

GRFC

vs **Newcastle Falcons**



Sunday 8th May
Zurich Wild Card
Kick Off 3.15pm

Words from the Shed
Fanzone

Player Interview
Olly Morgan

Latest from the
opposition



All the Latest from
Kingsholm

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THE ~~ABC~~ TIMES

“...both the Falcons and ourselves are well aware of how important it is to get into the top level European competition...”



It's the final matchday at Kingsholm of the season. It's always a time for reflection when you get to this stage of the season, and I've never known a season like this year.

I don't need to go over the details, everyone's well aware of the 'up and down' nature of this season, and 'what could have been' nature of certain games.

But what's gone has gone, and you can only look

forward, which takes us to today's game against Newcastle.

Both of us were in this season's Heineken Cup, and both of us came up against Stade Francais, so we all know what the European competition has to offer in terms of profile and level of game that you have to reach.

With that, both the Falcons and ourselves are well aware of how important it is to get

option, which makes today's game vital.

Looking at previous results between us, it looks like one, two or three points seems to be the norm in the outcomes of the games, and with what's at stake today, there'll be everything to play for until that final whistle goes.

Away from the Wild Card, we announced the return this week of a certain French number 10 by the name of Ludovic Mercier, who'll be joining us in the summer.

He needs no introduction. The adulation he got here before was pretty special, and he's probably missed a bit of that in France.

Ludo joins Collazo, Richards and Tindall as the latest recruits, and coupled with the experience the younger guys have had this season, and a few more announcements to come, the final pieces of the plan are coming together.

I said it last week, and again, I'd like to thank those players who have given their all for the Club and are moving on at the end of the current season. They've all done fantastically well, and everyone would like to thank them and wish them all the best for the future.

Thanks must go to all of you, and have a good afternoon's rugby.

Nigel's notes



Nigel Melville
Director of Rugby

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“What we’ve done this week is work hard....full stop. The reason is to win and get into next season’s Heineken Cup.”

Welcome back, for what is now definitely the last home game of the season. Firstly, I’d like to say a big thank you for everything this season.

We’ve knocked each other

around a bit this week. We’ve worked hard all week, and that includes the improved performance against Saracens last Saturday, and we have got to perform this afternoon.

22-game Zurich Premiership season behind us, it’s gone. It comes down to 80 minutes today to get a result.

With what’s at stake out there this afternoon, I’ve no doubt there’ll be an extra bite to the game.

We had a good record going into the start of the Heineken Cup at the end of October and since then it’s been up and down. Injuries came and internationals took some players. Other clubs were also affected, but it seems to have just gone on and on.

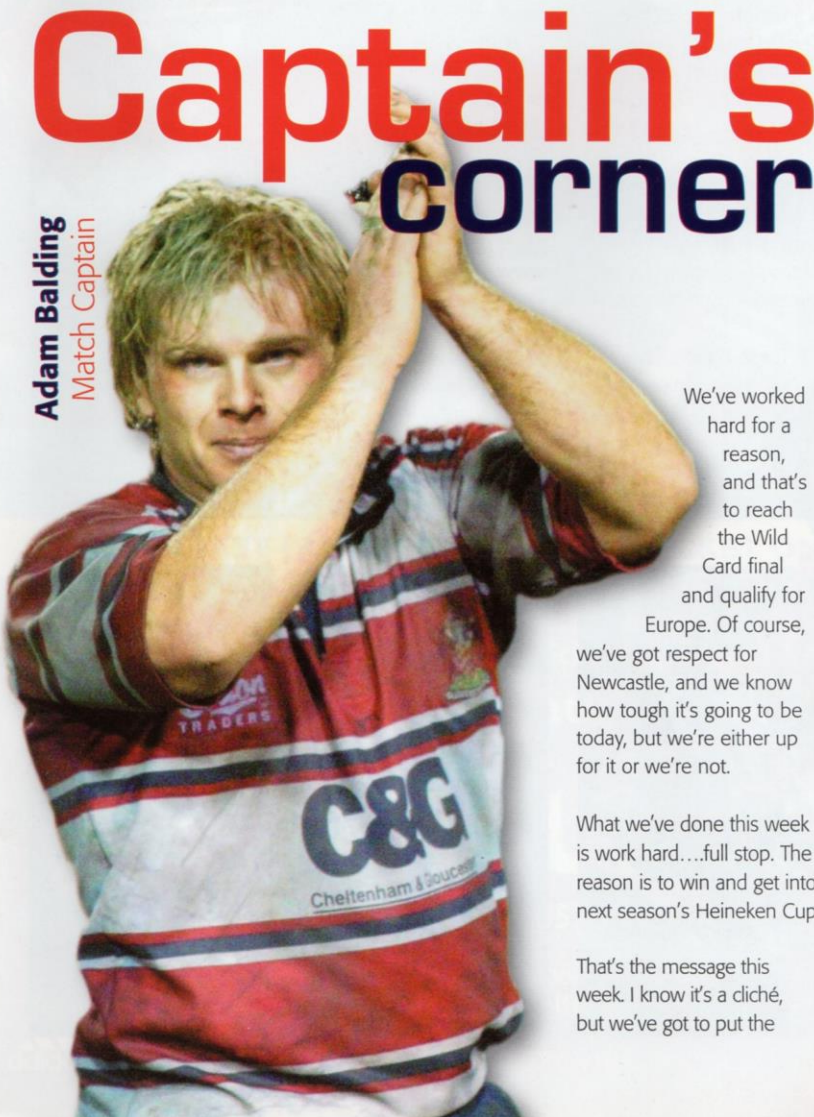
There’ve been some things to sort out, but of late that togetherness has been back. The buzz is there this week, and we should have won last Saturday against Saracens.

We’ve got to turn the corner now. We’ve put the hours in and it will pay off. The new signings are starting to be announced, but names and headlines don’t mean anything. It’s about heart and desire.

The measure of a good team is that extra percentage that you put in together. Looking ahead, the young guys have been put in this season, and they’ll only benefit from that next year. They’ll push the senior players for places and you have to have that to be successful.

Once again, on behalf of everyone at the Club thanks for your support and enjoy the game.

Adam Balding
Match Captain



Captain's corner

We’ve worked hard for a reason, and that’s to reach the Wild Card final and qualify for Europe. Of course, we’ve got respect for Newcastle, and we know how tough it’s going to be today, but we’re either up for it or we’re not.

What we’ve done this week is work hard....full stop. The reason is to win and get into next season’s Heineken Cup.

That’s the message this week. I know it’s a cliché, but we’ve got to put the

In the regular series of previous matches between **Gloucester** and the day's opposition, the official matchday programme's resident historian **Dave King** remembers a clash back in 1998, when a certain **Dean Ryan** captained the Newcastle side.

REMEMBER when?



The scenario back in 1998 wasn't that different to the build-up to today's game with the opposition turning up in the West Country, after Gloucester had suffered three consecutive league defeats at home.

After the final whistle went on Saturday 17 October 1998, there was a happy atmosphere in the Kingsholm clubhouse. For the first time in several weeks, Gloucester had swept the visiting team aside and won 41-32 against a strong Newcastle side.

The victory came after three defeats on the trot, including two in the Premiership, having lost 21-16 at Bath and then 13-12 to Wasps at Kingsholm.

The top of the Allied Dunbar Premiership One read as follows prior to the Newcastle match. (see right)

It was a day when Kingsholm was set alight with a succession of running tries. Gloucester started in dynamic form with early tries from French wing Philippe St Andre and full back Chris Catling.

The seventh minute try by St-Andre came after a rampaging attack led by Steve Ojomoh. New Zealand fly half Simon Mannix missed the conversion but landed a 12th minute penalty in reply to one kicked by a young Jonny Wilkinson.

Newcastle drew level when Peter Walton scored a try after the Falcons opted for a

	Played	Won	Drew	Lost	For	Against	Points
Bath	6	5	0	1	190	115	10
Saracens	4	4	0	0	157	63	8
Leicester	5	4	0	1	164	88	8
Wasps	5	3	0	2	166	113	6
Gloucester	5	3	0	2	118	81	6



Andrew and Wilkinson

lineout instead of a penalty kick and Doddie Weir took clean possession. Wilkinson missed the conversion.

Gloucester went ahead two minutes later with Chris Catling's try as he rounded off a run by Terry Fanolua. Simon Mannix missed the conversion but then landed a 25th minute penalty.

Newcastle produced their best form in the following 15 minutes as Doddie Weir went over from a lineout. Wilkinson converted and then landed a penalty to put the Falcons ahead for the first time.

A try by Jim Naylor on the right wing converted by Wilkinson gave Newcastle Falcons a 25-16 half-time lead.

The second half saw

Gloucester storm into the visitor's half, earning two penalties that were converted by Simon Mannix. Two superb tries by Chris Catling, and then one by Audley Lumsden, took the home team into the lead as Simon Mannix converted both.

Newcastle hit back in the 69th minute with a try by Wilkinson, which he also converted to take the visitors within two points of the hosts.

Four minutes from the end Chris Catling completed a hat trick of tries that Simon Mannix converted, after Ian Sanders had floated out a superb pass to the full back following some charging runs by Steve Ojomoh.

Dave King

Gloucester:

C.Catling; A.Lumsden, T.Fanolua, R.Tombs, P.St-Andre; S.Mannix, I.Sanders; T.Woodman, C.Fortey, A.Deacon, M.Cornwell, D.Sims (Captain), E.Pearce, N.Carter, S.Ojomoh.

Replacements Not Used:

- R.Greenslade-Jones, M.Kimber, S.Benton, T.Windo, N.McCarthy, R.Ward, S.Devereux.

Newcastle:

P.Massey; J.Naylor, V.Tuigamala, R.Andrew, T.Underwood, J.Wilkinson, G.Armstrong; N.Popplewell (G.Graham 45th min), R.Nesdale, I.Peel, R.Beattie (G.Archer 64th min), D.Weir, P.Walton, R.Arnold (S.O'Neill 56th min), D.Ryan (Captain).

Other Replacements:

A.Chiltern, M.Shaw, M.Wood, R.Horton.

Referee: - Steve Lander (Liverpool Society)

Attendance: - 10,500

Match Facts:

From that match back in 1998 only Terry Fanolua and Jonny Wilkinson are likely to appear in this afternoon's fixture. Dean Ryan, who captained the Falcons side on the day, is now part of the Gloucester coaching set-up, and Rob Andrew, who started at inside centre on the day, is now head man at Newcastle.

DID YOU Know?

Peter Richards, who Gloucester signed last week from London Wasps, was Jonny Wilkinson's schoolboy half back partner at Lord Wandsworth College.

That former Gloucester Captain and lineout specialist Dave Sims played his final match for Exeter Chiefs in their National League One fixture last Saturday at Rotherham. Dave is due to take over as Coach for Taunton RFC for 2005-2006.

That Newcastle Falcons have raided South West National One outfit Plymouth Albion in preparation for next season by signing Andy Pery and Tino Paoletic from the Brickfields based club.

That prior to the Newcastle match in October 1998, Gloucester supremo Richard Hill put England hooker Phil Greening on the transfer list.

Three England internationals were ruled out by injury for the Gloucester Vs Newcastle match in 1998. They were Rob Fidler (lock), Phil Vickery (prop) and and fly half Mark Maplettoft.

The previous Wednesday Gloucester United defeated Cleve 38-5. Scorers were Andy Hazell and England Colts trio Rob Jewell, Chris Collins and Adam Eustace. A penalty try was awarded with Stephen Ward, now with Exeter, kicking four conversions. Schoolboy, Ben Gollings, who went on to play for Newcastle, made a second half appearance.

Gloucester United team at Cleve: S.Morgan; O.Drew, A.Boyce, S.Ward, R.Jewell; M.Kimber (Captain), N.Cane; A.Robinson, C.Collins, B.Smith, A.Eustace, R.Ward, J.Street, A.Hazell, S.Pearman. Replacements: D.McMillan, M.Hart, L.Chappe, A.Powles, C.Hall, R.Stott, J.Goatley, B.Gollings

The official matchday programme catches up with **talented youngster Olly Morgan**, after the 19 year-old full-back made his first start for the Club last weekend and **scored his first try**.



OLLY Morgan



POSITION:	Full-back
D.O.B:	03.11.85
HEIGHT:	1.89m
WEIGHT:	88kg
INTERNATIONAL HONS:	England U19, U21

Looking for quality building materials?

One start and one try is how the professional appearance record of **Olly Morgan** reads at the moment. Not bad for a young player who made his starting debut last weekend, and was only 18 years of age when the current campaign started.

The official matchday programme caught up with **Olly Morgan** this week to get his reaction to the current season.



Olly Morgan with team mate James Merriman

The 19 year-old signed for Gloucester in the summer after completing his studies at Millfield School in Somerset, and is seen as one of the top young talents in the game.

A contemporary of one of Newcastle's young stars Mathew Tait, who he went to school with, Morgan was being chased by a number of other Premiership clubs, but committed his future to the Kingsholm club.

The 6ft 2" full-back grew up in Dorset playing rugby for Bournemouth RFC from the age of eight, where he was a regular on a Sunday afternoon with his father.

At the age of 13 he started his secondary education at Millfield School and excelled at hockey and rugby, going on to play for England U16s in both sports, as well making it to the national athletics championship in the pentathlon event.

A 15 year-old Morgan had

to make a tough decision as to which sport he would concentrate on and rugby won.

As a regular for England U16s Morgan teamed up with a few familiar names, including Newcastle's Mathew Tait and his current club mate, Gloucester's Ryan Lamb.

As a 17 year-old Morgan progressed to play rugby for England U19s, and went to the age group's World Cup whilst studying for 'A' levels in PE, History and psychology.

There was plenty of promise ready to impress this season at Kingsholm, but a freak accident whilst going through a judo session with the England Academy set-up before Christmas, saw him sidelined for more than three months with a wrist injury, after making a handful of starts for Gloucester's Zurich 'A' League side.

"The wrist injury is the only sever injury I've had (touch wood), and I've never been out that long before, so

it was a big shock to the system. But you can't let things like that stop you or get you down. How you deal with it is important. You've got to be focussed, and ensure you concentrate on what is ahead and keeping your mental attitude right," said Morgan.

The young full-back's come-back during the Spring came in unusual surroundings, when he turned out for Bracknell in the national leagues, a few weeks before the start of the U21s Six Nations.

"I'd played three or four games in total including pre-season and Zurich 'A' and then got injured. I wasn't sure how it was going to progress, but 80 minutes for Bracknell really helped my game, and then the England U21s started, and it was good to get back to regular rugby."

With the Wild Card play-offs underway today, the season is approaching its climax and Morgan can take plenty of positives from the last 10 months.

"I've really enjoyed it all. It's certainly been a big step from studying at school. Life as a professional sportsman is different, but we've got a good bunch of lads here at Gloucester and I've been made to feel welcome. Earning respect is key to everything, and from a personal point of view this starts in pre-season and doesn't finish until the last game of the season."

Morgan was on the bench for two games this season,

against Bath in the Powergen Cup semi-final and London Irish, without seeing any game time.

But all the hard work came to fruition on a rainy night in Stockport three weeks ago, when he replaced Seti Kiole after 52 minutes against Sale Sharks.

The Tongan wing was ruled out for the Saracens game last week and Morgan, who will be part of the England U21 squad for the summer World Cup in Argentina, was given the nod for his first start.

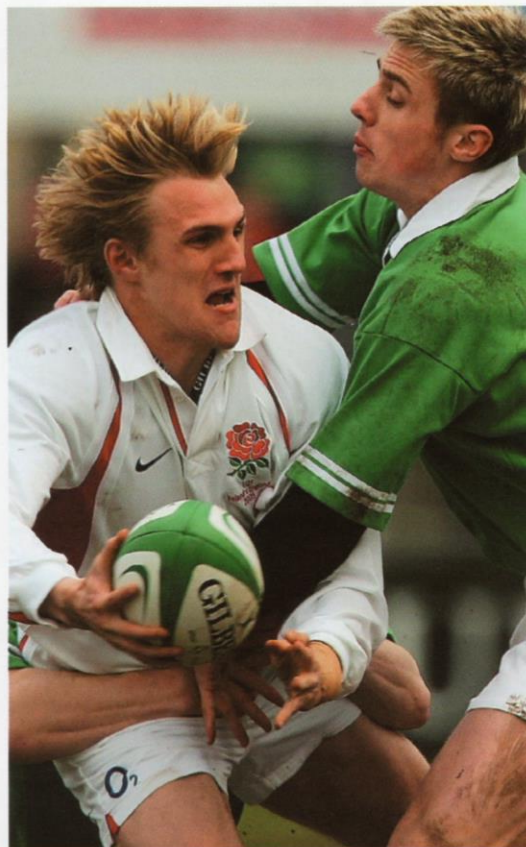
"You have to be realistic and appreciate the high standard of the Zurich Premiership, and in your first season as a professional you hope for the chance to impress.

"You've got to take those opportunities, as they come in such small numbers, especially when you look at how infrequently the likes of Jonny (Goodridge) and Marce (Marcel Garvey) miss games."

It doesn't get much better though than making your first start and scoring your first try though, does it?

"Yes it does, we wanted to win. But from a personal achievement perspective it doesn't get much better. But I want to win, and so does the rest of the team.

"At the moment each game is just getting bigger and bigger, and I want to be part of it. It's the Wild Card semi on Sunday and we've just got to get a result and get into Europe."



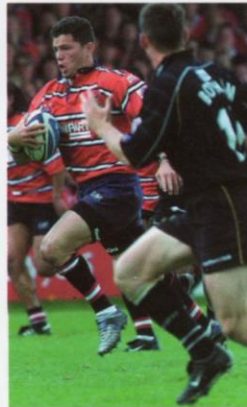
The official matchday programme rounds up recent encounters between Gloucester and today's visitors Newcastle. It is fair to say, that bar one run-away win, the games have been pretty close.

ZURICH CHAMPIONSHIP QUARTER FINAL - 18 MAY 2002

**GLOUCESTER (29) 60,
NEWCASTLE FALCONS (6) 9**
(Kingsholm)

Referee: Steve Lander (England).
Attendance: 5,776

Tries from Henry Paul, Daren O'Leary, Terry Fanolua, Robert Todd, Ludovic Mercier, Phil Vickery, James Forrester, Junior Paramore and Tom Beim sealed the comprehensive win as Gloucester progressed to the final against Bristol, which they went on to win. The Newcastle side on the day contained a few players that could be involved this afternoon including Dave Walder, Jamie Noon, Tom May, Jonny Wilkinson, Hall Charlton and Stuart Grimes.

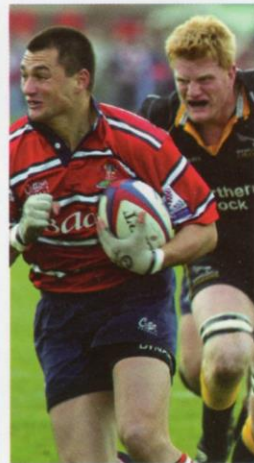


ZURICH PREMIERSHIP 12 APRIL 2003

**GLOUCESTER
(0) 25,
NEWCASTLE
FALCONS (15) 23**
(Kingsholm)

Referee: Dave Pearson
(England).
Attendance: 10,404

Another close encounter that saw Ludovic Mercier step up and kick the winning points. Tries from Thinus Delpont, Trevor Woodman and Andy Hazell were matched by touch downs from Joe Shaw, Mark Mayerhofer and James Grindall.

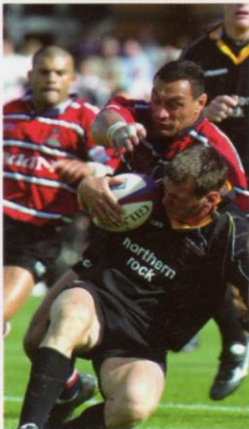


ZURICH PREMIERSHIP 15 SEPTEMBER 2002

**GLOUCESTER (13) 22
NEWCASTLE FALCONS (12) 19**
(Kingston Park)

Referee: Roy Maybank (England).
Attendance: 5,304

Gloucester edged the away game at Kingston Park during the season that the Kingsholm club went on to finish top of the Zurich Premiership. A late kick from Henry Paul in the dying seconds sealed the win.



ZURICH PREMIERSHIP

5 OCT 2003

GLOUCESTER
(10) 22

NEWCASTLE
FALCONS (27) 42

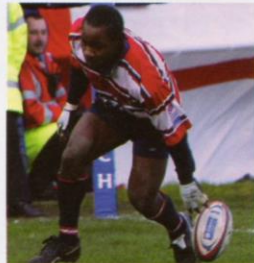
(Kingston Park)

Referee: Roy Maybank
(England).

Attendance: 6,102



Newcastle took the points on this occasion and sent Gloucester packing with a great performance. Tom May bagged a hat-trick of tries as the Kingsholm club struggled to get any go-forward up at Kingston Park.



ZURICH PREMIERSHIP

7 FEBRUARY 2004

GLOUCESTER (24) 36

NEWCASTLE FALCONS (7) 12

(Kingsholm)

Referee: Dave Pearson (England).

Attendance: 11,000

Gloucester got their revenge in the return clash of the 2003/04 season when they ran riot with tries from Marcel Garvey, Robert Todd, Terry Fanolua, Duncan McRae and James Forrester, and some superb kicking from Henry Paul.

ZURICH PREMIERSHIP

25 SEPTEMBER 2004

GLOUCESTER (21) 31

NEWCASTLE FALCONS (9) 17

(Kingsholm)

Referee: Ashley Rowden (England).

Attendance: 13,000

Gloucester continued their good form against the Falcons with a 31-17 win earlier this season in front of a record Premiership 13,000 capacity Kingsholm crowd. The West Country outfit didn't hit top form, but they were improving week by week, as they put three tries past Rob Andrew's team.



ZURICH PREMIERSHIP

27 FEBRUARY 2005

GLOUCESTER (22) 27

NEWCASTLE FALCONS (6) 27

(Kingston Park)

Referee: David Rose (England).

Attendance: 6,333



Gloucester were unhappy to only take three points from the visit to Kingston Park in February. Three first half tries from Garvey, Gomarsall and Fanolua should have set up a convincing win, but the home side hit back with scores in the second period. A late score from Luke Narryaw secured a draw and a four-try bonus point.



BBC radio newcastle

Make no mistake; Rob Andrew will be watching

The regular local BBC radio programme article takes a slightly different outlook in this issue, with BBC Newcastle's Kevin Williams looking back at previous encounters between the two sides.



There was no need for a crystal ball last weekend, it was all but inevitable that Gloucester and Newcastle would meet in this Zurich Wild Card semi final, the only possible doubt was the venue. That hinged on bonus points, or the lack of them, and so it is a journey that faces we hardy Northerners to one of the better and more traditional grounds in rugby's top flight.

It is some consolation that the departing Mark Evans took a swipe at both clubs

suggesting that if current form were a factor then Newcastle and Gloucester would have been relegation contenders.

I hope that the thought keeps him happy, but the fact remains that one of these teams is going to Twickenham next Saturday to play for a Heineken Cup place. Harlequins next season will go to Doncaster and Sedgeley Park.

Over the years there have been a number of memorable clashes between Gloucester and the Falcons. Funnily enough, most of these have taken place at Kingsholm. The games at Kingston Park have had their moments, a couple of late steals by Gloucester in particular, but the real drama has been reserved for GL1 3AX.

When Newcastle (then known as Newcastle Gosforth) won the Premiership title in

1997/98 they had a number of narrow squeaks on their travels. None more so than the game on this ground and the drop goal that never was. Mark Mapletoft's attempt was adjudged to have shaded the wrong side of the upright and that would have proved enough to inflict a first defeat on the champions to be. Some of those present maintain to this day that Tofty's kick was good and they continue to carry with them a great sense of injustice.

I will draw a discreet veil over the battle of Kingsholm in December 2001 and the ensuing arguments. Suffice it to say that neither club will include that game in its one hundred greatest moments, but it has always given the Shed sufficient cause to indulge itself in taunting Rob Andrew more than most visiting rugby directors.

Many will recall that the two sides have met before in the play offs, it came at the end of that same 2001/02 season when the embers of the earlier clash still smouldered. Again it was Newcastle that visited the South West three years ago. The result on the 18 May 2002 was sixty points to nine in favour of Gloucester and perhaps the most comprehensive demolition of the Falcons



that I can recall seeing. That game gave rise to the cry of "Are you watching Rob Andrew?" No doubt he was, and it can't have made for pleasant viewing.

Those of us who travel to report on the Falcons never make our way down the M5 with anything but trepidation. In some small part that is due to the West Merciless Constabulary who patrol their segment of the road with unremitting gusto, but more because we know that anything gained at Kingsholm has to be fought for and retained. Which brings me to the best game that I have seen played between these two clubs. In April 2003, after Gloucester had nicked an early season victory at Kingston Park

(somewhat luckily and in my recollection very late on – Ed.. still a win!) the Falcons came to Castle Grim and the worst was expected. But the classic game that unfolded was a first half performance where everything for the visitors for Glaws turned to, well you can guess exactly what it turned to.

The Falcons had something near to a twenty point lead and looked as though they would be bagging a win. But back fought Gloucester and with Scottish lock forward Stuart Grimes fighting a little too hard for Newcastle he saw a red card, and the battle was on again. It was a second half that was dominated every bit as much by Glaws,

but it still took until deep in stoppage time for a try scored by full back Thinus Delpont to put the teams level at 23 points all.

That would have been the fairest result all round, honour shared in a classic tussle. Besides, the conversion was tight to the left hand touchline and virtually impossible. Ludovic Mercier thought otherwise and as the ball sailed between the posts the Falcons knew what it was like to be robbed, and the Shed began singing that damned song again. As I said fought for and retained; and Newcastle failed to retain their lead.

It would be too much to expect an epic like that one today, they come only rarely but with the prospect of a

visit to HQ beckoning then neither side will be keen to surrender. Gloucester's current home form will give Newcastle grounds for optimism and against London Irish last weekend the Falcons looked like a side that wanted to win.

Expect a feisty affair this afternoon; for one set of players, management and supporters the season will end by 5pm, be assured that everyone will be watching all the action very closely. That includes the officials, the press, the spectators and the visiting director of rugby, so you don't need to ask if it's happening, but if Glaws should have the lead at any point, I rather suspect that you will.



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Gloucester historian Dave King looks back at the Centenary year of 1973, and a superb occasion at Kingsholm

a celebration of 100 YEARS AT KINGSHOLM

A centenary is always something to celebrate whether it is life or an institution. It is a testament to the ability of officers of a club when they reach that 100 years old mark.

A club has to sustain and be guided through the good times and the bad. A club needs active membership and a playing staff wishing to maintain a club's rightful position among the leading clubs in the country.

That was exactly the scenario when this club reached that coveted one hundred years of existence in 1973.

The game of rugby union was still in its amateur

ethos where playing and love of the game was all embracing. Winning was not all-important, the game greater than the player. It was important to portray pleasure and enjoyment.

In 1973 Gloucester Rugby Football Club decided to mark their centenary with a match against Public School Wanderers.

Kingsholm – a bastion of true rugby spirit and tradition was set to celebrate the ghosts of yester-year. The match was set for 27th March.

The planning for this special match was beset with problems. The club had to make an application to

the Department of Trade and Industry for special permission to use their floodlights for this match due to the national embargo. A few days of deliberation by the civil servants ended in the affirmative.

The stage was set for a spectacular encounter. The kick off was delayed for 25 minutes to allow the numbers attending to enter the ground.

Open play was the order of the day with Gloucester centres Richard Jardine and Graham Pike to the forefront. Gloucester took an early lead when Alan Brinn crashed over after John Watkins had made a brilliant break. Public

School Wanderers soon reduced the arrears when Neil Bennett reduced the arrears with a penalty. He then made a break to send Bob Wilkinson over for an unconverted try.

Jim Jarrett had a try disallowed, but was on hand to put Ron Etheridge in for a try at the corner flag. With Peter Butler's conversion attempt just going wide. Neil Bennett kicked another penalty goal and then converted a try by Gloucester's Dick Smith, guesting for the visitors in place of the injured Terry Cobner. Peter Butler kicked a superb 50-yard penalty on the stroke of half time.

The second half commenced with an immediate set back when Bob Redwood departed with a leg injury. This necessitated Ron Etheridge moving to full back and Peter Butler moving to outside half with international flanker John Watkins moving to wing three quarter. Almost immediately Rosslyn Park winger Hook rounded off a passing movement, which Neil Bennett converted. Peter Butler responded with two penalties and Graham Pike with a subtle move sent Richard Jardine over for an unconverted try.

Only a point separated the teams but with their ranks depleted Gloucester succumbed with Neil Bennett completing his hat trick of penalties with Hook and Brian Keen crossing for tries, both converted by Mike Quinn. A memorable

evening, a memorable year, and memories that stretched over decades.

The teams for that special match were:

Gloucester RFC

P.E.Butler; R.J.Clewes, R.Jardine, G.Pike, R.Etheridge; R.L.Redwood, J.H.Spalding; R.F.Cowling, M.J.Nicholls (Captain), P.J.Blakeway, A.Brinn, J.H.Fidler, J.A.Watkins, J.S.Jardine, J.H.Haines.

Public School Wanderers

M.Quinn (Leinster & Ireland); R.S.Tikosouva (Harlequins & Fiji), C.S.Wardlow (Coventry & England), C.Kent (Oxford University & England Under 23), M.Hook (Rosslyn Park & Surrey); N.Bennett (Bedford & England Under 23), D.Morgan Stewart-Melville (F.P. & Scotland); B.Keen (Bedford & England), J.Young (RAF & Wales), C.J..Ballward (Bedford & London Counties), A.F.McHarg (London Scottish & Scotland), R.Wilkinson (Cambridge University & England Under 23), D.Morris (Neath & Wales), W.Lauder (Neath & Scotland, Captain), R.Smith (Gloucester & Gloucestershire).

Referee: - N.P.Jones (Gloucester)

The result Gloucester 21 pts – Public Wanderers 35 pts

David King



One amazing statistic of the club's centenary year was that inspirational captain and hooker Mike Nicholls appeared in 52 of the 54 matches played.

Other appearances in that momentous season were:

- R.J.Clewes, J.H.Spalding (46), P.E.Butler (45), A.Brinn (43), J.H.Haines (42), J.H.Fidler (39), D.W.Owen (35), K.Richardson (34), J.Jarrett (33), R.Jardine, R.Etheridge (32), T.Palmer (29), R.L.Redwood (27), R.J.Cowling (25), J.A.Watkins (24), R.E.White (22), J.A.Bayliss (21), R.Smith, M.A.Burton (16), M.J.Potter (15), P.J.Blakeway (14), S.Dix, P.J.Winnel (13), K.R.Morris (12), J.Dix (10), E.J.F.Stephens (9), S.Hall, N.O.Evans (6), D.Hargreaves, G.Pike, J.A.Homer (5), F.C.Reed, N.A.Jackson, D.W.Pegler (4), R.H.Butler, S.B.Boyle, J.F.Herniman (3), K.M.Nicholls, R.C.Nicholls, C.S.Walford, R.L.Jones (2), M.Curran, M.Longstaff, E.A.Pinkney, J.L.Fowke (1).

The year of 1973 is but a distant memory today, the ghosts of yester-year survive in the traditions of Kingsholm. This is a ground where it is a privilege to play and watch – a haven of true rugby spirit and long tradition. A club with an eventful and illustrious history, long may it continue.

MATCH action



Gloucester
13



SARACENS
Saracens
14

Saturday 30 April 2005, **Kingsholm**

Attendance: **13,000**

Referee: **D. Rose**

Gloucester kept their hopes of Heineken Cup rugby next season alive despite a one-point defeat against Saracens at Kingsholm last Saturday.

Gloucester with a cross-field kick that was fielded by Ben Johnston. They maintained the momentum and the forwards pressured the Gloucester line.

The losing bonus point sealed sixth place in the Zurich Premiership and a home tie against Newcastle at Kingsholm in the semi-final of the Zurich Wild Card.

There were three missed penalties from Gloucester's Duncan McRae, that could have edged Gloucester ahead.

Gloucester were hit by injuries before kick off with a number of absentees, and it continued in the first half with Jon Goodridge and Andy Hazell going off within the first half hour.

Adam Balding and his forwards were then penalised for their first offence and referee David Rose awarded a penalty try to Saracens for the first offence.

Gloucester had the majority of the possession and territory in the opening 30 minutes, but only managed three points from the boot of Duncan McRae to show for it.

Considering the mounting injuries, that saw the Gloucester side finish the game with Alex Page on the wing, and James Forrester in the centre, there was effort and pride on the pitch, that ended in a home Wild Card semi-final next weekend.

Saracens snatched a break-away try on 18 minutes, and it wasn't until the second half that Gloucester took their first touchdown.

There were solid performances from a number of players, most notably James Bailey and Olly Morgan, who stood up well to the experienced Saracens back-line.

A well-worked converted try from 19 year-old Olly Morgan, who was making his first start, took Gloucester into a 13-7 lead after 65 minutes, and it looked like the regular season would end on a win at Kingsholm.

But Saracens caught



Zurich Wild Card Semi Final, Sunday 8th May 2005, KO 3.15pm

Gloucester				Newcastle Falcons			
T	C	P	D	T	C	P	D
				15			
				14			
				13			
				12			
				11			
				10			
				09			
				01			
				02			
				03			
				04			
				05			
				06			
				07			
				08			
				replacements			
				16			
				17			
				18			
				19			
				20			
				21			
				22			

Zurich Premiership 2004/05

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	TB	LB	PTS
Leicester Tigers	22	15	3	4	665	323	9	3	78
London Wasps	22	15	1	6	561	442	6	5	73
Sale Sharks	22	13	0	9	513	442	4	4	60
Bath Rugby	22	12	2	8	407	366	1	5	58
Saracens	22	12	2	8	384	428	3	2	57
Gloucester	22	10	1	11	407	487	3	2	47
Newcastle Falcons	22	9	2	11	475	596	3	4	47
Leeds Tykes	22	9	0	13	380	431	1	6	43
Worcester Warriors	22	9	0	13	365	493	1	5	42
London Irish	22	8	0	14	378	421	1	7	40
Northampton Saints	22	8	0	14	410	473	2	6	40
NEC Harlequins	22	6	1	15	416	459	3	9	38

FRONT
the new club magazine

OUT
NOW!!!



Today's Match Officials

Referee: Tony Spreadbury

1st TJ: Huw Jones-Williams

2nd TJ: Andrew Pearce

4th Official: Mark Tovey

Replacement Ref: Ashley Rowden

Today's Result

Gloucester



Newcastle Falcons



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