

# BATH RUGBY

THE OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME OF BATH RUGBY

PRICE £3.00 | VOLUME 5 ISSUE 1



## BATH RUGBY VS NEWCASTLE FALCONS

ZURICH PREMIERSHIP  
SATURDAY  
11 SEPTEMBER 2004  
KICK-OFF 2.15pm

### SPONSORS

BLACKTHORN  
COTTON

Virgin  
mobile

northgate

Cotton  
TRADERS



Cotton  
TRADERS

### MATCH DAY SPONSORS

Virgin  
mobile







## Bath Rugby

### LINEUP

MATT PERRY 15  
ALEX CROCKETT 14  
SPENCER DAVEY 13  
MIKE TINDALL 12  
BRENDON DANIEL 11

CHRIS MALONE 10  
MARTYN WOOD 9

DAVID BARNES 1  
NATHAN HUMPHREYS (C) 2  
DUNCAN BELL 3  
STEVE BORTHWICK 4  
DANNY GREWCOCK 5  
ANDY BEATTIE 6  
MICHAEL LIPMAN 7  
ZAK FEAUNATI 8

### REPLACEMENTS

NICK WALSH 16  
LEE MEARS 17  
MATT STEVENS 18  
ROBBIE FLECK 19  
OLLY BARKLEY 20  
AMES SCAYSBROOK 21  
GARETH DELVE 22

### HEAD COACH:

John CONNOLLY



## Newcastle Falcons

### LINEUP

15 JOE SHAW  
14 TOM MAY  
13 JAMIE NOON  
12 MARK MAYERHOFER  
11 MICHAEL STEPHENSON

10 JONNY WILKINSON (CoC)  
9 HALL CHARLTON

1 IAN PEEL (CoC)  
2 ANDY LONG  
3 MARIUS HURTER  
4 LUKE GROSS  
5 STUART GRIMES  
6 MIKE MCCARTHY  
7 COLIN CHARVIS  
8 PHIL DOWSON

### REPLACEMENTS

16 MICKY WARD  
17 MATT THOMPSON  
18 CRAIG HAMILTON  
19 SEMO SITITI  
20 JAMES GRINDAL  
21 DAVE WALDER  
22 MATTHEW BURKE

### DIRECTOR OF RUGBY:

ROB ANDREW



# SPOTLIGHT NEWCASTLE FALCONS

BY DOM RUMBLES

**N**ewcastle Falcons started their Zurich

**Premiership campaign in impressive style last weekend with a 30-9 three try demolition of newly-promoted Worcester Warriors and arrive at the Rec this afternoon hoping to continue their good form against last season's Zurich Premiership finalists.**

Last season's Powergen Cup champions will be out to prove a point or two this season. A disappoint-

ing Zurich Premiership campaign last season is now but a distant memory as Rob Andrew's side head into this campaign and a return to Heineken Cup action with renewed optimism.

A summer of change at Kingston Park has resulted with eight members of last season's playing squad departing for pastures new. The most notable absentees this season are international second row duo Garath Archer and Mark Andrews, both have decided to hang their boots up. Will they miss

the hard graft of Archer and Andrews? Well, only time will tell, but the early season indications are good. Both had massive presence on the field and were equally as influential off it, but the Falcons still possess plenty of experience in the boiler house. Stuart Grimes is an experienced international campaigner, whilst at 6'9" Luke Gross is the tallest player in the Premiership and is a consistent performer at the highest level.

Indeed the Falcons' pack will be a force to be reckoned with this season. Some shrewd recruitment has seen Wales Captain Colin Charvis make the switch from Tarbes and he arrives with a point to prove having spent the past season playing second division rugby in France. Samoan number eight Semo Siti has also joined and alongside Charvis, will provide a strong ball carrying option from the base of the scrum. Young Mike McCarthy is also an outstanding prospect in the back row. Co-captain Ian Peel, Andy Long and Marius Hurter also provide a solid platform in the front row.

In the back division Matt Burke looks set to debut this afternoon. The World Cup winning Wallaby spent the summer with the Australian national side playing in the Tri Nations and arrives to compete

in the Zurich Premiership in some of the best form of his life. A quality player, Matt will add both considerable experience and direction to what will be an exciting Newcastle back division this season.

Of course you can't talk about the back line without giving a mention to that man Jonny! England's World Cup hero - a national treasure - is continuing his comeback after nine months sidelined with a shoulder injury. With both the media and Rob Andrew talking up his performances since his return, the signs are good for the Falcons and for England.

The fly half is the kingpin of what is one of the best back divisions in the Zurich Premiership, but he is not the only star in the side as the likes of Tom May, Michael Stephenson, Jamie Noon, Mark Mayerhoffer and Dave Walder are all outstanding players in their own right and proved that last season in Jonny's enforced absence through injury.

An exciting season lies in wait and there is no doubt that the Zurich Premiership will be more competitive than every before. Northampton Saints, London Wasps, Gloucester, Bath Rugby and Leicester Tigers may be the favourites with the bookies, but do not discount the challenge of the Falcons - they are ready to go!

