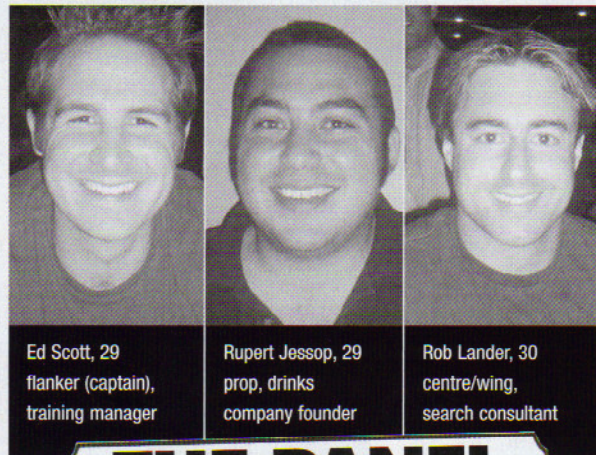


GET TO THE POINT!



Ed Scott, 29
flanker (captain),
training manager

Rupert Jessop, 29
prop, drinks
company founder

Rob Lander, 30
centre/wing,
search consultant

THE PANEL

This month the Surrey Premiership-winning Rosslyn Park Hatters have their say on the club v country row, the bemusing season structure, the England touring party and, er, Martin Corry's ever-present scab



IRN: First thing's first, congratulations on your season chaps, not bad for a fledgling side.

ED: Yeah, we only entered the leagues two years ago, got one promotion and then came close to winning the league the next year so we gave it a real concerted effort this season.

I think we went into it always feeling we were the best side in the league and it turned out that way. We had more consistency this season in terms of people turning up, so there was a lot more competition for places which meant we had a bigger, stronger squad to pick from.

IRN: Talking of squads, the England one that has gone to South Africa certainly didn't look that strong - is there any point to these tours anymore?

ROB: I don't really think so. There might be some players who could come out of them but at this time of year, three months away from the World Cup, there isn't much point in going. The South Africans are up for it and they should kick our arse. We're supposed to be trying to test our top players before the World Cup and they're not even going. I know it can't always be



Top: Should the Anglo-Welsh Cup remain? Left: Brian Ashton has picked a weak squad

avoided but you would think that someone would have realised there is a chance that these top teams with all the England players are going to be involved in the European finals and scheduled this tour accordingly.

RUPERT: Because it's World Cup year they've got those summer home fixtures so they've made the tours earlier, that's been the real cock-up this year. Maybe they should become Saxons tours. They could play the US, Canada, then you would actually see competitive fixtures where we might actually win the games rather than go to South Africa and get destroyed.