

BATH RUGBY

V NEC HARLEQUINS • SATURDAY 16TH DECEMBER 2006

KICK-OFF 2.15PM

HARLEQUINS

An overview

THE REC

Draft proposals out



MARK BAKEWELL

Looking forward

Sponsors



Helphire



northgate

European
Challenge
Cup

European Challenge Cup



TEAM SHEET

BATH RUGBY

GUINNESS PREMIERSHIP

NEC HARLEQUINS

PLAYER	PTS	SUB	POSITION	PLAYER	PTS	SUB
15. Nick ABENDANON			FULLBACK	15. Mike BROWN		
14. Joe MADDOCK			RIGHT WING	14. David STRETTLE		
13. Eliota FUIMAONO-SAPOLU			OUTSIDE CENTRE	13. Hal LUSCOMBE		
12. Olly BARKLEY			INSIDE CENTRE	12. Stuart ABBOTT		
11. Michael STEPHENSON			LEFT WING	11. Simon KEOGH		
10. Chris MALONE			FLY HALF	10. Adrian JARVIS		
9. Nick WALSHE			SCRUM HALF	9. Andy GOMARSALL		
1. David BARNES			LOOSEHEAD PROP	1. Aston CROALL		
2. Lee MEARS			HOKKER	2. Tani FUGA		
3. Matt STEVENS			TIGHTHEAD PROP	3. Mike ROSS		
4. Steve BORTHWICK ©			SECOND ROW	4. Ollie KOHN		
5. Danny GREWCOCK			SECOND ROW	5. Nicolas SPANGHERO		
6. Andy BEATTIE			BLINDSIDE FLANKER	6. Andre VOS		
7. James SCAYSBROOK			OPENSIDE FLANKER	7. Paul VOLLEY ©		
8. Zak FEAUNATI			NUMBER EIGHT	8. Nick EASTER		
16. Pieter DIXON (hooker)			SUBSTITUTE	16. Jimmy RICHARDS (hooker)		
17. Aaron JARVIS (prop)			SUBSTITUTE	17. Ricky NEBBETT (prop)		
18. Peter SHORT (lock/ back row)			SUBSTITUTE	18. Jim EVANS (lock)		
19. Gareth DELVE (back row)			SUBSTITUTE	19. Will SKINNER (back row)		
20. Michael LIPMAN (flanker)			SUBSTITUTE	20. Chris HALA'UFIA (back row)		
21. Andy WILLIAMS (s.h./wing)			SUBSTITUTE	21. Steve SO'OIALO (scrum half)		
22. Shaun BERNE (fly-half/ centre)			SUBSTITUTE	22. Mel DEANE (centre)		

REF: ROB DEBNEY

TOUCH JUDGES: ASHLEY REAY & ROGER BAILEFF



BACK IN THE TOP FLIGHT

WORDS | WILL THOMAS PICTURES | CWSports & GETTYIMAGES



“Quins will be looking to get back to winning ways against Bath this weekend”

NEC Harlequins put the ignominy of relegation to National Division One in 2004/05 behind them by bouncing straight back into the Premiership at the first attempt.

They then bolstered their squad with an exciting blend of youth and experience. England centre Stuart Abbott, a member of the 2003 World Cup-winning squad, made the switch from local rivals London Wasps and has formed an exciting centre partnership with Welsh international Hal Luscombe, who joined from the Dragons. Youngsters such as Danny Care, Adrian Jarvis, Jordan Turner-Hall and Mike Brown have also

opportunities in the first team.

Since the season began Quins have also signed Craig McMullen and scrum-half Andy Gomersall, who has rejuvenated his playing career at Quins with a string of encouraging performances.

Quins' season began against their great rivals London Irish in the London Double Header at Twickenham. In a close encounter, a Ceri Jones try seven minutes from time looked to have sealed a victory, but Riki Flutey spoilt the party with a dramatic late penalty to give London Irish a 20-19 win.

In Quins' first home Premiership game, they let a ten-point lead slip as visitors Gloucester won 31-21.

discipline led to a third consecutive defeat. A visit from Leicester Tigers followed, which saw Dean Richards face his old club for the first time. Although Quins went into the break 9-5 up and Jarvis scored five penalties in the match, the Tigers left the capital 15-21 winners.

A break from the Guinness Premiership for the EDF Energy Cup gave little respite, as losses to Llanelli Scarlets and Sale put paid to any chance of progress, and back in Premiership action Quins' losing streak continued with an away defeat to Bristol.

But the European Challenge Cup began well, as Quins impressively beat Connacht on their own patch 19-18. When Montpellier visited the Twickenham Stoop, Quins treated fans to an eight try mauling, including a hat-trick by Mike Brown, which left Quins top of pool four.

With this momentum, Harlequins secured their first Guinness Premiership victory of the season at the sixth attempt, an impressive 34-19 defeat of Northampton Saints, followed by their first away league victory at Newcastle (14-3) and then a home win over Worcester (20-6), a run that saw Dean Richards receive the Director of Rugby of the Month award. However, with recent defeats to Sale in the league, Newcastle in the EDF Energy Cup and Bath last weekend, Quins will be looking to get back to winning ways against Bath this weekend in a game that could go a long way to determining who progresses to the next phase of the European Challenge Cup.