



INTERNATIONAL RUGBY BOARD

SIX NATIONS CHAMPIONSHIP MATCH PREVIEW

ITALY



ENGLAND

Saturday 11th February 2012, KO: 17:00
Stadio Olimpico, Rome

HEADLINES

- Stadio Olimpico in Rome remains the site of one of Italy's best ever results against England, a 15-15 draw between the sides in 1986. England however did not award caps for the match.
- Only England and Ireland remain unbeaten against Italy since their elevation into the Championship in 2000.
- SERGIO PARISSÉ will match MARCO BORTOLAMI and Massimo Giovanelli's record of captaining Italy 37 times when he leads his team out at Stadio Olimpico. Italy has won seven of those tests under his leadership.
- England need just one more point to hit the 500 mark in terms of points scored against Italy in Six Nations games.
- England's only loss in their last seven games was against France during RWC2011.

SIX NATIONS HISTORY

- England have beaten Italy by 40 points or more on six occasions over the course of the Six Nations although they have managed this only once since 2005. That was last year's Six Nations clash at Twickenham, which saw the home side win 59-13. The scores have narrowed over the last five years, with England scoring 155 in total to Italy's 62. That translates to an average score of 31-12 to England over that period.
- Italy's win against France is the only victory in their last eight Championship games.
- Italy have lost their first two games in every Six Nations for the last eight seasons.

HEAD TO HEAD

- Italy and England have played each other a total of 17 times in Test rugby, with England winning them all.
- England has also been victorious in the 12 times they've played each other as Six Nations competitors. England has scored 499 points in those Championship encounters against Italy, conceding just 143.
- A 12-7 win over an England Under 23 side in 1982 remains Italy's only win against an England representative team at senior level. Italy awarded caps for the game.
- Italy also enjoyed a 15-15 draw with a Test standard England team in 1986 at the Stadio Olimpico. The match however wasn't awarded Test status by England.

ARE YOU EXPERIENCED?

- Italy will field a total of 698 caps when they take the field against England, with another 116 caps on the bench. England have just 248 in their starting XV.
- Italy's front row is one of the most experienced around, with 217 caps to its name. England's front row on the other hand is the most experienced section in their pack with 70 caps. In total there are just 141 caps amongst the England forwards, compared to 492 in the Italian eight.
- Five England players - MOURITIZ BOTHA, CHRIS ROBshaw, PHIL DOWSON, OWEN FARRELL and BRADLEY BARRITT - have a total of seven caps between them. Winger DAVID STRETTLE, has eight caps, bringing the number of England players with less than 10 caps to six.
- A total of seven England players were capped in the Calcutta Cup match against Scotland.

2012 6 Nations Records

>> Points

Points	Player
11	Jonathan Sexton Ireland
10	Dimitri Yachvili France
10	Jonathan Davies Wales

>> Tries

Tries	Player
2	Jonathan Davies Wales
1	8 Players

All Time Records

>> 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 LINE UPS

- Italy coach Jacques Brunel has made two changes to his side to play England. GONZALO CANALE starts in midfield in place of Alberto Sgarbi while his place on the replacements bench is taken by LUCA MORISI. Meanwhile MARCO BORTOLAMI returns to the Italy second row in place of Cornelius Van Zyl. BORTOLAMI's place on the bench is taken by ANTONIO PAVANELLO. MIRCO BERGAMASCO could see his first Six Nations action of the season, having come onto the bench in place of Simone Favaro.
- The average age of the Italy starting XV is 28 while the average amongst the replacements is 27. The England starting XV have an average age of 26.
- England coach Stuart Lancaster has made no changes from the team that beat Scotland at Murrayfield.
- PHIL DOWSON, OWEN FARRELL and BRADLEY BARRITT make their second starts for England while MOURITZ BOTHA and England Captain CHRIS ROBshaw win their third.
- ANDREA LO CICERO, winning his 93rd cap on Saturday, made his debut in Italy's 12-59 defeat to England back in 2000. It was Italy's first ever game as part of the Six Nations.
- CHRIS ASHTON wins his 20th cap for England against Italy. He has scored 15 tries in total, including four in last season's 59-13 victory against Italy at Twickenham.
- Five Italian players - ROBERT BARBIERI, SERGIO PARISSÉ, LUKE MCLEAN, ANDREA MASI and LO CICERO all made their Championship debuts for Italy against England.
- MARCO BORTOLAMI wins his 90th cap for Italy against England having come off the bench in the defeat in Paris against France.
- CHARLIE HODGSON needs just 10 more points to hit the century mark in Championship points for England. He needs 36 more points to break the 300 point ceiling in all Tests for his country.
- Flanker ALESSANDRO ZANNI wins his 60th cap in the match against England.

NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK

- Replacement LUCA MORISI will make his international debut for Italy if he comes off the bench for England.
- ROB WEBBER will win his first cap for England if he comes off the bench during the Italy match.

SIZE MATTERS

- At 122kg and 2.03m, Aironi and Italy lock QUINTIN GELDENHUYS is the tallest and heaviest player in the home team's 22. Substitute MATT STEVENS is the heaviest England player at 122kg, with TOM PALMER the tallest at 2.00m.

STADIUM

- Rome's Stadio Olimpico is the eighth different stadium to be used in the Six Nations. Built in the 1930's and expanded in the 1950's, the stadium was home to the 1960 Olympic Games. It's current capacity, following major renovations in 1990 and 2008, is 82,000 - making it the largest stadium being used in the Championship alongside Twickenham.
- Four test matches have been played at Stadio Olimpico in the past, the most recent being in 1996 with Wales beating the home side 31-22. Italy have never won a Test at the venue.

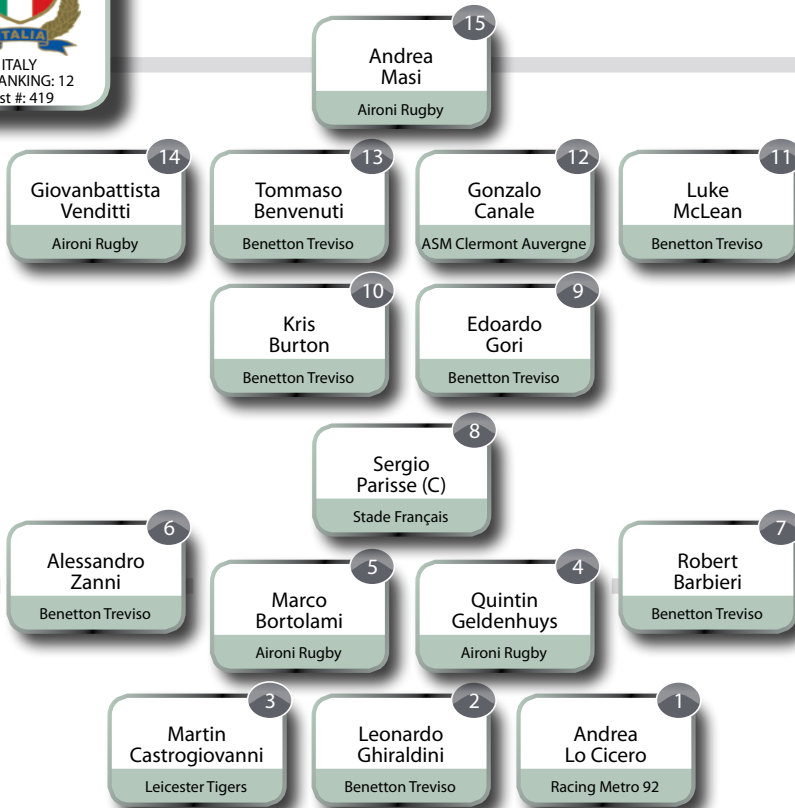
HEAD COACHES

- Both Italian coach JACQUES BRUNEL and England coach STUART LANCASTER enjoy the second test matches of their respective sojourns as national coaches.

MAN IN THE MIDDLE

- France's JEROME GARCÉS made his international debut in 2009 refereeing Romania versus Fiji. He makes his second Championship appearance as match referee for the Italy England clash and his seventh in total.

Team Sheets



Replacements

- 16 Tommaso D'Apice (Aironi Rugby)
- 17 Lorenzo Cittadini (Benetton Treviso)
- 18 Antonio Pavanello (Benetton Treviso)
- 19 Mauro Bergamasco (Aironi Rugby)
- 20 Fabio Semenzato (Benetton Treviso)
- 21 Tobie Botes (Benetton Treviso)
- 22 Luca Morisi (Crociati Rugby)

Key Stats

Caps Starting Lineup: 698
 Avg Age Starting Lineup: 28
 Oldest Player: Andrea Lo Cicero (35)
 Youngest Player: Luca Morisi (20)
 Avg Weight Forwards: 111 kg

Officials

Referee:
 Jérôme Garces (France) - 7 Tests

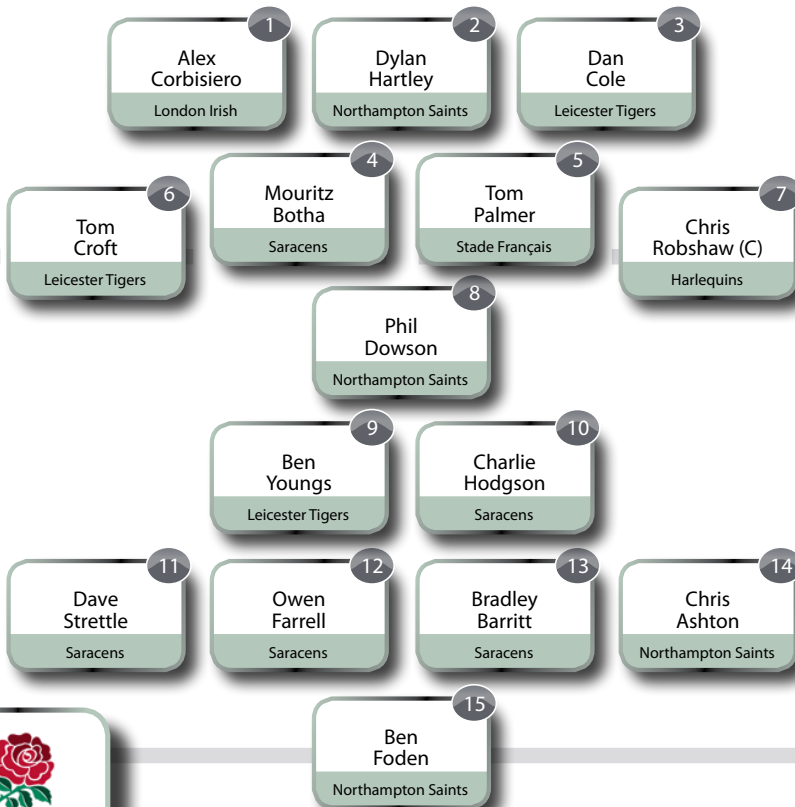
Tests at Venue: 0 Tests
 Italy: 0 Tests
 England: 0 Tests
 Test Debut: 28/11/2009 - Romania v Fiji

Assistant Referee 1:
 George Clancy (Ireland)

Assistant Referee 2:
 Neil Paterson (Scotland)

TV Match Official:
 Tony Redmond (Ireland)

Citing Commissioner:
 Iain Goodall (Scotland)



Replacements

- 16 Rob Webber (London Wasps)
- 17 Matt Stevens (Saracens)
- 18 Geoff Parling (Leicester Tigers)
- 19 Ben Morgan (Scarlets)
- 20 Lee Dickson (Northampton Saints)
- 21 Jordan Turner-Hall (Harlequins)
- 22 Mike Brown (Harlequins)

Key Stats

Caps Starting Lineup: 248
 Avg Age Starting Lineup: 26
 Oldest Player: Tom Palmer (32)
 Youngest Player: Owen Farrell (20)
 Avg Weight Forwards: 112 kg



Head to Head

Recent Results

Date	Team A	Result	Team B	Venue
12/02/2011	England	59 - 13	Italy	London
14/02/2010	Italy	12 - 17	England	Rome
07/02/2009	England	36 - 11	Italy	London
10/02/2008	Italy	19 - 23	England	Rome
10/02/2007	England	20 - 7	Italy	London

Summary

Italy		17 Matches (0 Draw)	England	
0	Won		17	
212	Points		706	
18	Tries		87	
15	Conversions		67	
27	Penalties		45	
4	Drop Goals		2	

Player Records

For Italy against England		For England against Italy	
3 Players - 9	Appearances	9 - 3 Players	
Diego Dominguez - 51	Points	148 - Jonny Wilkinson	
Mirco Bergamasco - 3	Tries	6 - 2 Players	
Diego Dominguez - 8	Conversions	33 - Jonny Wilkinson	
Diego Dominguez - 9	Penalties	23 - Jonny Wilkinson	
Ramiro Pez - 2	Drop Goals	1 - 2 Players	

Player Records in a Match

For Italy against England		For England against Italy	
Diego Dominguez on 22/11/1998 - 15	Points	35 - Jonny Wilkinson on 17/02/2001	
On 19 Occasions - 1	Tries	4 - Chris Ashton on 12/02/2011	
Diego Dominguez on 23/11/1996 - 3	Conversions	9 - Jonny Wilkinson on 17/02/2001	
On 3 Occasions - 4	Penalties	5 - On 3 Occasions	
Ramiro Pez on 11/02/2006 - 2	Drop Goals	1 - On 2 Occasions	

Team Records in a Match

For Italy against England		For England against Italy	
On 17/02/2001 - 23	Points	80 - On 17/02/2001	
On 23/11/1996 - 3	Tries	10 - On 17/02/2001	
On 23/11/1996 - 3	Conversions	9 - On 17/02/2001	
On 3 Occasions - 4	Penalties	5 - On 3 Occasions	
On 11/02/2006 - 2	Drop Goals	1 - On 2 Occasions	



Head Coach: Jacques Brunel

Debut: 04/02/2012 v France (L 12-30)
 Winning Ratio: 0.00%
 Average Tries per Match: 0.00

Recent Matches

Date	Opponent	Result	Venue
04/02/2012	France	L 12 30	St Denis
02/10/2011	Ireland	L 6 36	Dunedin
27/09/2011	USA	W 27 10	Nelson
20/09/2011	Russia	W 53 17	Nelson
11/09/2011	Australia	L 6 32	Auckland
Points For		104	
Points Ag		125	
Tries For		13	
Tries Ag		15	

Italy Record Under Jacques Brunel		
0 Wins	0 Drawn	1 Lost
12 For	Points	30 Against
0 For	Tries	4 Against
0 For	Conversions	2 Against
3 For	Penalties	2 Against
1 For	Drop Goals	0 Against

Player Info For Italy

Player	Pos	Age	Debut	Caps	Caps as Sub	Caps v Opponent	Won	Drawn	Lost	Points	Tries	Cons	Pens	DGs
Andrea Lo Cicero	1	35	18/03/2000	92	23	8	28	1	63	40	8	0	0	0
Leonardo Ghiraldini	2	27	11/06/2006	42	10	3	10	0	32	15	3	0	0	0
Martin Castrogiovanni	3	30	08/06/2002	83	21	9	23	1	59	55	11	0	0	0
Quintin Geldenhuys	4	30	13/06/2009	26	3	2	7	0	19	0	0	0	0	0
Marco Bortolami	5	31	23/06/2001	89	11	8	27	1	61	35	7	0	0	0
Alessandro Zanni	6	28	12/11/2005	59	18	4	17	1	41	10	2	0	0	0
Robert Barbieri	7	27	11/06/2006	17	5	1	5	0	12	5	1	0	0	0
Sergio Parisse (C)	8	28	08/06/2002	84	3	7	24	1	59	43	8	0	0	1
Edoardo Gori	9	21	20/11/2010	10	4	0	4	0	6	10	2	0	0	0
Kris Burton	10	31	02/06/2007	10	4	1	2	0	8	18	0	3	3	1
Luke McLean	11	24	21/06/2008	34	5	3	7	0	27	59	4	0	13	0
Gonzalo Canale	12	29	23/08/2003	73	7	6	23	1	49	35	7	0	0	0
Tommaso Benvenuti	13	21	13/11/2010	13	2	0	5	0	8	15	3	0	0	0
Giovanbattista Venditti	14	21	04/02/2012	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Andrea Masi	15	30	26/08/1999	65	10	7	18	0	47	65	13	0	0	0
Total				698	126	59	200	6	492	405	69	3	16	2
Tommaso D'Apice	16	23	13/08/2011	4	4	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Lorenzo Cittadini	17	29	02/02/2008	9	6	0	2	0	7	0	0	0	0	0
Antonio Pavanello	18	29	09/06/2007	3	3	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Mauro Bergamasco	19	32	18/11/1998	88	9	9	27	0	61	70	14	0	0	0
Fabio Semenzato	20	25	12/02/2011	9	1	1	2	0	7	5	1	0	0	0
Tobie Botes	21	27	04/02/2012	1	1	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	1	0
Luca Morisi	22	20		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Records For Italy

Caps
101 - Alessandro Troncon
92 - Andrea Lo Cicero
89 - Marco Bortolami

Tries
25 - Marcello Cuttitta
22 - Paolo Vaccari
21 - Carlo Checchinato

Points
983 - Diego Dominguez
483 - Stefano Bettarello
294 - Luigi Troiani

Player Records (In a Match)
Points: 29 - 3 players
Tries: 4 - 2 players
Conversions: 12 - Luigi Troiani v Czech Republic on 18/05/1994
Penalties: 8 - 2 players
Drop Goals: 3 - 2 players

Team Records (In a Match)
Points: 104 v Czech Republic on 18/05/1994
Tries: 16 v Czech Republic on 18/05/1994
Conversions: 12 v Czech Republic on 18/05/1994
Penalties: 8 on 2 Occasions
Drop Goals: 3 on 3 Occasions





Head Coach: Stuart Lancaster

Debut: 04/02/2012 v Scotland (W 13-6)
 Winning Ratio: 100.00%
 Average Tries per Match: 1.00

Recent Matches

Date	Opponent	Result	Venue
04/02/2012	Scotland	W 13 6	Edinburgh
08/10/2011	France	L 12 19	Auckland
01/10/2011	Scotland	W 16 12	Auckland
24/09/2011	Romania	W 67 3	Dunedin
18/09/2011	Georgia	W 41 10	Dunedin
Points For		149	
Points Ag		50	
Tries For		20	
Tries Ag		3	

England Record Under Stuart Lancaster			
1 Wins	0 Drawn	0 Lost	
13 For	Points	6 Against	
1 For	Tries	0 Against	
1 For	Conversions	0 Against	
2 For	Penalties	2 Against	
0 For	Drop Goals	0 Against	

Player Info For England

Player	Pos	Age	Debut	Caps	Caps as Sub	Caps v Opponent	Won	Drawn	Lost	Points	Tries	Cons	Pens	DGs
Alex Corbisiero	1	23	12/02/2011	11	4	1	8	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
Dylan Hartley	2	25	08/11/2008	35	15	3	20	1	14	5	1	0	0	0
Dan Cole	3	24	06/02/2010	24	2	2	15	1	8	5	1	0	0	0
Mouritz Botha	4	30	06/08/2011	2	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tom Palmer	5	32	16/06/2001	34	10	2	19	0	15	0	0	0	0	0
Tom Croft	6	26	23/02/2008	32	12	1	18	0	14	15	3	0	0	0
Chris Robshaw (C)	7	25	13/06/2009	2	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Phil Dowson	8	30	04/02/2012	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ben Youngs	9	22	13/03/2010	18	3	1	12	1	5	15	3	0	0	0
Charlie Hodgson	10	31	17/11/2001	37	10	4	21	0	16	264	7	44	44	3
Dave Strettle	11	28	24/02/2007	8	1	0	3	0	5	5	1	0	0	0
Owen Farrell	12	20	04/02/2012	1	0	0	1	0	0	8	0	1	2	0
Bradley Barritt	13	25	04/02/2012	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chris Ashton	14	24	20/03/2010	19	0	1	13	0	6	75	15	0	0	0
Ben Foden	15	26	07/02/2009	23	3	2	14	1	8	25	5	0	0	0
Total				248	61	17	149	4	95	417	36	45	46	3
Rob Webber	16	25		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Matt Stevens	17	29	12/06/2004	40	20	3	21	0	19	0	0	0	0	0
Geoff Parling	18	28	04/02/2012	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ben Morgan	19	22	04/02/2012	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lee Dickson	20	26	04/02/2012	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jordan Turner-Hall	21	24	04/02/2012	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mike Brown	22	26	26/05/2007	4	1	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0

Records For England

Caps

114 - Jason Leonard
 91 - Jonny Wilkinson
 85 - Rory Underwood

Tries

49 - Rory Underwood
 31 - Ben Cohen
 31 - Will Greenwood

Points

1179 - Jonny Wilkinson
 400 - Paul Grayson
 396 - Rob Andrew

Player Records (In a Match)

Points: 44 - Charlie Hodgson v Romania on 17/11/2001
 Tries: 5 - 3 players
 Conversions: 15 - Paul Grayson v Netherlands on 14/11/1998
 Penalties: 8 - Jonny Wilkinson v South Africa on 24/06/2000
 Drop Goals: 3 - Jonny Wilkinson v France on 16/11/2003

Team Records (In a Match)

Points: 134 v Romania on 17/11/2001
 Tries: 20 v Romania on 17/11/2001
 Conversions: 15 v Netherlands on 14/11/1998
 Penalties: 8 v South Africa on 24/06/2000
 Drop Goals: 3 v France on 16/11/2003