



**HAWKINS**

Rising to the challenge

**NEWCASTLE FALCONS**

Winning Streak

**BEHIND THE SCENES**

Team Assistant

OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME | VOLUME 9 ISSUE 12 | WWW.BATHRUGBY.COM | £3.00

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T C P D




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- Shaun **BERNE**
- Matt **BANAHAH**
- Butch **JAMES**
- Scott **BEMAND**

- 15 FULLBACK 15
- 14 RIGHT WING 14
- 13 CENTRE 13
- 12 CENTRE 12
- 11 LEFT WING 11
- 10 FLY HALF 10
- 9 SCRUM HALF 9

- Alex **TAIT**
- Danny **WILLIAMS**
- Jamie **NOON**
- Tane **TU'IPULOTU**
- Tim **VISSER**
- Tom **MAY**
- Micky **YOUNG**

T C P D





- David **FLATMAN**
- Rob **HAWKINS**
- Duncan **BELL**
- Justin **HARRISON**
- Stuart **HOOPER**
- Andy **BEATTIE**
- Michael **LIPMAN (C)**
- Daniel **BROWNE**

- 1 PROP 1
- 2 HOOKER 2
- 3 PROP 3
- 4 LOCK 4
- 5 LOCK 5
- 6 FLANKER 6
- 7 FLANKER 7
- 8 NO. 8 8

- Jon **GOLDING**
- Rob **VICKERS**
- Carl **HAYMAN**
- Tim **SWINSON**
- Mark **SORENSEN**
- Phil **DOWSON (C)**
- Brent **WILSON**
- Adam **BALDING**





- Mark **LILLEY**
- Aaron **JARVIS**
- Jonny **FAAMATUAINU**
- James **SCAYSBROOK**
- Mike **BAXTER**
- Tom **CHEESEMAN**
- Michael **STEPHENSON**

- 16 REPLACEMENT 16
- 17 REPLACEMENT 17
- 18 REPLACEMENT 18
- 19 REPLACEMENT 19
- 20 REPLACEMENT 20
- 21 REPLACEMENT 21
- 22 REPLACEMENT 22

- Matt **THOMPSON**
- Micky **WARD**
- Geoff **PARLING**
- Russell **WINTER**
- Hall **CHARLTON**
- Rob **MILLER**
- Andrew **FENBY**


FINAL SCORE

TODAY'S OFFICIALS: Referee: Andrew Small Referees Assistants: Bob Mullis and Andrew Pearce

FINAL SCORE





# NEWCASTLE FALCONS

Newcastle Falcons come in to this afternoon's game as the form team in the Guinness Premiership, having won their last six games.

The Falcons' carry significant momentum after successive league victories over Gloucester, Bristol Saracens, Northampton, Sale and Harlequins – the Bristol match being the highlight as Newcastle held their nerve to claim an emphatic 35-3 victory in a game billed by some pundits as a

potential relegation decider.

Newcastle Falcons came in to the new season with stability in mind, after a turbulent 2007/8 campaign which saw wholesale change in management.

With Steve Bates installed as permanent director of rugby, the former England Saxons, Border Reivers and Scotland A boss went about assembling a coaching team to lead Newcastle in to battle.

Acquiring a coach of international class and reputation in both codes, his first move was to bring in Alan Tait from the Scotland national side as assistant coach, with an emphasis on tightening up the Falcons' defence and sharpening back play.

A title winner with Newcastle in 1998 and a British Lion in both codes, Tait is joined in the dug-out by another Scottish Falcon with the arrival of Stuart Grimes, again as

assistant coach but with remit for the line out. They joined Ian Peel already insitu for his scrummage knowhow, while on the playing front there was the arrival of flanker Adam Balding from Gloucester, centre Spencer Davey from Doncaster and England rugby league international Danny Williams from Leeds Rhinos, as well as silky centre Tane Tu'ipulotu.

The Tongan midfield maestro

## PHIL DOWSON

England Saxons captain Dowson is another product of the Falcons academy, having attended Sedbergh School in Cumbria. Playing all three positions in the back row during his 118 games for the club, the 28-year-old made his first international strides in the abbreviated code as a star for the England Sevens team. Winning the Hong Kong Sevens on two occasions and a host of other IRB titles, Dowson decided to focus solely on 15s and built up to make his impact on the Guinness Premiership stage. In his second season as Falcons skipper, Dowson has also captained England Saxons to recent success over Italy A and Portugal, as well as leading Newcastle to a recent hat-trick of league victories.



joined Newcastle fresh from a year which had already seen him claim a second Ranfurly Shield and make an Air New Zealand Cup final appearance with Wellington Lions, as well as helping them The Hurricanes to the semi-finals of the Super 14.

Injuries to key men such as Jonny Wilkinson have left the Northeasterners having to battle hard whilst short on numbers at times this campaign, although the

form of makeshift stand-off Tom May has been a welcome ton he has found himself a centre figure in the current run of form.

On the European front the Falcons have shone, making the quarter-finals of the European Challenge Cup where they face a trip to Saracens. But it is on the Guinness Premiership front that their attention is fully focused today.