

# BATH RUGBY

V CONNACHT RUGBY • SATURDAY 28TH OCTOBER 2006 • KICK-OFF 2.15PM



**EUROPE**  
All the action

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Drumming  
and plumbing

**NICK ABENDANON**

**Explosive start for the young full-back**

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**European Challenge Cup**





European Challenge Cup

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Head Coach Steve Meehan

TODAY'S | TEAMS

Head Coach Michael Bradley

BATH RUGBY



CONNACHT RUGBY

T C P D




Matt **PERRY**  
Andy **HIGGINS**  
Shaun **BERNE**  
Eliota **FUIMAONO-SAPOLU**  
David **BORY**  
Chris **MALONE**  
Nick **WALSHE**

15 FULLBACK 15  
14 RIGHT WING 14  
13 CENTRE 13  
12 CENTRE 12  
11 LEFT WING 11  
10 FLY HALF 10  
9 SCRUM HALF 9




David **BARNES**  
Rob **HAWKINS**  
David **FLATMAN**  
Peter **SHORT**  
Rob **FIDLER**  
Andy **BEATTIE (C)**  
James **SCAYSBROOK**  
Isaac **FEAUNATI**

1 PROP 1  
2 HOOKER 2  
3 PROP 3  
4 LOCK 4  
5 LOCK 5  
6 FLANKER 6  
7 FLANKER 7  
8 NO. 8 8




Lee **MEARS**  
Laurence **OVENS**  
Chris **GOODMAN**  
Danny **GREWCOCK**  
Tom **CHEESEMAN**  
Joe **MADDOCK**  
Andy **WILLIAMS**

16 REPLACEMENT 16  
17 REPLACEMENT 17  
18 REPLACEMENT 18  
19 REPLACEMENT 19  
20 REPLACEMENT 20  
21 REPLACEMENT 21  
22 REPLACEMENT 22

T C P D


Daniel **RIORDAN**  
Matt **MOSTYN**  
Paul **WARWICK**  
Gavin **WILLIAMS**  
Darren **YAPP**  
Mark **MCHUGH (C)**  
Chris **KEANE**


Brett **WILKINSON**  
Adrian **FLAVIN**  
Ray **HOGAN**  
David **GANNON**  
Andrew **FARLEY**  
John **MULDOON**  
Matt **LACEY**  
Colm **RIGNEY**


John **FOGARTY**  
Michael **DIFFLEY**  
Michael **SWIFT**  
Matt **LACEY**  
Tom **TIERNEY**  
John **HEARTY**  
Ted **ROBINSON**

FINAL SCORE

TODAY'S OFFICIALS: Referee | David Rosich (France) Touch Judges | Akim Hadj-Bachir and Jerome Garces

FINAL SCORE





# CHALLENGE CUP SPECIALISTS

## LOOKING FORWARD TO FIRST TRIP TO THE REC

WORDS | FERGUS LYNCH

**C**onnacht will be hoping to kick-start their European Challenge Cup campaign after being denied a win against NEC Harlequins last week by an 82nd-minute penalty from the boot of Adrian Jarvis.

Connacht looked to be heading to victory after Paul Warwick converted a Colm Rigney try with seven minutes remaining in a tight encounter.

The Challenge Cup has traditionally

been Connacht's most successful competition, the club having made it to two semi-finals in the last three years as well as being quarter-finalists last year.

Connacht will become the first team to have played 70 matches in the competition when they play Bath Rugby at home in the fifth round in January and are one of only two teams to have played in the competition every year since it began

eleven years ago, the other being their European rivals Narbonne.

Connacht's season began brightly with an away win in Galashiels to the Border Reivers, with tries from Paul Warwick and Gavin Williams. This was followed by a home win against the Ospreys by 15-10, with all 15 points coming from the boot of the prolific Mark McHugh.

Two weeks ago Connacht overcame a strong Newport Gwent Dragons outfit by 16-9 and were unlucky not to take all the points in their 22-22 draw with Edinburgh Rugby earlier in the season.

Connacht bolstered their squad during the summer with the signing of several quality forwards such as Brett Wilkinson, Ray Ofisa, Adrian Flavin and Brett Sturgess. Michael Bradley's men are hoping to come away with full points today in Bath, in the first ever meeting between the two sides.

Having begun the season with an away fixture, Connacht are now coming off a run of seven consecutive home matches. Today's fixture against Bath Rugby is the first of four away matches in all competitions, as Connacht travel to Glasgow next Friday before taking on Cardiff the following week at the Arms Park and then taking on Munster away in what has been a fiercely contested encounter in recent seasons.

Last week's narrow loss will do nothing but inspire Connacht, who have contested the knockout stages in each of the last four seasons in

