



POWERGEN CUP SEMI-FINAL MILLENNIUM STADIUM, CARDIFF

PRICE £4.00



ULTIMATELY
THERE CAN BE
ONLY ONE...



BATH RUGBY VS LLANELLI SCARLETS

SEMI-FINALS



SATURDAY 4TH MARCH 2006 - KICK-OFF 17.15PM

Bath Rugby Management
 Head Coach: Brian Ashton
 Coach: Michael Foley
 Coach: Richard Graham
 Team Manager: Jon Allen



Llanelli Scarlets Management
 Director of Rugby: Gareth Jenkins
 Head Coach: Nigel Davies
 Coach: Paul Moriarty
 Team Manager: Anthony Ilichianan

 STEPHENSON, Michael .15	 - FB - 	15. DAVIES, Barry	
 HIGGINS, Andy .14	 - RW - 	14. JONES, Mark	
 CROCKETT, Alex .13	 - C - 	13. WATKINS, Matthew J	
 MADDOCK, Joe .12	 - C - 	12. KING, Regan	
 BORY, David .11	 - LW - 	11. JAMES, Dafydd	
 MALONE, Chris .10	 - FH - 	10. HERCUS, Mike	
 WALSHE, Nick .9	 - SH - 	9. TBC	
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 FLATMAN, David .1	 - P - 	1. DUNLEA, Craig	
 MEARS, Lee .2	 - H - 	2. REES, Matthew	
 STEVENS, Matt .3	 - P - 	3. DAVIES, John	
 BORTHWICK, Steve (c) .4	 - L - 	4. AFEKI, Inoke	
 GREWCOCK, Danny .5	 - L - 	5. JONES, Adam	
 BEATTIE, Andy .6	 - F - 	6. EASTERBY, Simon (c)	
 LIPMAN, Michael .7	 - F - 	7. THOMAS, Gavin	
 FEAUNATI, Zak .8	 - No B - 	8. POPHAM, Alix	
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 DIXON, Pieter .16	 - R1 - 	16. WILLIAMS, Dorian	
 BELL, Duncan .17	 - R2 - 	17. GRAVELLE, Aled	
 HUDSON, James .18	 - R3 - 	18. MADDEN, Martyn	
 DELVE, Gareth .19	 - R4 - 	19. QUINNELL, Gavin	
 WILLIAMS, Andy .20	 - R5 - 	20. JONES, Dafydd	
 DUNNE, Andy .21	 - R6 - 	21. TBC	
 FINAU, Salesi .22	 - R7 - 	22. BYRNE, Lee	

• Referee: Malcolm Changleng SRU • Touch Judge: David Changleng SRU
 • Touch Judge 2: Jim Yuille SRU • Fourth Official: Iain Goodall SRU

Team line-ups are subject to change and were correct at time of going to press.

THE MYSTERY OF THE RAG DOLL

This afternoon's match between **Bath Rugby** and **Llanelli Scarlets** will be significant for the renewal of one of rugby's oldest traditions – winning possession of the **Rag Doll**, but, as Dom Rumbles discovers, there is some uncertainty regarding the origins of this great tradition.

You would be forgiven for missing one of rugby's oldest traditions in this afternoon's second Powergen Cup semi-final but if you look a little closer at the posts you may just notice what appears to be a teddy bear tied to one of the uprights.

The three foot tall 'Rag Doll' has been a permanent fixture of matches between these two great sides for almost a century. Donned in the colours of the side that won the last encounter, the Rag Doll is hoisted up onto the upright where it is strapped in place to view the battle between these two sides before being presented to the winning captain.

However, there are some notable discrepancies as to the origins of this wonderful tradition. If you believe the historical accounts originating in Wales the Rag Doll was first presented to the winners of this fixture during the period between the wars when Mrs Rosina Rotherly (the licensee of the Queens Head in Box, Wiltshire from 1932-1957)

presented the first doll. Although records are a little sketchy, Bath club historian and stalwart Peter Hall believes the more romantic notion that the tradition started on the other side of the Severn.

"I have been back through my programmes, but the earliest I have around that date is 1925," said Hall, a stalwart of the club for many years, and father of former Club Captain and Director of Rugby John. "However, I have many references to the Doll and I have a quote from 1921 that says that the original doll was presented by Mr T R Mills."

There is substantial documented evidence to back Hall's opinion which suggests that Mrs Rotherly's doll was a replacement for the original which was donated by the 'Scarlets' President, Mr. T R Mills, who was 'mine host' at the former Salutation Hotel, Llanelli. It followed Llanelli's 16-0 win at Stradey Park on 12th March 1921. It was presented on the condition,

that it would adorn the goal posts at every subsequent Bath v Llanelli match. This agreement had been faithfully honoured.

Indeed the Rag Doll that you will see tied to the posts today is at least the grandson of the 1921 original as there have been a number of replacement dolls over the years. One was believed to have been thrown in the River Avon after a famous Bath win!

Whilst there may be some doubt over the origins of this three foot mascot, there is no such thinking behind the importance of these Anglo-Welsh encounters as former

Bath legend Richard Hill explained in an interview with The Daily Telegraph.

"One of the high points of the season for me was the Llanelli encounter," Hill recalled. "Both teams used to play for a rag doll which was hung on the goal posts. The doll was

dressed in the colours of the team that had won the game. It sounds silly but the Rag Doll is a great tradition and a charming character to keep the tradition alive.



For more information on the Rag Doll, visit our website at www.bathrugby.com

remember the Rag Doll well. As a young boy I used to wonder why I was hanging a kid from the crossbars! Seriously, it's a great tradition and it's wonderful that this professional club still has such quirky things like the Rag Doll.

"The two clubs have some fantastic encounters over the years and things could always be relied on: the Bath and a great opportunity of rugby. And it will be the same for the Millennium Stadium March – I can't wait!"

There will be no just pride and honour final at stake v Llanelli as two teams go to the final whistle at 5.15pm.



If anyone might be able to shed some more light on this fascinating piece of two clubs' history please get in touch with Dom Rumbles on 01225 325 200 or dom.rumbles@bathrugby.com

Before the Lemons - A new Bath Football Club RFL 100p book is in the shops now.