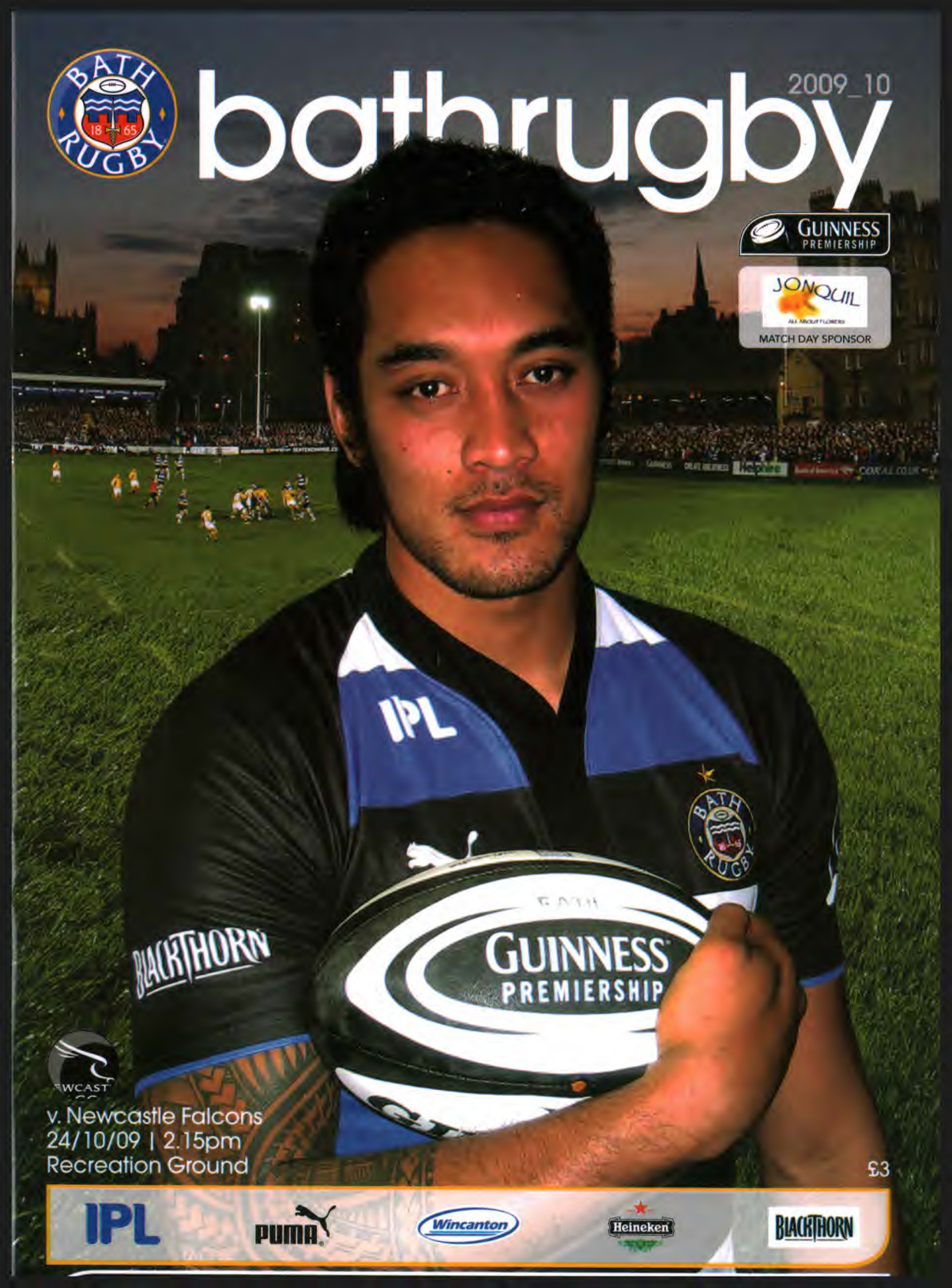
BATH RUGBY
18 65
bathrugby
2009_10
GUINNESS PREMIERSHIP
JONQUIL
ALL ABOUT FLOWERS
MATCH DAY SPONSOR
IPL
BLACKTHORN
GUINNESS PREMIERSHIP
NEWCASTLE FALCONS
v. Newcastle Falcons
24/10/09 | 2.15pm
Recreation Ground
£3
IPL
PUMA
Wincanton
Heineken
BLACKTHORN

Today's Teams

HALF TIME SCORE:

FULL TIME SCORE:

MATCHDAY SPONSOR: JONQUIL ALL ABOUT FLOWERS

REFEREE: Dean Richards
REFEREE'S ASSISTANTS: Bob Mullis and Andrew Pearce

Bath Rugby

			T	C	P	D
15	FULLBACK	NICK ABENDANON				
14	WING	JACK CUTHBERT				
13	CENTRE	MATT CARRARO				
12	CENTRE	SHONTAYNE HAPE				
11	WING	MATT BANAHAN				
10	FLY-HALF	NICKY LITTLE				
9	SCRUM-HALF	MICHAEL CLAASSENS (C)				
1	PROP	DAVID FLATMAN				
2	HOOKER	PIETER DIXON				
3	PROP	DUNCAN BELL				
4	LOCK	STUART HOOPER				
5	LOCK	DANNY GREWCOCK				
6	FLANKER	JONNY FAAMATUAINU				
7	FLANKER	JULIAN SALVI				
8	NO.8	BEN SKIRVING				
16	REPLACEMENT	DAVID BARNES				
17	REPLACEMENT	ROB HAWKINS				
18	REPLACEMENT	DAVID WILSON				
19	REPLACEMENT	PETER SHORT				
20	REPLACEMENT	CHRIS CRACKNELL				
21	REPLACEMENT	SCOTT BEMAND				
22	REPLACEMENT	RYAN DAVIS				
23	REPLACEMENT	RHYS CRANE				

Newcastle Falcons

T	C	P	D			
				CHARLIE AMESBURY	FULLBACK	15
				DANNY WILLIAMS	WING	14
				ROB VICKERMAN	CENTRE	13
				TANE TU'IPULOTU	CENTRE	12
				TOM BIGGS	WING	11
				JIMMY GOPPERTH	FLY-HALF	10
				MICKY YOUNG	SCRUM-HALF	9
				JON GOLDING	PROP	1
				MATT THOMPSON	HOOKER	2
				CARL HAYMAN (C)	PROP	3
				JAMES HUDSON	LOCK	4
				TIM SWINSON	LOCK	5
				BRENT WILSON	FLANKER	6
				WILL WELCH	FLANKER	7
				FILIPO LEVI	NO.8	8
				ALEX WALKER	REPLACEMENT	16
				MICKY WARD	REPLACEMENT	17
				LAURENCE OVENS	REPLACEMENT	18
				MARK SORENSON	REPLACEMENT	19
				JOSH AFU	REPLACEMENT	20
				HALL CHARLTON	REPLACEMENT	21
				ROB MILLER	REPLACEMENT	22
				GCOBANI BOBO	REPLACEMENT	23

day's visitors
ewcastlefalcons

visitors
stle Falcons came
e new season
back of a busy
r, which saw a
ook introduced
Guinness
rship's most
rly club.

of 18 new signings
at Kingston Park
e summer months,
them star names
oth sides of the
r as the Falcons

Super 14 quality was assured in the form of fly half Jimmy Gopperth, with the Junior All Blacks star having racked up a formidable points total during his time at the Blues and Hurricanes.

Springbok centre Gcobani Bobo flew in from the Stormers to bolster the midfield ranks, while Samoa captain Filipo Levi joined up after nine

Domestic talent was also uppermost in director of rugby Steve Bates' thoughts, with Leeds' all-time record try-scorer Tom Biggs and fellow England Sevens flyer Charlie Amesbury adding significant pace out wide in addition to the power offered by giant winger Uche Oduoza.

Line out class was secured with the arrival of Guinness Premiership

England Sevens centre Rob Vickerman adds a hard-running edge to the midfield ranks having arrived from Leeds.

Tongan international Josh Afu added island flair to the back row following his summer switch from Doncaster, while Laurence Ovens from Bath, Scotland Under-20s prop Grant Shiells and Saracens' Alex Walker bolstered the front row resources.

England Under-18s captain Alex Gray was among those promoted from the Falcons academy to the senior ranks, joining a squad which already boasts star quality like Junior All Black centre Tane Tu'ipulotu, powerful No.8 Adam Balding and England Saxons scrum half Micky Young.

Leading the charge this season is an iconic name in world rugby, with All Black prop Carl Hayman having been named club captain for bearded front rower remains among the most feared scrummagers on the planet.

Whilst Newcastle's on-field recruitment has been specifically geared towards their Guinness Premiership challenge, this was augmented behind the scenes too with the arrival of Andy Smith from the Scotland national team as head of strength and conditioning.

Coupled with significant investment in a new gym at Kingston Park, the end result is a leaner and more powerful Falcons squad than in previous years.

On the field, a narrow pre-season loss away to Ulster was followed by a convincing home victory over Edinburgh.

But there was to be no winning start on the Guinness Premiership front as the club endured a remarkable run of three drawn games from four, before northern rivals Sale Sharks drew 16-16 at Kingston Park eight days later.

A 24,000 sell-out crowd saw the Falcons keep their try-line intact at Leicester, but five Jeremy Staunton penalties saw champions Leicester Tigers grind out a 15-6 victory at Welford Road.

The drawing streak continued in the fourth match of the campaign as Newcastle blew a 14-3 half-time lead over Harlequins to draw 17-17, while their last Guinness Premiership encounter saw a bonus point taken from leaders Saracens by virtue of a 22-15 home defeat.

European matters have dominated the agenda for the past fortnight with a trip to Italian side Petrarca Padova and last Sunday's home meeting with French club Albi in the Amlin Challenge Cup, but it is league matters which are uppermost in the

fact file

NICKNAME(S)
The Falcons

FOUNDED
1877

LOCATION
Newcastle upon Tyne, England

GROUND
Kingston Park

CAPACITY
10,200

CHAIRMAN
Dave Thompson

HEAD COACH
Steve Bates

TOP SCORER
Jonny Wilkinson (1484)

MOST TRIES
Tom May (49)

2008-09 POSITION
10th