



WALES

v ITALY

Saturday 23 February 2008

Millennium Stadium, Cardiff

Referee: Dave Pearson (England)

Touch judges: 1 Wayne Barnes (England), 2 Peter Allan (Scotland)

TMO: Rob Debney (England)

2008 Six Nations

02.02.08

v England Twickenham Won 26-19

15-Byrne 14-M Jones 13-Parker 12-Henson 11-S Williams 10-Hook 9-Phillips 8-R Jones © 7-M Williams 6-J Thomas
5-A-W Jones 4-Gough 3-A Jones 2-Bennett 1-D Jones

Subs: Popham, Jenkins, Shanklin, Rees, I Evans

Bench: Cooper, S Jones

T: Byrne, Phillips C: Hook 2 PG: Hook 4

RBS Man of Match: James Hook (Wales)

Referee: Craig Joubert (SA)

09.02.08

v Scotland Cardiff Won 30-15

15-Byrne 14-Roberts 13-Shanklin 12-Henson 11-S Williams 10-Hook 9-Phillips 8-R Jones © 7-M Williams 6-J
Thomas 5-I Evans 4-Gough 3-A Jones 2-Bennett 1-DJ Jones

Subs: Jenkins, S Jones, Peel, Rees, Delve, Parker, DL Jones

T: S Williams 2, Hook C: Hook 2, S Jones PG: Hook, S Jones 2

Man of the Match: Martyn Williams (Wales)

Referee: Bryce Lawrence (NZ))

TEAM v Italy

Despite two straight wins, Wales continue to rotate their squad and make six changes for the visit by Italy to Cardiff, with changes at half back and in the front row. Stephen Jones and Dwayne Peel swap with James Hook and Mike Phillips, who drop to the bench, and in the front row Gethin Jenkins, Matthew Rees and Rhys Thomas start the game with Duncan Jones and Huw Bennett reverting to bench duties.

The sixth change sees the return of Mark Jones on the right wing for Jamie Roberts.

15 Lee Byrne (Ospreys)

- **01.06.80 6-3 15-4**
- **17th cap - 3T = 15pts**
- **Debut: 2005 v NZ**
- 2nd test v Italy – no pts
- Not played for Wales before Twickenham win 2008 since the England defeat 62-5 last August in RWC warm-up, not selected for RWC but had to withdraw from SA game through injury
- Test tries v Argentina and Pacific Islanders in 2006
- 14th start, 13th start at fullback, one start on wing, 3 caps as sub
- Been on losing side 10 times in his first 14 caps with one draw, now won last 2 tests
- From Bridgend Athletic and Tondy clubs, Llanelli debut in Aug 2003.
- Then suffered a cruciate knee ligament injury in 2003-04 season, but improved to gain place in Wales 2005 autumn squad
- Moved from Scarlets to Ospreys in summer 2006 and has scored an impressive 17T in 40 games for Ospreys



14 Mark Jones (Scarlets)

- **07.11.79** 6-2 14-5
- **37th cap – 12T = 60pts**
- **Debut: 2001 v England**
- 5th test v Italy – 2T = 10pts (1T in 2003, 2006)
- Played 3 of the 4 RWC2007 games with try v Fiji, rested v Japan
- Returned to international rugby at Twickenham in the first Six Nations match of 2006 after being out since the RWC2003 quarter final loss to England and missing 23 tests.
- Had then only come back to the game in October 2005 after two cruciate knee ligament operations threatened his career. Injured left knee in 2004, and in second comeback game with Scarlets in Jan 2004, he injured his right knee
- Originally with Builth Wells and Llandovery, then moved to Llanelli in 1997 and Scarlets. Has 17T in 50 games for Scarlets to date and extended his contract to 2010.
- Wales at U18, U19, U21 levels

13 Tom Shanklin (Blues)

- **24.11.79** 6-2 15-9
- **50th cap - 17T = 85pts**
- **Debut: 2001 v Japan**
- 6th test v Italy – 3T = 15pts (1T in 2003, 2004, 2005)
- 20th Welshman to 50 caps
- All 4 games at RWC2007 – no pts, played twice at RWC2003
- Test debut with 2T on wing v Japan in 2001 (No 14), and 6th test on wing v SA in Nov 2007
- Returned after knee ligament damage for the autumn series 2006 – he had missed 13 internationals going back to the 2005 Grand Slam win against Ireland
- Then plagued with injury through 2007 though played all Six Nations tests
- Had played in the previous 14 tests before Ireland and the Grand Slam win 2005 (9 starts, 5 as sub)
- Father Jim Shanklin gained 4 caps 1970-73. Jim made test debut v France in 1970.
- Had 4 seasons at Saracens, and preferred Wales to England, as he had played for Wales from U19 level, though also qualified for England as he was born at Harrow.
- Moved from Saracens to Cardiff and Blues in summer 2003.

12 Gavin Henson (Ospreys)

- **01.02.82** 6-0 15-7
- **26th cap - 3T 29C 18PG 1DG = 130pts**
- **Debut: 2001 v Japan**
- 2nd test v Italy – no pts (played in 2005 Grand Slam)
- Back in squad after missing RWC2007 after not being fully fit following injuries – played for Wales as sub in both tests in Australia in summer 2007 and then v SA in November 2007 either side of the RWC
- Since the 2005 Grand Slam through to his return after RWC2007 he had played only 6 of 31 Wales tests and only one start (Australia 29-29 in Nov 2006)
- Played 12 successive tests in 2004 and 2005 - including a Welsh record of all 14C v Japan in November 2004 and winning penalty v England 2005
- 2T v SA in Mike Ruddock's first game in charge in 2004 (36-38), 3rd test try in next test v Romania
- IRB and Wales Young Player of Year 2001.
- From Swansea, where he made debut in 2000, graduated through Wales age-group levels, first capped on tour to Japan in 2001.
- Ospreys all time record points scorer with 768pts in 86 games including 20T (2nd in lists to Shane Williams)

11 Shane Williams (Ospreys)

- **26.02.77** 5-8 12-13
- **54th cap – 37T = 185pts**
- **Debut: 2000 v France**
- 6th test v Italy – 5T = 25pts (2T in 2004, 1T in 2000, 2005, 2007)
- Has scored 8T in his last 6 internationals before Italy 2008
- 6T at RWC2007, scored tries in all four group games, and equal third in the try scoring lists
- Now in second place in Wales try scoring lists, behind only Gareth Thomas (40) and ahead of third placed Ieuan Evans (33).
- Has 11T in 25 Six Nations games
- Has a fine tries per match ratio for Wales, helped by a Welsh record equalling 4T v Japan in 2001.
- Outstanding RWC2003 v NZ and England on comeback. Had missed 23 tests from 2001-03 after winning his first 10 caps in 2000 and 2001.
- Former scrum half with Amman United, he was converted to a wing by Neath, and can cover both positions.
- 2nd Lions test v NZ 2005 after 5T v Manawatu.

10 Stephen Jones (Scarlets)

- **08.12.77** 6-1 14-12
- **68th cap - 6T 107C 108PG 3DG = 577pts**
- **Debut: 1998 v SA**
- 8th test v Italy – 1T (in 2006) 15C 7PG = 56pts
- Scored 302 Six Nations points to date - is second in the Wales lists behind Neil Jenkins (406) and fourth overall behind Wilkinson, Jenkins and O'Gara (all over 400pts)
- Test debut in Wales heaviest defeat by 96-13 at Pretoria v SA
- All 4 tests at RWC2007 and 31pts in his 3rd RWC
- 9 tests as captain of Wales – one win v Japan at RWC2007 (72-18)
- Now 2nd in Wales points scorers lists - behind only Neil Jenkins (1049) with Paul Thorburn (304) back in third place.
- First 3 test tries scored were against Ireland in 2000, 2002 and 2003. 4th v England at RWC2003 to finish off marvellous team effort, 5th was v Romania in autumn 2004 and 6th v Italy 2006.
- Had 8 seasons in Llanelli first team squad and over 200 games in first spell after joining aged 18 at recommendation of Gareth Jenkins, now back from summer 2006 after 2 seasons with the French club Clermont Auvergne (Montferrand)
- 120th Wales captain v England on 23.08.03 (RWC warm-up). Second captaincy v Australia 2006 as coach Gareth Jenkins choice. 3 Lions tests v NZ 2005 – 1C 4PG in 3rd test

9 Dwayne Peel (Scarlets)

- **31.08.81** 5-9 13-8
- **61st cap - 5T = 25pts**
- **Debut: 2001 v Japan**
- 8th test v Italy – 1T = 5pts (in 2003)
- Beat Rob Howley on 59 caps as Wales most capped scrum half (v Scotland 2008), was 17th Welshman to 50 caps at Murrayfield in 2007
- Wales captain v Canada in RWC2007 opener, played in 3 RWC2007 games
- Two Man of Match awards in 2005 Grand Slam wins v Scotland and Ireland.
- Started all 3 tests for Lions v NZ
- Full Welsh caps before Wales A cap, up from national U21 side, which was his 4th age-group representation. RWC U19 final v NZ in 1999.
- Became first choice for Wales from 2004 summer tour.
- Half-back club pairing with Stephen Jones at Llanelli until 2004 and again from 2006. Now in 8th season at Llanelli & Scarlets - played mini rugby at Tumble – and will play for Sale Sharks next season, and has signed a 3yr contract with Sharks.

8 Ryan Jones (Ospreys)(captain)

- **13.03.81** **6-5** **18-0**
- **19th cap – 1T = 5pts**
- **Debut: 2004 v SA**
- 2nd test v Italy – no pts (played in 2005 Grand Slam)
- 3rd Wales captaincy after wins at Twickenham and v Scotland, Wales 126th captain, is Ospreys captain for 2007-08
- Last test before Twickenham 2008 was in 62-5 defeat by England at Twickenham in 2007RWC warm-up test, and missed RWC with injured shoulder. Has played only 4 games for Ospreys 2007-08.
- Returned v Australia in autumn 2006 after missing 12 Wales internationals from June 2005 v USA - then going on the Lions tour for all 3 games v NZ – after also undergoing shoulder surgery.
- 1st test try in 46-22 win v Scotland 2005
- Into squad for the 2004 autumn tests after impressive games for the Ospreys in Celtic/Magners League. One of a record six Jones who started the match v SA 2004 – five in the pack.
- Took up rugby aged 17, and played for Newport, Bridgend and Celtic Warriors, and switched to Ospreys following Warriors folding in summer 2004.

7 Martyn Williams (Blues)

- **01.09.75** **6-0** **15-13**
- **79th cap - 13T 1DG = 68pts**
- **Debut: 1996 v Barbarians**
- 11th test v Italy – 1T = 5pts (in 2005)
- First capped v Italy in 1996
- Retired after RWC2007, missed SA game, agreed to return under Warren Gatland after playing all 4 RWC games, and 2T v Japan, 1T v Fiji
- Scored try v Italy 2005 by placing ball into post, and was RBS Man of Series in the 2005 Grand Slam win.
- His first test try was in his 32nd international v Ireland in 2003.
- 50th cap in win v England 2005. First capped against a club side.
- Currently 5th on Wales all time list – 4th is Neil Jenkins (87)
- 5 times captain of Wales in 2003-04. Was Wales 118th captain and 35th from Cardiff. Declined RWC2003 captaincy and onwards to concentrate on his own game
- Moved to Cardiff from Pontypridd in 1999, though ex Cardiff youth. 4 times Cardiff and Blues Player of the Year
- Capped at all junior levels for Wales, and was the Wales U21 captain.
- Drop goal v Tonga at RWC2003

6 Jonathan Thomas (Ospreys)

- **27.12.82** **6-5** **17-5**
- **42nd cap - 7T = 35pts**
- **Debut: 2003 v Australia**
- 5th test v Italy – 1T = 5pts (in 2005)
- Played first two games of RWC2007 with a try against Australia
- 4T of his 7T in tests have been v Canada (2T in both 2005 and 2006)
- Missed much of 2006 Six Nations with hamstring trouble
- Has played in 19 of Wales' last 25 tests (12 starts) – missed last two RWC2007 games
- First capped on summer tour 2003 v Australia and NZ. Was only called into that party when Gareth Delve (Bath) withdrew injured.
- RWC2003 – played the last three games, sub v Italy and started v NZ and England and impressed. Can now play anywhere in back-five of scrum.
- Played for Wales at U16, U18, U21 and Sevens levels.
- Swansea debut in early 2002, now played 82 games to date for Ospreys.



5 **Ian Evans (Ospreys)**

- **04.10.84** **6-8** **17-0**
- **11th cap - 1T = 5pts**
- **Debut: 2006 v Argentina**
- 1st test v Italy
- Played last 2 games at RWC2007 – after missing 12 tests for shoulder surgery – then started v SA in November 2007
- Called into full national squad in 2006 for Luke Charteris (calf injury) while Ospreys colleague Brent Cockbain (hamstring) was also injured.
- Made test debut with try against Argentina in summer 2006, and his first 5 caps came within 6 tests to Autumn series 2006
- Missed 2007 Six Nations, then Summer tour and RWC warm-ups, due to shoulder injury, but back for RWC2007
- Debut for Ospreys in September 2005, formerly with Pontypridd RFC, only played 42 games to date for Ospreys,
- Played for Wales also at U18 and U19 and U21 levels. Born at Johannesburg (SA)

4 **Ian Gough (Ospreys)**

- **10.11.76** **6-6** **18-13**
- **48th cap - 1T = 5pts**
- **Debut: 1998 v S Africa**
- 7th test v Italy – no pts
- 10th international season, first RWC in 2007, played 3 of the 4 games in tournament
- Switched from Dragons to Ospreys in summer 2007
- Played in 10 of Wales 11 tests in 2006 and 10 of 15 in 2007
- Played 10 successive caps (all starts) until rested v Pacific Islanders in 2006 autumn series – that run after appearing in only 3 of the previous 38 tests
- In 11th year in national squads.
- First 18 of his early caps came in the 2000-02 seasons, then out of favour for 3 years until recall in 2005.
- Test try v Samoa in 2000
- From Newport youth academy, though capped also during a spell at Pontypridd.

3 **Rhys Thomas (Dragons)**

- **31.07.82** **6-1** **17-6**
- **4th cap – no pts**
- **Debut: 2006 v Argentina**
- 1st test v Italy
- Still to be on winning side for Wales
- Born in South Africa at Johannesburg
- Taken on the Argentina tour in summer 2006 where he played in the 2nd test as sub, then won 2nd cap also as sub in 62-5 loss in August 2007 to England in RWC warm-up test. 3rd test v SA in Nov 2007
- In between first two caps had a heart-scare and an ankle ligament injury, now getting a chance again after missing out on RWC2007
- Played for Wales at U19 and U21 levels, and made Dragons debut in October 2003. To date he has played 96 Dragons games with 7T, after 21 games with Newport



2 **Matthew Rees (Scarlets)**

- **09.12.80** **6-1** **16-9**
- **19th cap - 2T = 10pts**
- **Debut: 2005 v USA**
- 2nd test v Italy – 1T = 5pts (in 2007)
- Started 3 of the 4 tests at RWC 2007, rested v Japan, and then withdrew from SA game through injury. On as sub at Twickenham 2008
- Test tries v Canada in 2006 autumn series, and Italy 2007
- First capped on 2005 summer tour v USA, then 2nd cap in first test of 2006 summer tour v Argentina, after fine form in EDF Energy and Heineken Cups.
- Played for Merthyr and Pontypridd until 2003, then had the 2003-04 season with Celtic Warriors, before the franchise folded and he joined Scarlets in summer 2004

1 **Gethin Jenkins (Blues)**

- **17.11.80** **6-2** **18-9**
- **56th cap - 3T = 15pts**
- **Debut: 2002 v Romania**
- 6th test v Italy – no pts
- Wales' 125th captain v SA in November 2007 in Nigel Davies only game in charge – led 4 former captains in the team (Peel, D Jones, S Jones, Charvis) – but off the bench for Gatland's first two games. Starter again v Italy 2008
- All 4 games at RWC2007 and became Wales' most capped prop during RWC2007, overtaking Cardiff prop Dai Young (51 caps from 1987-2001)
- Test tries v Romania and Japan in November 2004, and in the 2005 Grand Slam decider v Ireland.
- Made test debut v Romania at Wrexham in Nov 2002, after being in the tour party to S Africa in summer 2002. Played for Wales at Schools, U21, and in 2002 was impressive with the Wales A squad.
- Principality Cup win and Parker Pen Shield final 2002
- Sports Science degree at University of Glamorgan
- Moved from disbanded Celtic Warriors in summer 2004.



Substitutes

16 **Huw Bennett (Ospreys)**

- **11.06.83** **6-0** **15-10**
- **17th cap (if he plays) – no pts**
- **Debut: 2003 v Ireland**
- 1st test v Italy
- One game at RWC2007 v Japan, after two games at RWC2003
- Had played just 5 times for Wales since 2004 in the last 41 internationals before the win at Twickenham 2008
- First capped in RWC2003 warm up games, and had a spell of 9 tests out of 17 in 2003-04. Then missed two years test rugby from June 2004 to June 2006
- 10 of his 14 caps to date have been as sub
- Attended Bryanston School in Dorset and played for England U18, and then joined Ospreys in 2003 after playing for Wales at U19 level. Went on to U21 caps for Wales and over 60 games for Ospreys to date

17 **Duncan Jones (Ospreys)**

- **18.09.78** **6-0** **17-6**
- **48th cap (if he plays) – no pts**
- **Debut: 2001 v Australia**
- 5th test v Italy – no pts
- All 4 tests at RWC2007, one start v Japan
- Tour captain to Argentina in both tests in summer 2006, and 3rd captaincy v Pacific Islanders in 2006 autumn series
- Missed the entire 2005 Grand Slam win through thumb injury, returned for 2005 summer tour.
- Missed 18 tests in a row from 2002 to 2003. Was at RWC2003 – 2 games v Canada and Italy, started both – injured v Italy (serious leg injury)
- Fair-haired one of the two Jones props from Neath
- Comes from the Neath part of the Ospreys, born in Neath. Played for Wales at all age levels from U19. Former flanker with Neath Athletic.
- 87 games for Ospreys to date, with 2T, and captain 31 times, handing captaincy to Ryan Jones for 2007-08

18 **Deiniol Jones (Blues)**

- **18.11.77** **6-5** **18-2**
- **5th cap (if he plays) – no pts**
- **Debut: 2000 v Samoa**
- 1st test v Italy
- Recalled after nearly 4 years away from the international scene – debut in the Six Nations v Scotland 2008
- Capped v Samoa, Romania in 2003 and SA in 2004
- From the Wales youth and schools system and was in the Wales U21 side that won the 1999 U21 Grand Slam
- Played for Bath 1997-2000 while at University, returned to Wales in 2000 with Ebbw Vale and Bridgend, then joined Blues in 2004 from Celtic Warriors, who disbanded
- Approaching 100 games for Blues



19 Gareth Delve (Gloucester Rugby, England)

- **30.12.82** 6-3 17-13
- **6th cap (if he plays) – 1T = 5pts**
- **Debut: 2006 v Scotland**
- 1st test v Italy
- Last test before recall v Scotland 2008 was against Argentina on 2006 summer tour, scoring try in 2nd test – missed 20 internationals
- Withdrew from 2006 England game at last minute with hamstring injury, then made debut in next match v Scotland (sub)
- Played for Wales XV v Barbarians in May 2003, but then withdrew injured from summer tour to Australia and NZ and possible RWC squad.
- Shoulder injury in 2003-04, then foot injury in 2004-05 season
- Cardiff born, first team debut with Bath in 2001 and moved to Gloucester in summer 2007 when his contract expired after 65 games for Bath.
- Captained Wales in all age groups

20 Michael Phillips (Ospreys)

- **29.08.82** 6-3 16-6
- **31st cap (if he plays) - 4T = 20pts**
- **Debut: 2003 v Romania**
- 2nd test v Italy – no pts
- All 4 games at RWC, 3 games as sub, started and scored try v Japan
- 13 starts for Wales at No 9
- No 2 to Dwayne Peel until 2008, he has played in 21 of the last 27 tests
- Try on test debut v Romania, and 2nd try v USA on 2005 summer tour, 3rd try v Japan at RWC2007 and 4th in the win at Twickenham 2008
- Vied with Dwayne Peel for scrum-half berth at Llanelli and Scarlets, then moved in 2005 to Cardiff Blues. Is one of the taller scrum-halves, acts almost as another flanker. Joined Ospreys in summer 2007.

21 James Hook (Ospreys)

- **27.06.85** 6-0 14-3
- **23rd cap (if he plays) - 6T 29C 24PG 2DG = 166pts**
- **Debut: 2006 v Argentina**
- 2nd test v Italy – 1C 2PG = 8pts
- Is now level with Phil Bennett on 166pts for Wales, Bennett won 29 caps
- RBS Man of match v England in 2007 (22pts) and 2008 (16pts) and Man of Match v Scotland 2008
- All 4 games at RWC 2007 – 1T (v Japan) 3C 4PG = 23pts
- Has played in 22 of the last 23 tests, and has 8 starts at centre, 10 starts at fly half, and 4 sub games
- From the Wales Youth, U21 and Sevens squad.
- Try on test debut in Argentina in summer 2006
- Has only played 38 games for the Ospreys to date, since making debut in September 2004 but 3rd on their points list (367)
- Also played for Aberavon, Corus and Neath and is from Port Talbot. Played for Neath from 2004-06 and scored 700pts in 2 seasons



22 **Sonny Parker (Ospreys)**

- **27.08.77** **6-1** **15-13**
- **30th cap (if he plays) - 6T = 30pts**
- **Debut: 2002 v Romania**
- 2nd test v Italy – 1T = 5pts (at RWC2003)
- Re-joined the squad in November 2006 after retiring from internationals – Man of Match v Pacific Islanders in comeback test. Had a series of injuries to neck, knee and shoulder
- But then missed 2007 Six Nations, back from 2007 Australia tour
- Scored 3T in 4 games at RWC2003 (v Canada, Italy, NZ), then 1T (v Canada) in 2 games at RWC2007. Other test tries v Fiji in 2002 and Argentina in 2004
- 6th NZ born player to represent Wales - qualified under 3years residency rules
- Brought to Wales by Graham Henry who knew him at Auckland and the Marist club. Also played for Northland in NZ. Restructured his career with Italian club Viadana after breaking leg in NZ. Tana Umaga (NZ) was there at same time.
- Principality Cup win and Parker Pen Shield final 2002 with Pontypridd
- Moved from disbanded Celtic Warriors in summer 2004. Is 3rd in Ospreys all time tries lists with 19 behind Shane Williams (35) and Henson (20)

COACH

Warren Gatland

- **27.09.63**
- Appointed from 01 December 2007, the third NZ coach for Wales after Graham Henry and Steve Hansen, and 19th Wales coach since David Nash in 1967.
- Coaching positions: Taupiri, Connacht, Ireland (1998-2001) London Wasps (2002-05), Waikato (2005-07)
- Won 3 Premiership titles with Wasps (2003, 2004, 2005), the Heineken Cup (2004) and European Challenge Cup, and Air NZ Cup (formerly NPC) with Waikato in 2006.
- Took over from Brian Ashton for Ireland, handed over to Eddie O'Sullivan
- Former hooker and captain of Waikato (1986-94) in 145 games, played 17 games for All Blacks from 1988-91 on 4 overseas tours but without playing in an international