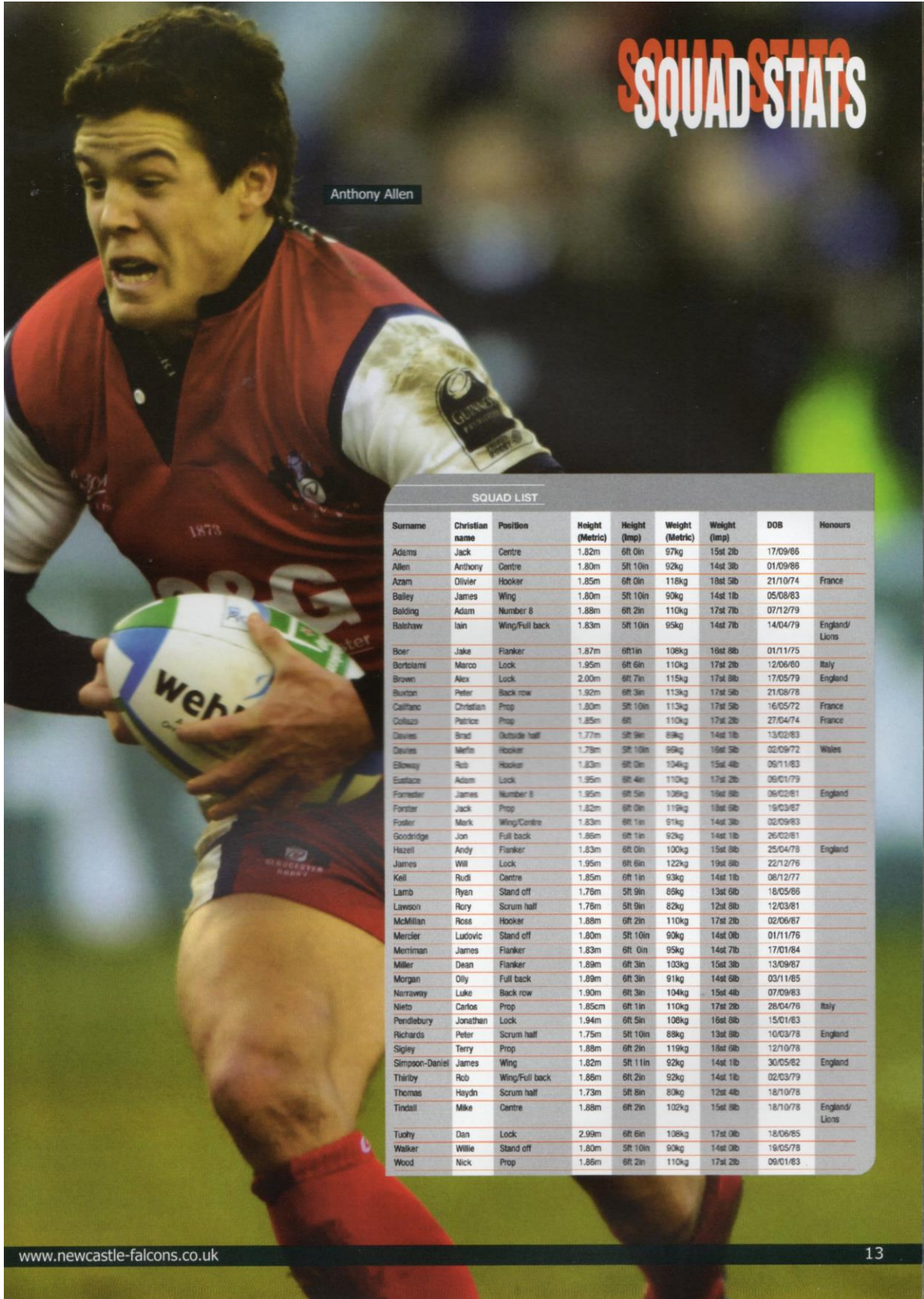
"There is an awful lot this squad can achieve but we must not get ahead of ourselves – we have a long way to go and a lot of development to go through," Ryan said.

With close victories over Worcester, Newcastle, Northampton and Leicester in recent weeks, Gloucester are closing in on their top-two target and will relish the battle tonight as they aim to stretch their unbeaten run to seven matches.



# SQUAD STATS

Anthony Allen



## SQUAD LIST

Surname	Christian name	Position	Height (Metric)	Height (Imp)	Weight (Metric)	Weight (Imp)	DOB	Honours
Adams	Jack	Centre	1.82m	6ft 0in	97kg	15st 2lb	17/09/66	
Allen	Anthony	Centre	1.80m	5ft 10in	92kg	14st 3lb	01/09/68	
Azam	Olivier	Hooker	1.85m	6ft 0in	118kg	18st 5lb	21/10/74	France
Bailey	James	Wing	1.80m	5ft 10in	90kg	14st 1lb	05/08/83	
Balding	Adam	Number 8	1.88m	6ft 2in	110kg	17st 7lb	07/12/79	
Balshaw	Iain	Wing/Full back	1.83m	5ft 10in	95kg	14st 7lb	14/04/79	England/ Lions
Boer	Jake	Flanker	1.87m	6ft 1in	108kg	16st 8lb	01/11/75	
Bortolami	Marco	Lock	1.95m	6ft 6in	110kg	17st 2lb	12/06/60	Italy
Brown	Alex	Lock	2.00m	6ft 7in	115kg	17st 8lb	17/05/79	England
Burton	Peter	Back row	1.92m	6ft 3in	113kg	17st 5lb	21/08/78	
Callano	Christian	Prop	1.80m	5ft 10in	113kg	17st 5lb	16/05/72	France
Collazo	Patrice	Prop	1.85m	6ft	110kg	17st 2lb	27/04/74	France
Davies	Brad	Outside half	1.77m	5ft 9in	88kg	14st 1lb	13/02/83	
Davies	Meffs	Hooker	1.78m	5ft 10in	98kg	16st 5lb	02/09/72	Wales
Eloway	Rob	Hooker	1.83m	6ft 0in	104kg	15st 4lb	09/11/83	
Eustace	Adam	Lock	1.95m	6ft 4in	110kg	17st 2lb	09/01/79	
Forrester	James	Number 8	1.95m	6ft 5in	108kg	16st 8lb	06/02/81	England
Forster	Jack	Prop	1.82m	6ft 0in	119kg	18st 6lb	19/03/67	
Foster	Mark	Wing/Centre	1.83m	6ft 1in	91kg	14st 3lb	02/09/83	
Goodridge	Jon	Full back	1.86m	6ft 1in	92kg	14st 1lb	26/02/81	
Hazell	Andy	Flanker	1.83m	6ft 0in	100kg	15st 3lb	25/04/78	England
James	Will	Lock	1.95m	6ft 6in	122kg	19st 8lb	22/12/76	
Keil	Rudi	Centre	1.85m	6ft 1in	93kg	14st 1lb	08/12/77	
Lamb	Ryan	Stand off	1.76m	5ft 9in	86kg	13st 6lb	18/05/66	
Lawson	Rory	Scrum half	1.76m	5ft 9in	82kg	12st 8lb	12/03/81	
McMillan	Ross	Hooker	1.88m	6ft 2in	110kg	17st 2lb	02/06/67	
Mercier	Ludovic	Stand off	1.80m	5ft 10in	90kg	14st 0lb	01/11/76	
Merriman	James	Flanker	1.83m	6ft 0in	95kg	14st 7lb	17/01/84	
Miller	Dean	Flanker	1.89m	6ft 3in	103kg	15st 3lb	13/09/67	
Morgan	Ollie	Full back	1.89m	6ft 3in	91kg	14st 6lb	03/11/85	
Narraway	Luke	Back row	1.90m	6ft 3in	104kg	15st 4lb	07/09/83	
Nieto	Carlos	Prop	1.85cm	6ft 1in	110kg	17st 2lb	28/04/76	Italy
Pendlebury	Jonathan	Lock	1.94m	6ft 5in	108kg	16st 6lb	15/01/83	
Richards	Peter	Scrum half	1.75m	5ft 10in	88kg	13st 3lb	10/03/78	England
Sigley	Terry	Prop	1.88m	6ft 2in	119kg	18st 6lb	12/10/78	
Simpson-Daniel	James	Wing	1.82m	5ft 11in	92kg	14st 1lb	30/05/82	England
Thirby	Rob	Wing/Full back	1.86m	6ft 2in	92kg	14st 1lb	02/03/79	
Thomas	Haydn	Scrum half	1.73m	5ft 8in	80kg	12st 4lb	18/10/78	
Tindall	Mike	Centre	1.88m	6ft 2in	102kg	15st 3lb	18/10/78	England/ Lions
Tuohy	Dan	Lock	2.09m	6ft 6in	108kg	17st 0lb	18/06/85	
Walker	Willie	Stand off	1.80m	5ft 10in	90kg	14st 0lb	19/05/78	
Wood	Nick	Prop	1.86m	6ft 2in	110kg	17st 2lb	09/01/83	





## Blackie's Banter

**G**ood evening everyone and welcome to our friends from Gloucester, not least our old captain and coach Dean Ryan.

Dean was a super asset to this club during his time here and is now doing a great job down at Kingsholm.

Gloucester are currently as good as any team in the country and our game down there the other week was a good advert for the Premiership, very competitive rugby with more than a smidgen of flair thrown in for good measure.

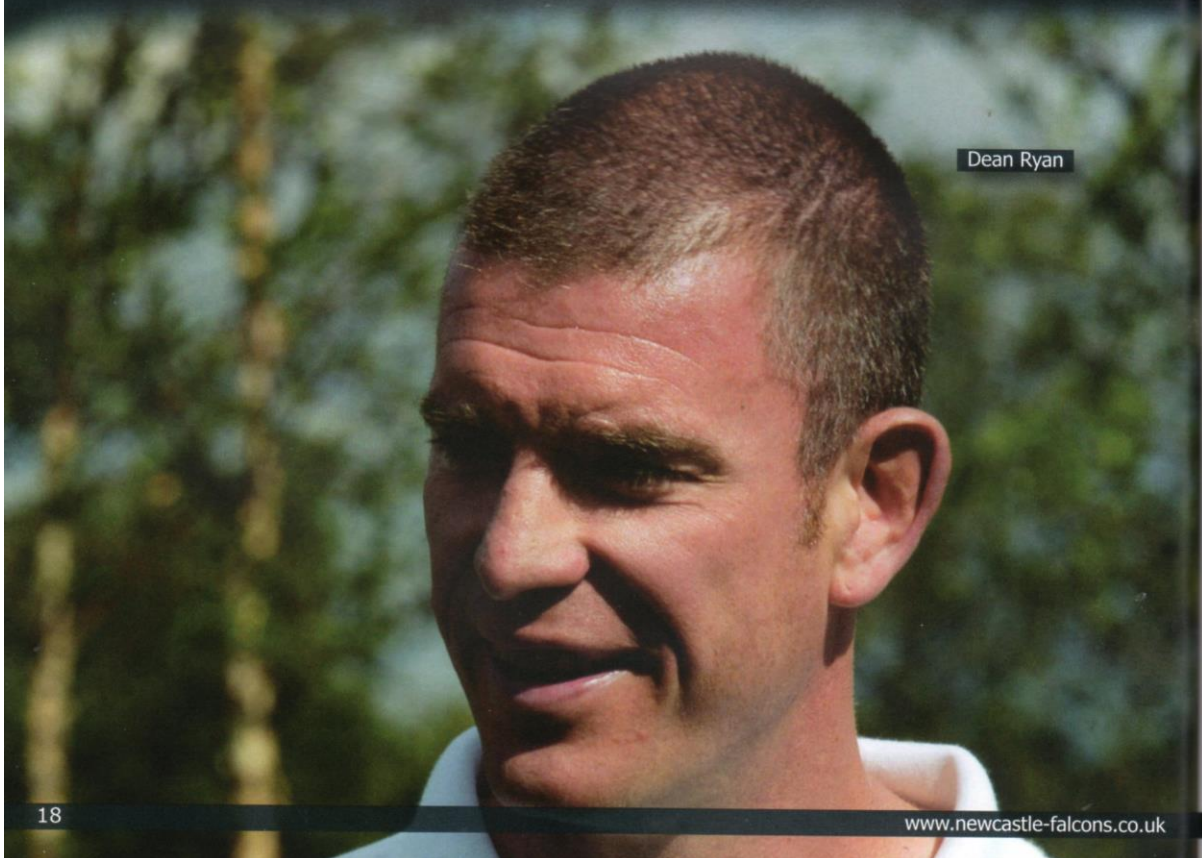
That game could have gone either way, and this evening's encounter will serve up no less, of that I'm sure.

Which team has beaten the four semi-finalists in this season's Heineken Cup? The answer, obviously, is us, El Falcons!

Leicester, Northampton, Wasps and Llanelli have all been beaten at Kingston Park this season, and the squad we're assembling will take its chance in the not too distant future.

Your support last Sunday against the Saints was phenomenal, you make such a contribution to the effectiveness of our home performances. Thank you once again, your support is always appreciated. Enjoy this evening's game.

**Onwards and Upwards,  
Blackie**



Dean Ryan