



**MATCH
SPONSORS**

HAMPTONS
INTERNATIONAL

VS
NEC
HARLEQUINS



ZURICH PREMIERSHIP
SATURDAY 28 DECEMBER 2002
KICK-OFF 2.15pm

SPONSORS

BLACKTHORN



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TODAY'S TEAMS



	IAIN BALSHAW	(15) FULL BACK	NATHAN WILLIAMS	
	SIMON DANIELLI	(14) WING	MATT MOORE	
	KEVIN MAGGS	(13) CENTRE	WILL GREENWOOD	
	MIKE TINDALL	(12) CENTRE	VILIAME SATALA	
	TOM VOYCE	(11) WING	BEN GOLLINGS	
	OLLY BARKLEY	(10) FLY HALF	PAUL BURKE	
	GARETH COOPER	(9) SCRUM HALF	NICK DUNCOMBE	
	DAVID BARNES	(1) PROP	JASON LEONARD	
	JONATHAN HUMPHREYS	(2) HOOKER	TANI FUGA	
	JOHN MALLET	(3) PROP	LAURENT GOMEZ	
	STEVE BORTHWICK	(4) LOCK	BILL DAVISON	
	DANNY GREWCOCK (C)	(5) LOCK	ALEX CODLING	
	GAVIN THOMAS	(6) FLANKER	ACE TIATIA	
	ADAM VANDER	(7) FLANKER	ANDRE VOS	
	NATHAN THOMAS	(8) NO.8	TONY DIPROSE	
	ANDY WILLIAMS	(16)	PABLO CARDINALLI	
	ANDY LONG	(17)	KARL RUDZKI	
	ALESSIO GALASSO	(18)	JIM EVANS	
	MATT PERRY	(19)	PAT SANDERSON	
	MIKE CATT	(20)	SCOTT BEMAND	
	JAMES SCAYSBROOK	(21)	ROB JEWELL	
	ANDY BEATTIE	(22)	CHRIS BEL	



TODAY'S MATCH SPONSOR

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TODAY'S OFFICIALS
 REFEREE CHRIS WHITE
 TOUCH JUDGES GERAINT ASHTON-JONES
 & ACHERY DEAN



Connections - NEC Harlequins

By Russell Gibbs

Down the years Bath Rugby and NEC Harlequins have been involved in many memorable matches, from important title-deciding league games through to nail-biting cup semi-finals - and, of course, the 1992 Pilkington Cup final won so sweetly thanks to Stuart Barnes's long-range drop goal. But while there has been a proliferation of great players on both teams during these encounters, very few have worn the colours of both sides in the professional era. In fact, the current tally of players to have turned out regularly at the Rec and the Stoop stands at only two.

At the beginning of season 2000/01, Bath Rugby were on the lookout for a prop forward to take the pressure off their regular front row men Clem Boyd, Victor Ubogu, Chris Horsman and John Mallett. NEC Harlequins' David Barnes filled the profile and duly signed prior to the beginning of the new campaign. The likeable prop took part in the pre-season friendly at Llanelli, a match split into four quarters of 20 minutes, and did enough to warrant a starting spot in the first league match of the season against Sale Sharks.

Thus David duly packed down at Heywood Road for his Bath debut and acquitted himself well despite the disappointment of seeing the side beaten by the narrowest of margins, 31-32. David made the number one shirt his own for the opening months of the season, but understandably tired thereafter and shared the responsibility with Mallett and new arrival Simon Emms. Incredibly, after November these three would rotate the front row positions between

them, placing extra emphasis on their fitness and scrummaging skills.

Testament to Barnes's enduring physicality is the remarkable fact that since his debut in August 2000 he has only missed one match through injury. Indeed, he has figured in every game played by the club, apart from that one fixture, in the last two years - a phenomenal achievement in an era which exacts a heavy toll on rugby players. Barnes has notched one try for the club, the crucial opening score in the Zurich Championship play-off semi-final against London Wasps at Loftus Road in 2000/01, when he burrowed over from close range. He has also featured in three Barbarians line-ups and plied his club trade at West Hartlepool and Newcastle Falcons prior to joining Harlequins.

Scottish international number 8 Eric Peters marked his Bath Rugby debut with a trademark try in a 19-27 friendly defeat at Stradey Park, Llanelli, in October 1993. The affable back row man went on to play 93 matches for the club in an injury-plagued Bath career and scored 19 tries. His time at Bath was brought to a premature end when he shattered his kneecap in a freak accident at the Rec during a league match with Leicester Tigers in April 1999. His final try for the club had come a week earlier in a 33-14 win at Saracens.

Eric battled for full fitness, but was eventually released by Bath, only to bounce back by signing for Harlequins. He suffered a further injury setback while at the London-based side, but showed admirable

determination to recover and was an integral part of the Exeter Chiefs side that reached the Powergen Shield final at Twickenham in 2002. Such was his remarkable recovery, Eric found himself recalled to the Scotland squad and hopes to add to his 29 full caps which have yielded five tries to date. He has also played seven times for the Barbarians.

The September 1999 fixture between Bath and Harlequins marked the debut of another prop, Matt Filippo. Matt, who was on loan from Fylde during the World Cup, made three replacement appearances for Bath after the 30-10 win at the Stoop, before rejoining Fylde. He also represented Bridgend and Counties Manukau (New Zealand). Scrum half Rob Chrystie also made his Bath debut against Harlequins, this time in the 18-9 win in February 2002. Rob, who was signed from Melrose, has also played club rugby for Hawick and made two appearances last term.

