



VS

BRIDGEND

PARKER PEN CHALLENGE CUP
ROUND 2 SECOND LEG
SATURDAY 14 DECEMBER 2002
KICK-OFF 2.15pm



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PARKER PEN CHALLENGE CUP

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**round
two**



TODAY'S TEAMS



	IAIN BALSHAW	(15) FULL BACK	MATT JAMES	
	SIMON DANIELLI	(14) WING	CRAIG WARLOW	
	KEVIN MAGGS	(13) CENTRE	GARETH THOMAS (C)	
	MIKE TINDALL	(12) CENTRE	SIUA TAUMALOLO	
	ALEX CROCKETT	(11) WING	AISEA HAVILI	
	OLLY BARKLEY	(10) FLY HALF	SIMON MANNIX	
	GARETH COOPER	(9) SCRUM HALF	SILIO MARTENS	
	DAVID BARNES	(1) PROP	CHRISTIAN LOADER	
	JONATHAN HUMPHREYS(C)	(2) HOOKER	GARETH WILLIAMS	
	JOHN MALLET	(3) PROP	CHRIS HORSMAN	
	STEVE BORTHWICK	(4) LOCK	DEINIOL JONES	
	ANDY BEATTIE	(5) LOCK	NATHAN BUDGETT	
	GAVIN THOMAS	(6) FLANKER	MAAMA MOLITIKA	
	ADAM VANDER	(7) FLANKER	RICHARD BRYAN	
	NATHAN THOMAS	(8) NO.8	CORY HARRIS	
	ANDY WILLIAMS	(16)	PHIL BOOTH	
	LEE MEARS	(17)	JOHN THIEL	
	ALESSIO GALASSO	(18)	RYAN JONES	
	CHRIS MALONE	(19)	SHAWN VAN RENSBURG	
	TOM VOYCE	(20)	BEN PHILLIPS	
	JAMES SCAYSBROOK	(21)	HUW HARRIES	
	ANDY LLOYD	(22)	RICHARD MUSTOE	

BLACKTHORN.



TODAY'S OFFICIALS

REFEREE JOEL DUME (FRANCE)

TOUCH JUDGES CHRISTOPHE BERDOS,
JEAN-PIERRE PELLAPRAL



PARKER PEN CHALLENGE CUP

Bridgend

By Dom Rumbles



Bridgend's recent results have shown that they are one of the form sides in the Principality at present



Last weekend's European action instilled a bit of pride back into Welsh rugby after the hammering that it has received over the past couple of weeks. Llanelli, Newport and Swansea all defeated Zurich Premiership opposition in the Heineken Cup, whilst Pontypridd and Bridgend have been flying the flag for the Celtic nation in the Parker Pen Challenge Cup.

Bridgend staged an impressive 28-26 victory over Bath Rugby in a wonderful match at the Brewery Field last Friday night, and have proven that there is most definitely life left in Welsh club rugby despite recent rumblings of mergers and provincial sides. Indeed, Bridgend's recent results have shown that they are one of the form sides in the Principality at present. In warming up for this second-round tie, Allan Lewis's side did the double over the Scarlets in home and away friendlies, and despite their lack of competitive rugby owing to their early exit from the Celtic league are looking fresh, sharp and dangerous.

The two-point victory over Bath Rugby in the first leg was a significant psychological one for the Welsh side as they can go into this afternoon's match knowing that with honours almost even in a 'winner takes all' match, they can compete with English sides from the much-admired Zurich Premiership.

Captain Gareth Thomas is back to his best and the winner of 61 caps for Wales has proven an inspirational captain for his side. He is a solid centre who takes a lot of stopping when he hits the line at pace. His two well-taken tries in the first leg set up the advantage for Bridgend and his excellent recent form for his club has placed him firmly back in favour



with the Wales management.

A few familiar faces will be making their return to the Rec this afternoon. Bridgend coach Richard Webster was Bath Rugby's captain during the 1998/99 season. A wonderful character, 'Webby' has been one of the driving forces behind the resurgence at the Brewery Field over the past couple of seasons.

Former England Under 21 prop Chris Horsman will also be making his first return to the Rec after joining Bridgend via Bedford. Chris is a powerful scrummager and brings a lot to the Ravens' game as he is blessed with pace and is also an extremely effective ball carrier. The third former Bath man in the Bridgend squad is Richard Bryan, who has been playing well at number eight this season.

A lot of Bridgend's play is based on a tremendous platform presented by a strong pack that can scrummage extremely well, and they will be looking to exploit this area this afternoon. However, the Ravens also possess a powerful set of direct-running backs, with Tongans Siua Taumalolo and Aisea Havili at the heart of their power play. This will be an absorbing contest.