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## teams



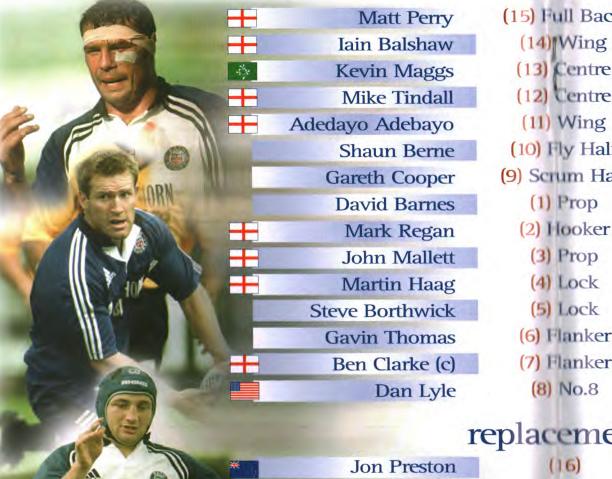




KENWOOD

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Commercial Property



H

Andy Long

Simon Emms

Phil de Glanville

**Angus Gardiner** 

**Nathan Thomas** 

Rob Thirlby

	The Falcont		
(15) Bull Pook	The contribution of		
(15) Full Back	Thomas Castaigned		1/~
(14) Wing	Darragh O'Mahony	4	
(13) Centre	Ben Johnston		
(12) Centre	Kevin Sorrell		
(11) Wing	Dan Luger	H	j.
(10) Fly Half	Duncan McRea		
9) Scrum Half	Kyran Bracken (c)	+	Of the
(1) Prop	David Flatman	-	T Y
(2) Hooker	Robbie Russell	×	
(3) Prop	Paul Wallace	47/2	
(4) Lock	Danny Grewcock	+	
(5) Lock	Bill Davidson		
(6) Flanker	Richard Hill	1	
(7) Flanker	Kris Chesney		
(8) No.8	Tony Diprose	+	
olacements			
(16)	Matt Cairns		
(17)	Gerald Arasa		
(18)	Scott Murray	×	6
0			

Tony Roques

Sean Phillips

Nick Walshe

**Brett Sparg** 

Today's officials - REFEREE Ed Morrison (RFU) - TOUCH JUDGES John Barnard (RFU) & Mike Hamlin (RFU).

(2.2)



## SVISITORS SACENS

URSTING WITH THE CREAM OF BRITISH AND ALENT, SARACENS, BLISTERING PERFORMANCES EADY ESTABLISHED THEM AS THE TEAM TO THE ZURICH PREMIERSHIP.

top of the Premiership, Francois Pienaar's side resemblance to the inconsistent and directionless only finished fourth last season due to a late run of Gone is centre, Jeremy Thompson, fly-halves acroix and Matt Leek and full back Mark Mapletoft. mself has hung up his boots to concentrate on his is Chief Executive and will certainly demand more e that has the talent to win titles.

ng two key stars of the world stage to Vicarage naar has possibly made the two outstanding of the summer. Wallaby hero Tim Horan will be the main crowd puller, with the 30-year-old over 80 caps of experience and two World Cup nedals to London with him. It is a continuation of profile signing strategy that Saracens have adopted el Wray took control of the club, following the ella, Lynah and Piennar. Horan's presence once back ry will provide a cutting-edge to a back line that rately underachieved in the past two seasons.

However, one man who has already left his trail-blazing mark on the Premiership this season is little Frenchman Thomas Castaignede. The full back has settled into his new home with effortless ease and has been the catalyst behind Saracens' excellent start to the season. Still only 22, the former Castres-Olympique star is probably the most gifted back in Northern Hemisphere rugby.

This season has seen the welcome return of two key players for Sarries. Dan Luger and Kyran Bracken are both fit, fresh and raring to go following lengthy spells sidelined with injury. For Bracken, the man in possession of the England number 9 shirt, it is crucial as Captain that he can remain injury free.

The Saracens' pack has also been playing with confidence. Capped on England's summer tour to South Africa, Julian White and David Flatman have made an excellent start to the season and with Grewcock, Murray, Hill and Diprose behind them, Saracens possess a formidable scrum.

If the forwards can win good ball which has not been the case in recent seasons, the mouth watering prospect of seeing a stylish Saracens back line wipe the floor with the opposition looks a distinct possibility.





## focus

AT JUST 21 YEARS OF AGE BEN JOHNSTON IS ALREADY BEING TIPPED AS A FUTURE ENGLAND INTERNATIONAL.

A strong, gritty centre with plenty of pace, Ben's sharp and direct running as a line breaker is a priceless asset in a game that is being dominated more often by defences. Ben signed for Saracens from Waterloo in 1998, but his first team appearances were restricted by the presence of Jeremy Thompson and Steve Ravenscroft in the Saracens' centre. However a shoulder injury to the South African Thompson, opened the door for the youngster and he has not looked back since.

After establishing a first team place at the London club, Ben had a superb season with England A. The taste of international rugby seemed to give the youngster new incentive as he was instrumental in Saracens' run of excellent results at the end of last season. So impressive were his performances for the Vicarage Road side that Ben was drafted into Clive Woodward's 41-man squad for the summer tour of South Africa where he excelled on the hard grounds. By the end of the tour Ben was seriously challenging Mike Tindall and Mike Catt for a test place.

The presence of Thomas Castaignede and double World Cup winner Tim Horan at Saracens will bring out the best in the centre as he will draw from the experience of the Australian and the inventiveness of the French full back. . If Ben continues to show the form reached over the last six months he should be in England's autumn internationals.