



INTERNATIONAL RUGBY BOARD

SIX NATIONS CHAMPIONSHIP MATCH PREVIEW

IRELAND



WALES

Sunday 5th February 2012, KO: 15:00

Aviva Stadium, Dublin

HEADLINES

- GEORGE NORTH will become the youngest player to ever score 10 Test tries if he scores against Ireland. NORTH, who turns 20 in April, is chasing the record currently held by Joe Rokocoko, who scored his 10th Test try at 20 years and 50 days old.
- PAUL O'CONNELL takes over from the injured Brian O'Driscoll as captain and is the most experienced player in Ireland's starting line up with 82 caps. O'CONNELL made his debut and scored a try in Ireland's 54-10 victory over Wales at Lansdowne Road back in 2002.
- Wales are attempting a third successive win in this fixture for the first time since 1979, having already won last season's Six Nations game and more recently the RWC Quarter Final between the teams.
- Ireland last lost an opening day Six Nations game back in 2004 when they lost 35-17 to France.
- Substitute RONAN O'GARA needs only 25 more points to push his total points for Ireland beyond the 1,100 barrier.

SIX NATIONS HISTORY

- Wales have won only once in Ireland since the inception of the Six Nations, at Croke Park in 2008.
- The biggest winning margin between the sides was Ireland's 54-10 victory in Dublin in 2002. Wales' biggest ever score over Ireland in Dublin was a 34-9 victory in 1976 while the 1907 Wales team recorded a 29-0 win in Cardiff over the Irish.
- Ireland have lost their last two matches (against England and France last August) at the Aviva Stadium. They haven't lost three in a row at the Lansdowne Road venue since 2005.

HEAD TO HEAD

- Ireland and Wales have played each other on 117 occasions, resulting in 64 wins for Wales and 47 for Ireland.
- There have been six draws between the sides, the most recent being a 21-21 draw in Cardiff in 1991. The six drawn games were in 1890 (one goal each), 1929 (5-5), 1951 (3-3), 1962 (3-3), 1974 (9-9) and 1991 (21-21).
- Ireland have won four of their last five matches, their only defeat being the 10-22 defeat against Wales in the RWC Quarter Final. They scored 165 points in those matches, conceding only 56. Wales have only won two of their last five matches, scoring 132 and conceding 64.
- Wales need only two more conversions to make it 100 conversions against Ireland.
- Although Wales has a superior points record to Ireland (1353 compared to 1224) in addition to its superior try record (205 to Ireland's 164), Ireland has a more successful penalties record - 131 to Wales' 123.
- RONAN O'GARA has scored more points against Wales (100) than any other Irish player while Neil Jenkins still holds the record for Wales against Ireland (113).

All Time Records

>> Appearances

| Points | Player |
|--------|-----------------------------|
| 56 | Ronan O'Gara Ireland |
| 56 | Mike Gibson Ireland |
| 55 | Brian O'Driscoll Ireland |

>> Points

| Points | Player |
|--------|----------------------------|
| 551 | Ronan O'Gara Ireland |
| 546 | Jonny Wilkinson England |
| 467 | Stephen Jones Wales |

>> Tries

| Tries | Player |
|-------|-----------------------------|
| 25 | Brian O'Driscoll Ireland |
| 24 | Ian Smith Scotland |
| 22 | Shane Williams Wales |



Facts & Figures

STARTING LINEUPS

- Ireland make three changes from the team that was beaten by Wales in the World Cup quarter final. FERGUS MCFADDEN starts in place of KEITH EARLS who was originally picked to replace Brian O'Driscoll, while JONATHAN SEXTON replaces RONAN O'GARA who takes his place in the replacements. ANDREW TRIMBLE takes EARLS' spot on the wing.
- Wales' starting line-up shows six changes to the one which faced Australia at the Millennium Stadium in December and just five from that which defeated Ireland in the RWC Quarter Final.
- Ireland's starting XV have a combined total of 581 Test caps while they can call on another 211 caps from the bench. Substitute RONAN O'GARA's 116 caps makes up the bulk of the caps on the bench.
- Wales' starting XV have a combined total of 441 caps. Adam Jones is Wales' most capped player with 75 Test caps
- HUW BENNETT wins his 50th cap for Wales this weekend leaving him just 8 caps behind Wales' most capped hooker Garin Jenkins.
- PAUL O'CONNELL and DONNCHA O'CALLAGHAN will join All Black pair Robin Brooke and Ian Jones in second place on the most capped second row combinations rankings having played together 45 times at Test level. Springboks' Victor Matfield and Bakkies Botha remain in first place having played 62 tests as a second row combination.
- RHYS GILL'S only previous appearance for Wales was in their 27-12 loss to Ireland in 2010 at Croke Park.
- CONOR MURRAY starts his first Six Nations campaign after making his international debut in Ireland's 19-12 loss against France in Bordeaux last August.
- Ireland have a 50% record with PAUL O'CONNELL as captain, winning and losing three apiece.
- JAMES HOOK will win his 60th cap if he comes off the bench against Ireland. The Perpignan player made his debut against Argentina in 2006.

THE AGE FACTOR

- Ireland have an average age of 27 in the starting line up while Wales have an average age of 25. Not surprisingly, Wales has the youngest side in the championship while contrary to popular myth, the oldest Six Nations side isn't Ireland, but France, with an average age in their starting line up of nearly 30.

SIZE MATTERS

- With five players over 100kg, the cumulative weight of Wales' backline comes in at a whopping 691kg or an average of 99kgs per man. Ireland's backline weighs at a cumulative 652kgs or 93kgs per man.
- BRADLEY DAVIES is Wales' heaviest man at 121kg while IAN EVANS is the tallest at 2.04m
- Substitute TOM COURT is Ireland's heaviest player at 122kg while DONNCHA O'CALLAGHAN, DONNACHA RYAN and PAUL O'CONNELL all share the honour of being Ireland's tallest player at 1.98m.

DID YOU KNOW?

- David Humphreys holds the record for most points scored between the sides in a match with 22 from the 54-10 victory in 2002. Meanwhile Neil Jenkins scored 20 in the 1998 championship match between the two sides.
- Despite coming fourth in Rugby World Cup 2011, Wales have lost their last three Test matches.

DEBUTANTS

- Munster back row forward PETER O'MAHONEY will win his first senior cap for his country if he comes off the bench against Wales.

HEAD COACHES

- Ireland coach Declan Kidney has a superior winning record over counterpart Warren Gatland. Ireland have a 61% winning record under Kidney, winning 23, drawing 1 and losing 14.
- Gatland has managed a 47% winning record with Wales, also winning 23, drawing 1 and losing 25.

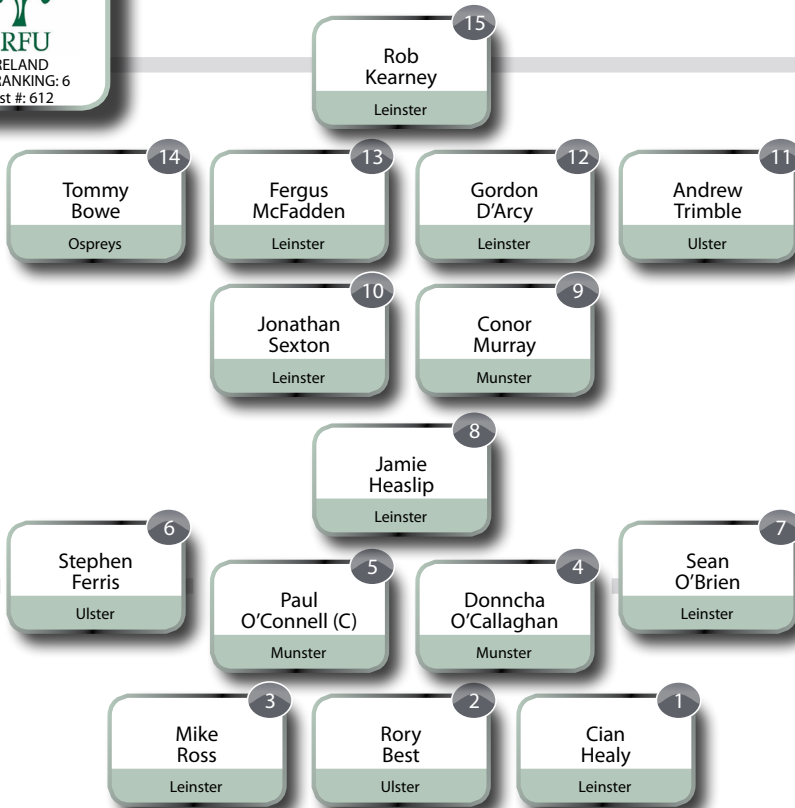
MAN IN THE MIDDLE

- Englishman Wayne Barnes takes charge of his 38th international Test for Ireland versus Wales. Barnes made his debut in 2006 refereeing the Junior All Blacks versus Tonga.

Team Sheets



IRFU
IRELAND
IRB RANKING: 6
Test #: 612



Replacements

- 16 Sean Cronin (Leinster)
- 17 Tom Court (Ulster)
- 18 Donnacha Ryan (Munster)
- 19 Peter O'Mahony (Munster)
- 20 Eoin Reddan (Leinster)
- 21 Ronan O'Gara (Munster)
- 22 Dave Kearney (Leinster)

Key Stats

Caps Starting Lineup: 561
Avg Age Starting Lineup: 27
Oldest Player: Ronan O'Gara (34)
Youngest Player: Peter O'Mahony (22)
Avg Weight Forwards: 111 kg

Officials

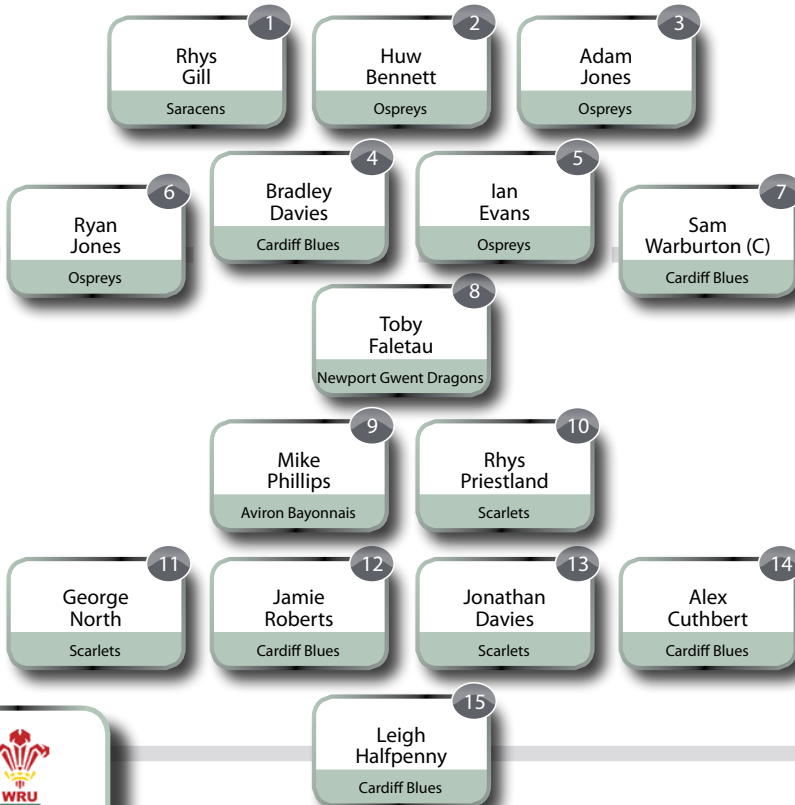
Referee:
Wayne Barnes (England) - 37 Tests
Tests at Venue: 0 Tests
Ireland: 6 Tests
Wales: 11 Tests
Test Debut: 17/06/2006 - Junior All Blacks v Tonga

Assistant Referee 1:
Dave Pearson (England)

Assistant Referee 2:
Stuart Terhegge (England)

TV Match Official:
Geoff Warren (England)

Citing Commissioner:
Achille Reali (Italy)



Replacements

- 16 Ken Owens (Scarlets)
- 17 Paul James (Ospreys)
- 18 Andy Powell (Sale Sharks)
- 19 Justin Tipuric (Ospreys)
- 20 Lloyd Williams (Cardiff Blues)
- 21 James Hook (USA Perpignan)
- 22 Scott Williams (Scarlets)

Key Stats

Caps Starting Lineup: 441
Avg Age Starting Lineup: 25
Oldest Player: Adam Jones (30)
Youngest Player: George North (19)
Avg Weight Forwards: 112 kg



WRU
WALES
IRB RANKING: 8
Test #: 634



Head to Head

Recent Results

| Date | Team A | Result | Team B | Venue |
|------------|---------|---------|---------|------------|
| 08/10/2011 | Ireland | 10 - 22 | Wales | Wellington |
| 12/03/2011 | Wales | 19 - 13 | Ireland | Cardiff |
| 13/03/2010 | Ireland | 27 - 12 | Wales | Dublin |
| 21/03/2009 | Wales | 15 - 17 | Ireland | Cardiff |
| 08/03/2008 | Ireland | 12 - 16 | Wales | Dublin |

Summary

| Ireland | | 117 Matches (6 Draw) | Wales | |
|---------|-------------|----------------------|-------|------|
| 47 | Won | | | 64 |
| 1224 | Points | | | 1353 |
| 164 | Tries | | | 205 |
| 85 | Conversions | | | 98 |
| 131 | Penalties | | | 123 |
| 21 | Drop Goals | | | 33 |

Player Records

| For Ireland against Wales | | For Wales against Ireland | |
|---------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|----------------------|
| 2 Players - 14 | Appearances | | 12 - Ieuan Evans |
| Ronan O'Gara - 100 | Points | | 113 - Neil Jenkins |
| Brian O'Driscoll - 6 | Tries | | 8 - Johnnie Williams |
| Ronan O'Gara - 14 | Conversions | | 10 - 2 Players |
| David Humphreys - 18 | Penalties | | 26 - Neil Jenkins |
| 5 Players - 2 | Drop Goals | | 3 - Jonathan Davies |

Player Records in a Match

| For Ireland against Wales | | For Wales against Ireland | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| David Humphreys on 03/02/2002 - 22 | Points | | 20 - Neil Jenkins on 21/03/1998 |
| Robert Montgomery on 12/03/1887 - 3 | Tries | | 3 - On 4 Occasions |
| David Humphreys on 16/08/2003 - 4 | Conversions | | 3 - On 8 Occasions |
| David Humphreys on 03/02/2002 - 6 | Penalties | | 4 - On 7 Occasions |
| David Humphreys on 20/02/1999 - 2 | Drop Goals | | 2 - Jonathan Davies on 25/05/1987 |

Team Records in a Match

| For Ireland against Wales | | For Wales against Ireland | |
|---------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| On 03/02/2002 - 54 | Points | | 34 - On 21/02/1976 |
| On 2 Occasions - 6 | Tries | | 6 - On 3 Occasions |
| On 16/08/2003 - 5 | Conversions | | 3 - On 9 Occasions |
| On 03/02/2002 - 6 | Penalties | | 5 - On 19/03/2005 |
| On 20/02/1999 - 2 | Drop Goals | | 2 - On 25/05/1987 |



Head Coach: Declan Kidney

Debut: 08/11/2008 v Canada (W 55-0)
 Winning Ratio: 60.53%
 Average Tries per Match: 2.29

Ireland Record Under Declan Kidney

| | | |
|---------|-------------|-------------|
| 23 Wins | 1 Drawn | 14 Lost |
| 848 For | Points | 625 Against |
| 87 For | Tries | 50 Against |
| 67 For | Conversions | 39 Against |
| 86 For | Penalties | 88 Against |
| 7 For | Drop Goals | 11 Against |

Recent Matches

| Date | Opponent | Result | Venue |
|------------|-----------|---------|--------------|
| 08/10/2011 | Wales | L 10 22 | Wellington |
| 02/10/2011 | Italy | W 36 6 | Dunedin |
| 25/09/2011 | Russia | W 62 12 | Rotorua |
| 17/09/2011 | Australia | W 15 6 | Auckland |
| 11/09/2011 | USA | W 22 10 | New Plymouth |
| Points For | | 145 | |
| Points Ag | | 56 | |
| Tries For | | 16 | |
| Tries Ag | | 6 | |

Player Info For Ireland

| Player | Pos | Age | Debut | Caps | Caps as Sub | Caps v Opponent | Won | Drawn | Lost | Points | Tries | Cons | Pens | DGs |
|---------------------|-----|-----|------------|------|-------------|-----------------|-----|-------|------|--------|-------|------|------|-----|
| Cian Healy | 1 | 24 | 15/11/2009 | 25 | 1 | 3 | 12 | 1 | 12 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Rory Best | 2 | 29 | 12/11/2005 | 54 | 20 | 7 | 32 | 0 | 22 | 25 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Mike Ross | 3 | 32 | 23/05/2009 | 15 | 2 | 2 | 9 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Donncha O'Callaghan | 4 | 32 | 22/03/2003 | 80 | 19 | 11 | 49 | 1 | 30 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Paul O'Connell (C) | 5 | 32 | 03/02/2002 | 82 | 6 | 10 | 49 | 1 | 32 | 30 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Stephen Ferris | 6 | 26 | 26/11/2006 | 30 | 5 | 3 | 17 | 1 | 12 | 10 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Sean O'Brien | 7 | 24 | 21/11/2009 | 15 | 3 | 2 | 10 | 0 | 5 | 10 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Jamie Heaslip | 8 | 28 | 26/11/2006 | 43 | 3 | 5 | 23 | 1 | 19 | 35 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Conor Murray | 9 | 22 | 13/08/2011 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Jonathan Sexton | 10 | 26 | 21/11/2009 | 24 | 8 | 3 | 12 | 0 | 12 | 161 | 1 | 15 | 40 | 2 |
| Andrew Trimble | 11 | 27 | 19/11/2005 | 41 | 11 | 4 | 22 | 0 | 19 | 45 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Gordon D'Arcy | 12 | 31 | 15/10/1999 | 63 | 9 | 8 | 42 | 0 | 21 | 35 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Fergus McFadden | 13 | 25 | 05/02/2011 | 6 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 10 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Tommy Bowe | 14 | 27 | 20/11/2004 | 44 | 0 | 5 | 24 | 1 | 19 | 95 | 19 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Rob Kearney | 15 | 25 | 02/06/2007 | 33 | 3 | 4 | 16 | 1 | 16 | 37 | 7 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | | | | 561 | 95 | 68 | 322 | 7 | 232 | 503 | 69 | 16 | 40 | 2 |
| Sean Cronin | 16 | 25 | 21/11/2009 | 15 | 9 | 2 | 9 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Tom Court | 17 | 31 | 15/02/2009 | 24 | 18 | 2 | 14 | 0 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Donnacha Ryan | 18 | 28 | 22/11/2008 | 13 | 10 | 1 | 7 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Peter O'Mahony | 19 | 22 | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Eoin Reddan | 20 | 31 | 11/02/2006 | 37 | 18 | 4 | 16 | 0 | 21 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Ronan O'Gara | 21 | 34 | 19/02/2000 | 116 | 29 | 13 | 70 | 2 | 44 | 1075 | 16 | 175 | 200 | 15 |
| Dave Kearney | 22 | 22 | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Records For Ireland

Caps

117 - Brian O'Driscoll
 116 - Ronan O'Gara
 105 - John Hayes

Tries

45 - Brian O'Driscoll
 29 - Denis Hickie
 21 - Shane Horgan

Points

1075 - Ronan O'Gara
 560 - David Humphreys
 308 - Michael Kiernan

Player Records (In a Match)

Points: 32 - Ronan O'Gara v Samoa on 20/06/2003
 Tries: 4 - 3 players
 Conversions: 10 - 2 players
 Penalties: 8 - Paul Burke v Italy on 04/01/1997
 Drop Goals: 2 - 9 players

Team Records (In a Match)

Points: 83 v USA on 10/06/2000
 Tries: 13 v USA on 10/06/2000
 Conversions: 10 on 2 Occasions
 Penalties: 8 v Italy on 04/01/1997
 Drop Goals: 2 on 11 Occasions



Head Coach: Warren Gatland

Debut: 02/02/2008 v England (W 26-19)
 Winning Ratio: 46.94%
 Average Tries per Match: 2.12

Recent Matches

| | | |
|----------|-------------|-------------|
| 23 Wins | 1 Drawn | 25 Lost |
| 1119 For | Points | 980 Against |
| 104 For | Tries | 89 Against |
| 79 For | Conversions | 68 Against |
| 142 For | Penalties | 123 Against |
| 5 For | Drop Goals | 10 Against |

| Date | Opponent | Result | Venue |
|------------|-----------|---------|------------|
| 03/12/2011 | Australia | L 18 24 | Cardiff |
| 21/10/2011 | Australia | L 18 21 | Auckland |
| 15/10/2011 | France | L 8 9 | Auckland |
| 08/10/2011 | Ireland | W 22 10 | Wellington |
| 02/10/2011 | Fiji | W 66 0 | Hamilton |
| Points For | | 132 | |
| Points Ag | | 64 | |
| Tries For | | 17 | |
| Tries Ag | | 6 | |

Player Info For Wales

| Player | Pos | Age | Debut | Caps | Caps as Sub | Caps v Opponent | Won | Drawn | Lost | Points | Tries | Cons | Pens | DGs |
|-------------------|-----|-----|------------|------|-------------|-----------------|-----|-------|------|--------|-------|------|------|-----|
| Rhys Gill | 1 | 25 | 13/03/2010 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Huw Bennett | 2 | 28 | 16/08/2003 | 49 | 29 | 4 | 23 | 1 | 25 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Adam Jones | 3 | 30 | 23/08/2003 | 75 | 10 | 7 | 35 | 3 | 37 | 10 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Bradley Davies | 4 | 25 | 08/02/2009 | 32 | 11 | 3 | 14 | 1 | 17 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Ian Evans | 5 | 27 | 11/06/2006 | 17 | 5 | 0 | 6 | 1 | 10 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Ryan Jones | 6 | 30 | 06/11/2004 | 58 | 8 | 5 | 28 | 2 | 28 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Sam Warburton (C) | 7 | 23 | 06/06/2009 | 24 | 4 | 3 | 12 | 0 | 12 | 10 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Toby Faletau | 8 | 21 | 04/06/2011 | 11 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 0 | 6 | 10 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Mike Phillips | 9 | 29 | 27/08/2003 | 60 | 19 | 5 | 28 | 2 | 30 | 40 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Rhys Priestland | 10 | 25 | 12/02/2011 | 10 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 0 | 4 | 50 | 1 | 12 | 7 | 0 |
| George North | 11 | 19 | 13/11/2010 | 16 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 1 | 9 | 45 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Jamie Roberts | 12 | 25 | 09/02/2008 | 39 | 2 | 4 | 18 | 0 | 21 | 20 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Jonathan Davies | 13 | 23 | 30/05/2009 | 21 | 3 | 2 | 11 | 0 | 10 | 25 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Alex Cuthbert | 14 | 21 | 03/12/2011 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Leigh Halfpenny | 15 | 23 | 08/11/2008 | 27 | 2 | 3 | 12 | 0 | 15 | 75 | 9 | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Total | | | | 441 | 99 | 40 | 204 | 11 | 226 | 295 | 44 | 12 | 17 | 0 |
| Ken Owens | 16 | 25 | 26/09/2011 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Paul James | 17 | 29 | 27/08/2003 | 31 | 5 | 2 | 12 | 1 | 18 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Andy Powell | 18 | 30 | 08/11/2008 | 22 | 6 | 0 | 12 | 0 | 10 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Justin Tipuric | 19 | 22 | 20/08/2011 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Lloyd Williams | 20 | 22 | 20/08/2011 | 5 | 4 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 10 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| James Hook | 21 | 26 | 11/06/2006 | 59 | 12 | 5 | 25 | 2 | 32 | 326 | 12 | 40 | 58 | 4 |
| Scott Williams | 22 | 21 | 04/06/2011 | 8 | 5 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 4 | 20 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Records For Wales

| |
|----------------------|
| 104 - Stephen Jones |
| 100 - Gareth Thomas |
| 99 - Martyn Williams |

| |
|---------------------|
| 58 - Shane Williams |
| 40 - Gareth Thomas |
| 33 - Ieuan Evans |

| |
|---------------------|
| 1049 - Neil Jenkins |
| 917 - Stephen Jones |
| 326 - James Hook |

| |
|---|
| Points: 30 - Neil Jenkins v Italy on 20/03/1999 |
| Tries: 4 - 9 players |
| Conversions: 14 - Gavin Henson v Japan on 26/11/2004 |
| Penalties: 9 - Neil Jenkins v France on 28/08/1999 |
| Drop Goals: 3 - Neil Jenkins v Scotland on 17/02/2001 |

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|--|
| Points: 102 v Portugal on 17/05/1994 |
| Tries: 16 v Portugal on 17/05/1994 |
| Conversions: 14 v Japan on 26/11/2004 |
| Penalties: 9 v France on 28/08/1999 |
| Drop Goals: 3 v Scotland on 17/02/2001 |

