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ED: I think, irrespective of the players we're putting out, you genuinely have to question in a World Cup year why we're having a tour. The reason we have tours is to test ourselves against the best in the world but that's not happening in South Africa.

RUPERT: There's also this whole murky world of cash where they are all saying 'we'll tour here then in two years you come to us'. You've got to question the validity of South Africa having two fixtures against the side they're going to play against in the World Cup.

ED: I do often feel that the vested interest the RFU have in playing these tours has got nothing to do with what's best for England rugby. It's about the money. The prime example is that extra Test we played against New Zealand before Christmas. It was never agreed that there would be a fourth game until the RFU realised it was a money-spinning opportunity.

ROB: Is it about timing, is it about cash or is it about both? The fact is the season is getting congested. Even at our level, if you look at our firsts, their Sevens players get a total of four weeks off before pre-season, it's not really long enough. If you're playing top-flight rugby, your body takes a kicking and you need a rest from it.

Right: **Will Martin**
Corry have to retire
before that graze
heals up?
Below: **Our panel**
predict more
Springbok joy in
June



IRN: Let's talk about the season structure then. What needs to change?

RUPERT: I'm not sure that anything has to move. We've got some really strong Premiership clubs and strong competitions. Why can't we just limit the games that a player plays and give proper compensation to the clubs when their players play for England?

ROB: That's the major factor for the clubs isn't it? Wasps, for example, are significantly depleted when their internationals are away, as are Leicester, and that hugely affects their league results in those periods.

RUPERT: But if money comes through to them they can afford to have more strength in depth to cope. They get more ticket revenue because there are more games being played, it's just about making sure players don't play too much. You can't have Martin Corry playing 35 games a year; his face can't take it, that's for sure.

ED: What is it with that permanent cut at the top of his nose!? I remember seeing him over the summer and he didn't have it. I thought 'he's finally got rid of that cut' and now it's there again!

ROB: But if he plays 25 games in a year, that's fine if he gets a two-month window to recover, but the RFU are not going to agree that that's a good idea.

IRN: So should we think about scrapping a cup? Would anyone be upset if the Anglo-Welsh competition was no more?