

OFFICIAL MATCH PROGRAMME £2.50

Volume 3 Issue 15

RugbyCall 09068 884554

www.bathrugby.com

*The further  
it goes,  
the harder  
it gets.*



**PARKER PEN  
CHALLENGE  
CUP**

**PARKER PEN CHALLENGE CUP**

**SEMI FINAL**

**SECOND LEG**

**BATH RUGBY v SARACENS**



**SARACENS**

**SAT 26TH APRIL KICK-OFF 2.15PM**



**PARKER PEN CHALLENGE CUP**



















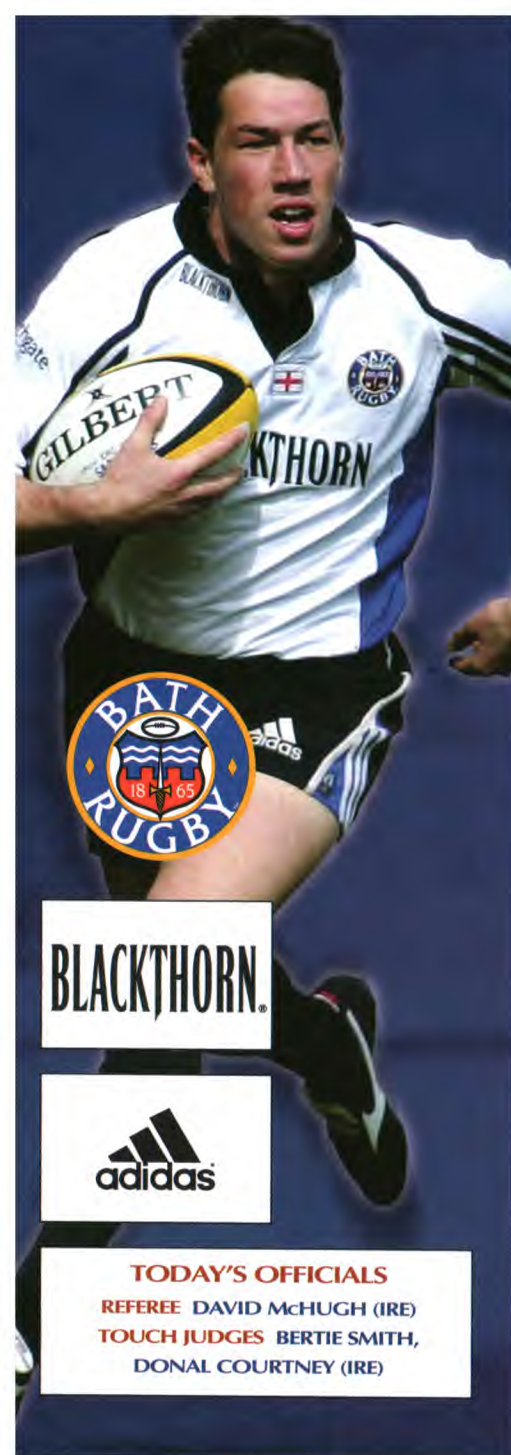
# TODAY'S TEAMS

## BATH RUGBY

## SARACENS

|   |                    |                |                    |   |
|---|--------------------|----------------|--------------------|---|
|    | MATT PERRY         | (15) FULL BACK | THOMAS CASTAIGNEDE |    |
|    | IAIN BALSHAW       | (14) WING      | RICHARD HAUGHTON   |    |
|    | KEVIN MAGGS        | (13) CENTRE    | THOMAS SHANKLIN    |    |
|    | MIKE TINDALL       | (12) CENTRE    | TIM HORAN          |    |
|    | ELVIS SEVEALI'I    | (11) WING      | BEN JOHNSTON       |    |
|    | OLLY BARKLEY       | (10) FLY HALF  | NICKY LITTLE       |    |
|    | GARETH COOPER      | (9) SCRUM HALF | KYRAN BRACKEN (C)  |    |
|    | DAVE BARNES        | (1) PROP       | CHRISTIAN CALIFANO |    |
|    | ANDY LONG          | (2) HOOKER     | ROBBIE RUSSELL     |    |
|    | JOHN MALLETT       | (3) PROP       | JOHNNY MARSTERS    |    |
|    | STEVE BORTHWICK    | (4) LOCK       | CRAIG YANDELL      |    |
|    | DANNY GREWCOCK (C) | (5) LOCK       | ABDEL BENAZZI      |    |
|    | GAVIN THOMAS       | (6) FLANKER    | BEN RUSSELL        |    |
|    | ANDY BEATTIE       | (7) FLANKER    | TONY ROQUES        |    |
|    | NATHAN THOMAS      | (8) NO.8       | BEN SKIRVING       |    |
|  | ROSS BLAKE         | (16)           | JOE ROSS           |  |
|  | MATT STEVENS       | (17)           | MATT CAIRNS        |  |
|  | ALESSIO GALASSO    | (18)           | STUART HOOPER      |  |
|  | TOM VOYCE          | (19)           | RYAN PEACEY        |  |
|  | CHRIS MALONE       | (20)           | MORGAN WILLIAMS    |  |
|  | JAMES SCAYSBROOK   | (21)           | ANDY GOODE         |  |
|  | GARETH DELVE       | (22)           | KEVIN SORRELL      |  |

|   |                  |      |                 |   |
|---|------------------|------|-----------------|---|
|  | ROSS BLAKE       | (16) | JOE ROSS        |  |
|  | MATT STEVENS     | (17) | MATT CAIRNS     |  |
|  | ALESSIO GALASSO  | (18) | STUART HOOPER   |  |
|  | TOM VOYCE        | (19) | RYAN PEACEY     |  |
|  | CHRIS MALONE     | (20) | MORGAN WILLIAMS |  |
|  | JAMES SCAYSBROOK | (21) | ANDY GOODE      |  |
|  | GARETH DELVE     | (22) | KEVIN SORRELL   |  |





# Saracens



**I**f the first leg was anything to go by, then this afternoon's Parker Pen Challenge Cup semi-final second leg should be a belter of a game. Defending an eight-point lead, Wayne Shelford's side know that they have a two-score advantage over Bath Rugby coming into the game, but whilst a solid defence will obviously be the key for the Watford-based side, Saracens will enter the game in determined mood. \*

'I was pleased to get the win,' explained Shelford to [www.saracens.com](http://www.saracens.com) after seeing his side triumph 38-30 in the try-feast at Vicarage Road a fortnight ago. 'We had a lot of young guys out there and after a shaky start I thought they settled down well. Yeah, we could have taken more of an advantage with us, but when we head down to Bath in a couple of weeks we're going down there to win, not defend a lead.'

Importantly, the victory will have had a massive psychological effect on the Saracens side. The win was their first in any competition since 12 January, and will have gone a long way to restoring pride and self-belief to the side heading into this match.

Shelford is right in believing that his side can make the final, which is to be held at the Madejski Stadium. After all, Saracens can boast a side full of match-



■ RICHARD HILL

winners - Bracken, Hill, Horan, Shanklin, Castaignède, Califano and O'Mahony have all played at the highest level for their respective countries and are quality players. Hill and Horan were both missing for the first leg but are expected to return this afternoon. They are the crux of this Saracens side and, along with Bracken, provide the drive and direction.

Saracens certainly showed plenty of invention in the first leg, with Johnston, Shanklin and Haughton in particular catching the eye, and they also proved that they are a very dangerous side on the counter. Indeed, all but one of their four tries were sparked by counter-attacks deep inside their own half.

Like Bath's, Saracens' Zurich Premiership campaign has not exactly gone to plan this season, but the Parker Pen Challenge Cup has proven a fruitful and happy diversion from the pressures of the domestic competition. Shelford's side knocked out Dinamo Bucuresti in the opening round - a match that will stick in the memory for a couple of Bucuresti forwards going AWOL. Saracens then went on to defeat Colomiers, before surviving an all-Premiership battle against Newcastle Falcons to reach the semi-finals.

So the scene is set. Saracens know that they will have to be at their best this afternoon at a packed Recreation Ground if they are to preserve their eight-point advantage and progress to their first ever European final.

