

# Bath Rugby

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The Official Matchday Programme Of Bath Rugby



Heineken Cup  
**Vs Leinster Rugby**  
Sunday 22nd January 2006  
Kick-off 3.00pm

## INSIDE:

### New ARRIVALS

We catch up with  
Bath's latest signings

### Leinster RUGBY

All you need to know  
about today's opponents

### Salesi FINAU

Bath's Tongan power-  
house on life in the centre



# Heineken® Cup

★ Heineken



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Round Six



# Bath RUGBY



# Leinster RUGBY



	Michael STEPHENSON	15	Full Back	15	Girvan DEMPSEY	
	Andy HIGGINS	14	Right Wing	14	Shane HORGAN	
	Tom CHEESEMAN	13	Centre	13	Brian O'DRISCOLL ©	
	Salesi FINAU	12	Centre	12	Gordon D'ARCY	
	Frikkie WELSH	11	Left Wing	11	Denis HICKIE	
	Olly BARKLEY	10	Fly Half	10	Felipe CONTEPOMI	
	Nick WALSHE	9	Scrum Half	9	Guy EASTERBY	

	David FLATMAN	1	Prop	1	Reggie CORRIGAN	
	Lee MEARS	2	Hooker	2	Brian BLANEY	
	Matt STEVENS	3	Prop	3	Will GREEN	
	Steve BORTHWICK ©	4	Lock	4	Bryce WILLIAMS	
	Danny GREWCOCK	5	Lock	5	Malcolm O'KELLY	
	Andy BEATTIE	6	Flanker	6	Cameron JOWITT	
	Michael LIPMAN	7	Flanker	7	Keith GLEESON	
	Gareth DELVE	8	No 8	8	Jamie HEASLIP	

	Pieter DIXON	16		16	David BLANEY	
	Duncan BELL	17		17	Emmett BYRNE	
	Peter SHORT	18		18	Adam BYRNES	
	James SCAYSBROOK	19		19	Eric MILLER	
	James HUDSON	20		20	Brian O'RIORDAN	
	Andy WILLIAMS	21		21	Kieran LEWIS	
	Chris MALONE	22		22	Rob KEARNEY	



HEAD COACH  
Brian ASHTON



HEAD COACH  
Michael CHEIKA



Today's Officials Referee Nigel Owens Touch Judges Gareth Simmonds & Hugh Lewis



# Heineken® Cup



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Rot



# LIONS MUST ROAR TO KEEP THEIR HOPES ALIVE

Compiled by: Dom Rumbles



**L**einster coach Michael Cheika wants his side to 'power up' for today's make or break Heineken

**Cup pool five encounter against pool five leaders Bath Rugby at the Recreation Ground.**

The Australian saw his Lions side run in eight tries in their victory over down and out Glasgow Warriors at the RDS last weekend, but Cheika knows that nothing other than a bonus point win will suffice this afternoon if his side are to stand a chance of securing a best-placed runners-up spot in the last eight of the competition. He also believes that his side will have to take the game to Bath up front if they are to achieve the result that they are looking for.

Speaking after his side's 46-22 rout of Glasgow at the RDS, Cheika said, "If we are going to challenge the bigger teams we're going to have to 'power up'. We did do well, but we've got a lot more to offer, and I hope that we will be doing that next week in Bath."

So Leinster arrive at the Rec this afternoon in a positive frame of mind, and so they should be as it appears that their long list of injury concerns that has blighted their campaign are finally abating. On their day Leinster have the best back line in Europe. Any side that can field the mercurial talents of Felipe Contepomi, Brian O'Driscoll, Dennis Hickie, Gordon D'Arcy, Girvan Dempsey and the precious talent of Rob Kearney in a back line, is going to be a threat.

The key for Leinster will be whether the



forwards can supply such talented backs with a decent supply of ball against what is one of the best lineouts in Europe. Last season at the Rec, Leinster's eight won just six of their twenty-one lineouts and Michael Cheika will be looking for an improved performance from his pack this time around.

Those stats won't worry Cheika though. After all he wasn't the Leinster coach last season and many of the pack that played on that entertaining afternoon at the Rec have moved on to pastures new. This season Leinster have a completely different pack, a younger pack and perhaps a more inexperienced pack. It has taken them time to gel in Europe this season, but their first half performance suggests that the Leinster pack is bang back in form.

Players such as Mal O'Kelly, Eric Miller, Will Green, Reggie Corrigan and Keith Gleeson are big game players and Cheika will be looking to them to nullify Bath's forward impetus this afternoon. Add to that the growing in stature of Jamie Heaslip and Cameron Jowitt and it is clear that Leinster have a powerful forward platform.

The Irish press focused this week on Leinster's need to 'win ugly' if they are to beat Brian Ashton's men this afternoon, but perhaps such media did not see Bath's fluid second half performance at le Stade Pierre Rajon. Yes, an open game will suit Leinster as they go in search of the try bonus point that may be required to guide their

passage through to the quarter-finals, but Bath too are now comfortable playing such a game.

On thing is fore sure - this will not be a game for the feint-hearted. Leinster will throw absolutely everything at Bath this afternoon. They simply have to give it a lash. Bath on the other hand, would dearly love to progress through the quarter-finals as top seeds and a home draw. Prepare for a battle royal!



## THE CAPTAIN

Brian O'Driscoll



Ireland's enigmatic captain scored a brace of tries in Leinster's 46-22 victory over Glasgow Warriors at the RDS last weekend to show that he is back in form ahead of the RBS Six Nations Championship.

The centre made his long awaited return from 'that spear tackle' that ended his Lions tour just a few moments into the first test when he started against Ulster at Ravenhill over the Christmas period. Whilst supporters and media alike turned out en masse to watch the star in action, it was a rather low-key return for the influential player.

O'Driscoll is the talisman of this Leinster side and plays extremely well alongside Felipe Contepomi and Gordon D'Arcy in a mouth-watering back li. It is no coincidence that in the centre's absence Leinster have struggled to repeat their excellent form of last season. However, we should not expect too much of this player too soon. The immediate target maybe to get some gain under his belt, but O'Driscoll is a competitive animal, who hates losing.

With nothing other than victory required to give Leinster the chance to progress through to the quarter-finals as best placed runners-up, expect th O'Driscoll factor to be influential in this match this afternoon.