

THE OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME OF BATH RUGBY - PRICE £2.50



VS LONDON IRISH

POWERGEN CUP SATURDAY 15TH DECEMBER 2001 KICK OFF 2.00PM

BLACKTHORN





TODAY'S TEAMS



	MATT PERRY	(15) FULL BACK	MICHAEL HORACK
	IAIN BALSHAW	(14) WING	JUSTIN BISHOP
	KEVIN MAGGS	(13) CENTRE	GEOFF APPLEFORD
	MIKE TINDALL	(12) CENTRE	ROB HOADLEY
	TOM VOYCE	(11) WING	PAUL SACKY
	MIKE CATT	(10) FLY HALF	BARRY EVERITT
	GARETH COOPER	(9) SCRUM HALF	DARREN EDWARDS
	DAVE BARNES	(1) PROP	NEAL HATLEY
	MARK REGAN	(2) HOOKER	RICHARD KIRKE
	JOHN MALLETT	(3) PROP	ROB HARWICK
	STEVE BORTHWICK	(4) LOCK	RYAN STRUDWICK (C)
	DANNY GREWCOCK	(5) LOCK	STEVEN WILLIAMS
	GAVIN THOMAS	(6) FLANKER	RICHARD BATES
	MARK GABEY	(7) FLANKER	KIERON DAWSON
	DAN LYLE (C)	(8) NO.8	DECLAN DANAGHER

REPLACEMENTS

	ANDY WILLIAMS	(16)	HENTE MARTENS
	ANDY LONG	(17)	ED THROWER
	ADAM HOPCROFT	(18)	JAMES COCKLE
	OLLY BARKLEY	(19)	JEFF FAHRENSOHN
	SIMON DANIELLI	(20)	NAKA DROTSKE
	JAMES SCAYSBROOK	(21)	MIKE WORSLEY
	ANDY BEATTIE	(22)	SIMON HALFORD

TODAY'S OFFICIALS

REFEREE CHIU WHITE (RFU)
TOUCH JUDGES DAVID MAINSBURY & NICK COUSINS

WELCOME TO LONDON IRISH



There is a fantastic air of confidence within the London Irish camp this season.

Following a disappointing 2000-01 campaign that saw the Exiles finish eighth in the Zurich Premiership and get eliminated from the Zurich Championship at the quarter-finals, Brendan Venter's side are currently 4th in the Premiership having lost just three matches.



"A ONE-OFF COMPETITION LIKE THE POWERGEN CUP SHOULD SUIT A SIDE THAT PROFESSES TO THROW CAUTION TO THE WIND IN PLAYING OPEN, ATTRACTIVE RUGBY"

The Reading-based side can apportion a large part of this success to the breath of fresh air that Head Coach Brendan Venter has brought to the club. The former Springbok International, who had a spell with the club during the 1998-1999 season, is renowned for his attacking style of play and this is already rubbing off on his new club who are playing some breath-taking rugby at present.

On their day, the Exiles are capable of beating some of the very best sides in

English and European Rugby. Therefore, a one-off competition like the Powergen Cup should suit a side that professes to throw caution to the wind in playing open, attractive rugby.

Irish were largely unaffected by the disruptions experienced by many of the top clubs during the Autumn International period. A side that has in the past been famed for supplying a number of Irish players to the National squad, Venter lost just two, Kieron Dawson and Barry Everitt to Warren Gatland's squad for the matches against England, New Zealand and Samoa. Therefore the Exiles have been able to gel early in the season to go on a winning run that saw the club rise to second in the Premiership a fortnight ago.

A truly cosmopolitan squad has been assembled at the Madjeski Stadium. Importantly it is also a squad of proven talents who are playing for the love of the squad rather than the large wage packets that are often a big incentive to play in an attractive and lucrative Premiership. Experienced Internationals Naka Drotske and Steve Williams have been recruited to add both weight and direction to the pack, whilst Venter, himself a steady influence in an Exiles back line, that boasts young talents Paul Sackey, Rob Hoadley and Nmandi Ezulike.

Perhaps the key player for the Exiles, Barry Everitt is one of the Premiership's brightest talents. The 26-year-old fly half has come of age this season, playing superbly well outside experienced scrum half Darren Edwards on his way to a deserved place for Ireland on the bench this season.