

# BATH RUGBY

THE OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME OF BATH RUGBY  
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## BATH RUGBY VS NEC HARLEQUINS

ZURICH PREMIERSHIP  
SATURDAY  
26 FEBRUARY 2005  
KICK-OFF 2.15pm

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# TEAMS



## Bath Rugby

### LINEUP



- MATT PERRY 15
- JOE MADDOCK 14
- ALEX CROCKETT 13
- ANDREW HIGGINS 12
- ANDY WILLIAMS 11
- CHRIS MALONE 10
- NICK WALSH 9
- HEINRICH KOK 1
- LEE MEARS 2
- CHRIS LOADER 3
- JAMES HUDSON 4
- ROB FIDLER 5
- GERAINT LEWIS 6
- JAMES SCAYSBROOK 7
- ZAK FEANATI 8

### REPLACEMENTS



- JONATHAN HUMPHREYS 16
- LAURENCE OVENS 17
- GARETH DELVE 18
- MARTYN WOOD 19
- RAMIRO PEZ 20
- TBC 21
- TBC 22

### HEAD COACH:

JOHN CONNOLLY



## NEC Harlequins

### LINEUP

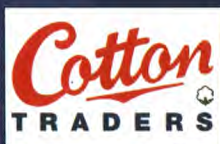
- 15 TOM WILLIAMS
- 14 SIMON KEOGH
- 13 GAVIN DUFFY
- 12 GEORGE HARDER
- 11 UGO MONYE
- 10 JEREMY STAUNTON
- 9 STEVE SO'OIALO
- 1 MIKE WORSLEY
- 2 TANI FUGA
- 3 CERI JONES
- 4 JIM EVANS
- 5 SIMON MALING
- 6 NICK EASTER
- 7 ANDRE VOS (C)
- 8 TONY DIPROSE

### REPLACEMENTS

- 16 JAMES HAYTER
- 17 JON DAWSON
- 18 SIMON MIALL
- 19 ROY WINTERS
- 20 LUKE SHERRIFF
- 21 DAFYDD JAMES
- 22 ANDY REAY

### CHIEF EXECUTIVE:

MARK EVANS



### TODAY'S OFFICIALS

REFEREE STEVE LANDER

TOUCH JUDGES HUW JONES-WILLIAMS & PAUL EMERSON



# POTLIGHT REC HARLEQUINS



## RUMBLES

sides what a  
afternoon would  
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Bath Rugby  
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The heat is most definitely on for both sides, but Quins will be feeling the burn a little more than Bath Rugby this afternoon. Four wins from sixteen Premiership matches is a poor return for a side that contains both talent and experience and if they did not feel the pressure before Saturday's match against Worcester they certainly will do now after suffering a

disappointing 9-15 defeat to the Warriors.

It is time for Quins to come out fighting and perhaps they can sense that with a whole plethora of players missing through injury and international call ups, this afternoon is as good a time as any to be playing John Connolly's side at the Rec.

Importantly they do possess the ability and the appetite to escape the clutches of the relegation threat. They are not the only side in the mire and as the season enters its final throws the experience of Tony Diprose, George Harder, Andre Vos, Simon Mailing and Roy Winters will be invaluable if Quins are to keep their heads during this crucial period.

They do possess plenty of talent and will be a dangerous entity. They have Gavin Duffy back from Ireland duty and he is a promising young talent. The utility back scored a try as a replacement against Scotland a fortnight ago and is a very dangerous and elusive runner with the ball in hand. Last weekend, against Worcester he combined well with the hard running of George Harder in the inside centre and should Quins win enough ball this area will be a big one to attack as Bath's backline has been decimated

in recent weeks by injury. Speedsters Ugo Monye and Simon Keogh are also dangerous given a plentiful supply of ball.

The question will be whether they are able to win enough quality possession through their forwards to allow what is a talented back line to work its magic. Quins possess one of the best functioning lineouts in the Zurich Premiership and the introduction of All Black ace Simon Mailing has ensured that there is plenty of ball flowing from this particular area of their game. However, worryingly the eight came off rather second best in the scrums and around the park against Worcester last weekend and this is an area that will have warranted considerable attention during training in the week as they look to tighten up.

Whilst Bath Rugby have one of the best scrummages around, the West Country side has been hit hard by international call ups and injuries and for Quins there has never been a better time to play the fourth placed side. If they can at least gain parity in this area then as we saw against Gloucester a few weeks ago, Quins are more than capable of playing some superb attacking rugby

# PLAYER SPOTLIGHT TONY DIPROSE

BY DOM RUMBLES

**It is time for the big guns to start firing in the war of attrition that is the dog fight to avoid relegation from the Zurich Premiership. So far Quins have come out firing blanks but there is one old warhorse being wound up ready to give his side the push that they dearly need to preserve their Premiership status and that man is Tony Diprose.**

A veteran of over a decade of highs and lows in the Premiership with both NEC Harlequins and Saracens, few are regarded as highly within English rugby circles as former England international number eight Diprose. A man mountain, he is a powerful and intelligent ball carrier, who like Dean Richards in times past, has that rare and invaluable quality of being a ball magnet.

He may not be the Captain of Mark Evans' struggling Quins side, but Diprose is a key figurehead within a side that plans to start this afternoon with an upward assault on the Zurich Premiership table. He is a motivator who leads by example and has a great knack of being able to draw the best out of those around him. He is a fighter and a great competitor and you can bet your bottom dollar that he will put his body and

soul firmly on the line over the next couple of months as the Zurich Premiership reaches a tense climax for those occupying the bottom places.

Although he may admit that he has lost a yard of his trademark pace that was so prominent as he burst onto the scene some ten years ago as a precious young talent alongside none other than Richard Hill in the Saracens back row, but he is still an international class player. Blessed with an invaluable footballing brain, Tony remains one of the very best number eights in the English game and is an inspirational leader.

A survivor from England's 'Tour to Hell', Tony has perhaps unjustly been consistently overlooked at international level over the past couple of years with Lawrence Dallaglio, Martin Corry and Joe Worsley ruling the roost, but his performances have been nothing other than wholly committed. Expect nothing other than a determined and forceful performance this afternoon.

