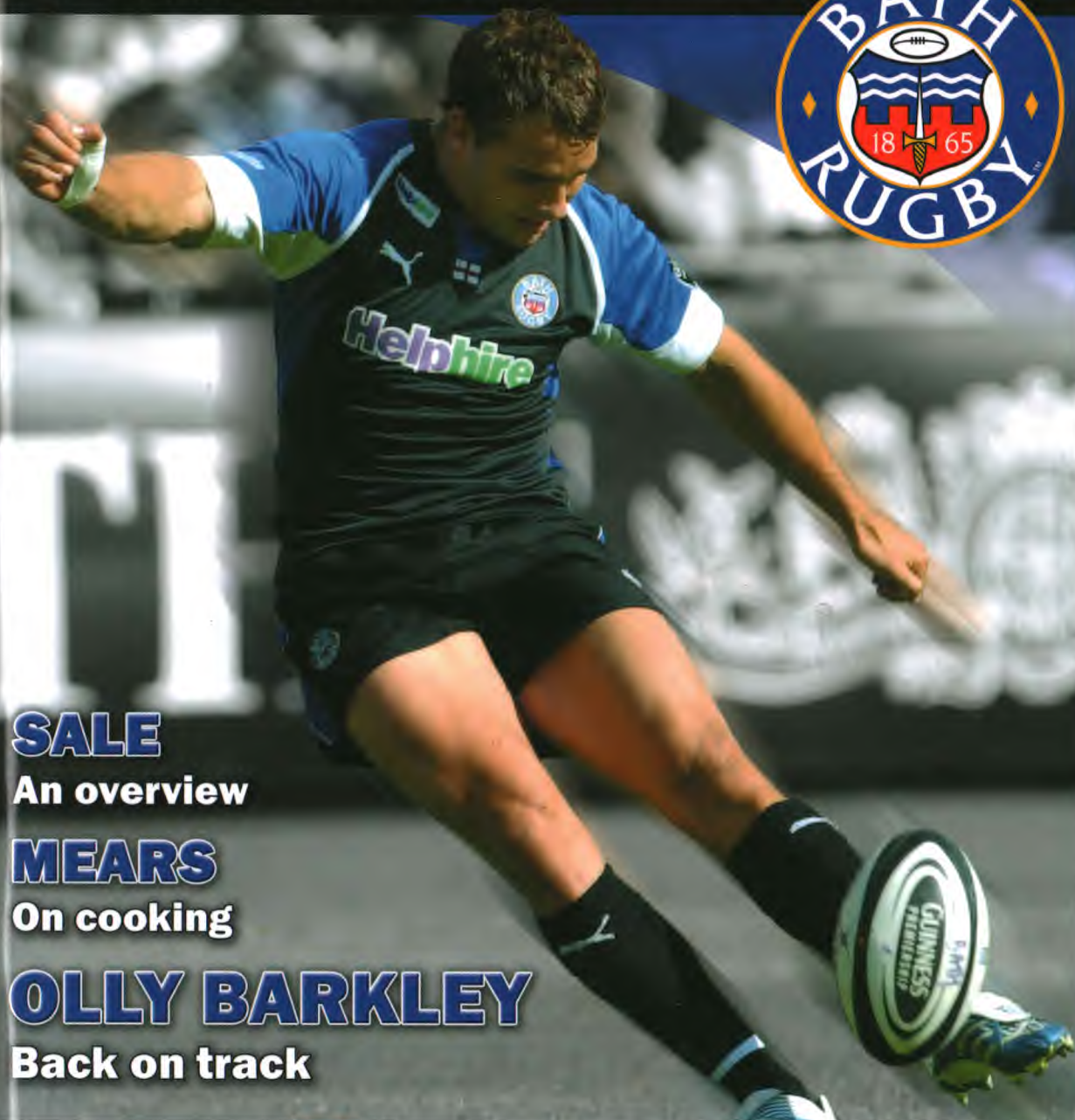


BATH RUGBY

V SALE SHARKS • FRIDAY 22ND DECEMBER 2006 • KICK-OFF 7.45PM



SALE

An overview

MEARS

On cooking

OLLY BARKLEY

Back on track

Sponsors



Helphire



northgate
INFORMATION SOLUTIONS



BATH RUGBY



SALE SHARKS

T C P D



- Nick **ABENDANON**
- Joe **MADDOCK**
- Chev **WALKER**
- Eliota **FUIMAONO-SAPOLU**
- David **BORY**
- Chris **MALONE**
- Nick **WALSHE**



- David **BARNES**
- Lee **MEARS**
- Jon **DAWSON**
- Peter **SHORT**
- Danny **GREWCOCK**
- Andy **BEATTIE**
- Jonny **FAAMATUAINU**
- Isaac **FEAUNATI (C)**



- Dave **WARD**
- Laurence **OVENS**
- Rob **FIDLER**
- James **SCAYSBROOK**
- Michael **STEPHENSON**
- Olly **BARKLEY**
- Pietro **TRAVAGLI**

- 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

- 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

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

- Jason **ROBINSON**
- Ben **FODEN**
- Chris **MAYOR**
- Chris **BELL**
- Oriol **RIPOL**
- Lee **THOMAS**
- Richard **WIGGLESWORTH**

- Eifion **ROBERTS**
- Andy **TITTERRELL**
- Barry **STEWART**
- Dean **SCHOFIELD**
- Chris **JONES**
- Juan Martin **FERNANDEZ LOBBE**
- Magnus **LUND**
- Sebastien **CHABAL**

- Pierre **GAONA**
- Stuart **TURNER**
- Lionel **FAURE**
- Nathan **BONNER-EVANS**
- Sililo **MARTENS**
- Daniel **LARRACHEA**
- Steve **HANLEY**

T C P D

FINAL SCORE

TODAY'S OFFICIALS: Referee | Ashley Rowden | Touch Judges | Ashley Reay and Andrew Pearce

FINAL SCORE



NO LONGER 'JUST A SMALL CLUB IN CHESHIRE'

WORDS | DAVE SWANTON PICTURES | GETTYIMAGES



Back at the turn of the Millennium, business man and amateur rugby player Brian Kennedy bought the near bankrupt Sale Rugby Club with a vision that they would one day be Champions of England and the best supported club in the country – a team to represent the huge potential of the North West of England.

Six seasons later, on a wet May afternoon at Twickenham in front of 50,000 fans, a team laced with internationals in almost every position trounced Leicester Tigers 45-20 to become the first ever team to finish the regular season

top of the league and go on to win the Championship play-off.

Contrary to popular belief, however, Sale's success has not been down simply to the depth of the Kennedy wallet. True, in common with most owners of Premiership clubs, he has sunk a significant sum of money in to the club he loves, but this was to cover the losses of the early years and to improve facilities, not to buy in success. Kennedy puts the success of Sale Sharks down to the personnel he has put in place, on and off the field, to understand and deliver his vision.

"Coming to the end of their

playing careers were Jim Mallinder and Steve Diamond," Kennedy says, "who I would later place in charge of all rugby matters as Director of Rugby and Head Coach respectively. Here were two guys steeped in the history of what it meant to play for Sale, and who were able to mould a genuine team around our shared vision. In late 2004 however, I recruited Philippe Saint-André to take the club to the next level. This was not a reflection on either Jim or Steve, simply that to move forward any business needs to be ready to embrace change and new influences."

The move to Edgeley Park for the start of the 2003/4 season was also critical to the success that the club now enjoys. Their previous home at Heywood Road was, whilst much beloved by generations of fans, wholly inadequate. Edgeley Park has remained broadly filled ever since England's World Cup success, and the club are now having to consider plans for expanding the capacity.

So where next for Sale Sharks? This season they have reached the semi-finals of the EDF Energy Cup, lie fifth in the Guinness Premiership, and Europe has been a priority. Kennedy hopes that more success will lead Sale Sharks to become a "true giant of the global game."

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