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The Official Matchday Magazine of Pontypridd Rugby

The Voice of  
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**£1.50** Issue: **110**

## Pontypridd vs Crosskeys

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# Welcome...



This afternoon we extend a warm welcome to the players, officials and supporters of Crosskeys RFC. Last season, in the Principality Building Society Premiership, Pontypridd RFC won by the score lines of 37-19 at Sardis Road on Saturday 26th September 2009 and by 11-12 at Pandy Park on Wednesday 27th January 2010.

A welcome to the 2010/11 season is also extended to all our supporters, whether as former players, members, shareholders, sponsors or the occasional observer who pays at the gate.

Although Pontypridd RFC finished in fourth position in the Principality Premier League last season, which in itself is no mean feat, it represented something of a disappointment. A significant contribution to the curtailment of our ambition in this competition and in the British & Irish Cup was brought about by the combination of unrelenting rainfall, almost Monsoon-like in November and a severe cold snap over the Christmas and New Year period. A consequence of a combination of the elements and the detrimental effect on the playing surface resulted in the team playing eight matches in twenty-nine days at one point later in the season and also, in the surrender of home advantage to Cardiff RFC in a BIC fixture.

In the closed season, the playing surface received its greatest attention since the end of the professional era. The remedial action has been contributed to and coordinated by the 'Pitch Doctor', Mr Jack Bayliss, a Director of Ponty Rugby Ltd. He was supported ably by our own volunteer crew and crucially, by RCT County Borough Council. We are extremely

grateful as always for the essential logistic support of RCT. Furthermore, we express our appreciation and gratitude to all our volunteers who have contributed their time and skills to the essential maintenance carried out at Sardis Road during the summer months.

We welcome back our coaches, our players, 'old' and 'new' and our 'backroom' staff. Congratulations to Chris Dicomidis on his succession to the club captaincy and to the squad that retained the Abercynon Seven-a-side title, winning it on all three occasions that it has been open to contention! The squad has beaten comprehensively WRU Division I East team Merthyr RFC, RFU Division I team Coventry RFC and RFU Championship team Birmingham & Solihull RFC in a series of friendly matches.

Finally, Bev Kay who is a long-standing supporter and was for a considerable period of time, the Treasurer of PRFC Supporters club, is marrying Mike Rose in Hopkinstown tomorrow. Inevitably, they will be staging their reception in the clubhouse! We convey our best wishes to the happy couple for their wedding day.

'The Friends of Pontypridd RFC' sponsor this afternoon's 'Golden Bob' Man of the Match, while the Match Sponsors are Egan Waste Ltd. We trust that all our guests will have an enjoyable afternoon at Sardis Road.



*Stephen Reardon*  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

## PONTY RUGBY LTD.

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# Coaches Corner...

The pre-season went well for us, achieving the targets we had set at the end of the previous season. These were ambitious targets which had been agreed between management and players, and we have hit 99.9% of those targets, meaning that we go into this season physically better prepared than at any other time.

The WRU have set an early start to the league programme, which has inconvenienced our build up, raising concerns over some aspects of our preparations, in particular our unit work and the focus we had on strength and conditioning.

Having said that, all of us as a coaching team, myself, Paul John, Darren Bool and Richard Langmead, are all pleased with the way the three pre-season fixtures went. Our performance levels were up to standard, even giving us the opportunity to blood some Academy youngsters who will definitely be an asset to us as the campaign progresses.

At the other end of the age scale its good to see the return of Gareth Wyatt, now a little greyer around the edges but not having lost that spark which he had when he first broke into the Ponty team. His experience and club ethic will be an asset in our challenge for success.

Good also to see the return of Daf Lockyer from injury, looking sharper and better prepared, and to see Matthew Nuthall firing on all cylinders having struggled with an ankle injury over the past season.

We were a little apprehensive as to how the new members of our squad would embrace the Ponty philosophy, but the likes of Ed Siggery, Jake Thomas, Craig Locke and Phil Osborne have all worked relentlessly through the summer and will enhance the quality of our pack. Brendan Lyons had taken time out from the game but seems to have found a new lease of life in the black and white jersey.

At half back, Garyn Lucas and Simon Humberstone look comfortable in the ranks and another latecomer, David Gratton has impressed hugely in the Abercynon Sevens and in the Coventry match.

We would again wish to thank all the loyal supporters who continue to come out in force, and hope that we can repay that loyalty by finishing the season as strongly as we have started, pushing for success in all three competitions.

Finally, it was great last Saturday to see the massed ranks of Ponty squads lining up for the "One Club" photo. Amongst those youngsters are the future of our club – we hope that we can do both ourselves and those who follow in our footsteps proud by maintaining the levels of achievement of this great club.



*Dale McIntosh*  
**HEAD COACH**



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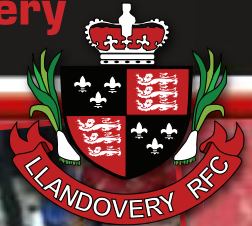
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# The Full Ponty...

## PONTYPRIDD RFC SUPPORTERS' CLUB – ANNUAL REPORT

The high spot of our travels away was the Ayr trip for the British and Irish Cup. How we had longed for a return of meaningful away trips over the dyke! Two coaches of Ponty fanatics invaded north of the border to watch the win (we went up by trains, planes and automobiles as well!) Thanks must be given to Phil Lycett for his sterling efforts in organising buses to all games. These sometimes ran at a loss and we can not carry such losses into 2011 as costs continue to rise.

On match days we continue, with other volunteers, to ensure that preparations are up to standard. This includes an early morning trip to the ground and long stay afterwards to recuperate. Match day music and announcements are made via Supporters' Club equipment. We hope to upgrade the equipment but finances make this unlikely this year.

Remedial work is carried out by a small (sadly diminishing) crew on Sunday mornings. One wonders at the cost savings made by this committed band of workers. If anyone wants to volunteer please do - we need you! The tea and toast club afterwards is also great fun.

The link with GTFM radio remains with the Friday preview live at 12.15 p.m. and the "Ponty rugby discussion" broadcast every Friday evening at 6.30p.m. with guests from the club and the wider world of rugby. Past items include chats with Grant Hibberd (NZ under 20s manager), JJ Williams, J.P.R Williams, and a live link to Australia pre autumn international. We also had the usual group of Ponty fanatics and one West Walian who actually believed "West is Best" - send for the men in white coats!

On international match days the Supporters' Club prepared the venue for supporters to watch the games on our big screens. Food is now provided by the Club Steward - our thanks to Mark, Cheryl and the bar staff.

In the close season work continued by our members and others to rejuvenate the club infrastructure.

A new shop carpet was four fifths paid for by us, also a new flat screen TV for the Lounge.

The AGM of Ponty Rugby Ltd is due to take place this autumn. We will meet prior to the AGM to ensure views are canvassed. We keep our pledge that all views are heard, and as far as possible, complied with. There can be no more democratic system.

I would like to remind members that all services provided by the Supporters' Club come at no cost and membership remains free. No committee members receive any gratuities for their efforts. In fact we usually end up paying more! The only profits generated are from events, transport, or raffles and all money raised goes to the club.

This year events such as the Christmas Dinner, New Year's Eve and Player of the Year nights were a great success. Special thanks go to Carol Waughtington, Sue Kingsbury and their organizing team and to the Grogg Shop for the wonderful trophies. The highly successful Quiz Nights are organised by our treasurer Chris Kingsbury. Despite losing considerable income the Supporters' Club ran the 'Golden Key' draw now superseded by the Ponty Lotto.

Finally I would like to thank all who have helped make my job so enjoyable. I hit the big 6 - 0 this year and I see no young bucks coming to the fore - your help will be appreciated and the level of friendship is second to none.

Director of Finance Peter Howells values all the work raising in excess of £50,000 per annum (excluding his fee!). I hope I will continue to serve this wonderful club for many years to come - your support, my health and God willing.

Thank you and see you at Sardis Road and all other points of the compass where the Black and White armies go!

*Alun Jones*

**SUPPORTERS CLUB SECRETARY**

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# PLAYER PROFILE

## CHRIS DICOMIDIS

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**Full Name:**  
Christopher David Dicomidis  
**AKA -** Dico

### About the Boy:

<b>Birthplace</b>	Bridgend
<b>Occupation</b>	Sports Coach
<b>Rugby Ambition</b>	Win some silverware with Ponty
<b>Role Model</b>	Jonah Lomu
<b>Hero</b>	David Beckham

### Favourites:

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<b>Pastime</b>	Sleeping/ Winding people up!!!

For a full profile of all the current Pontypridd squad, log on to the personnel page of the club website - [www.ponty.net](http://www.ponty.net)



# Team Talk...

## WRECKS AND DRUGS AND RUCK-AND-MAUL

Sam Hobbs was involved in a Blues match last season which took a dramatic turn for the worse for the "Brecon Ram".

In this article, in conversation with club historian Richard Evans he recalls a terrifying time in his young life.

**Richard Evans: Tell us, Sam, what do you remember of the injury?**

Sam Hobbs: We'd conceded a try, and as I walked back to halfway, my right leg became numb - I thought it was a dead leg that I'd be able to run off. As I chased the kick off, I tripped in front of some Newcastle players who had formed a maul. I managed to get back on my feet, but could not feel my right leg and fell back down. I can recall having a massive headache and I'd lost sight in both eyes, all I could see was light. The physios and doctors attended to me quickly - I lost consciousness and began to physically fit.

I've seen the incident and the initial fall is very funny - you can see a few of the boys on the bench laughing. But obviously as time went on, the situation became serious and there was genuine concern.

**RE: When you came around at the hospital, how bad did you think the injury was?**

SH: I was drifting in and out of consciousness. I can recall arriving at the hospital where my girlfriend and mother were very upset at the sight of me being tilted over still strapped on my back vomiting. At this point I still couldn't see or feel my legs but I could hear everything and had a massive headache. This made me worry whether I'd be able to see or walk again.

**RE: Did you undergo any surgery?**

SH: I underwent a scan and the doctors found a bleed in the left side of my brain, the cause of which

was unknown. Two days later, I had to undergo a procedure where a camera was inserted into an artery in my groin and pushed through my body into my brain. The only way I can describe the feeling is as the closest I will get to taking drugs with bright lights going off in my eyes.

**RE: Any funny stories as part of your recovery?**

SH: I was doing some running on a treadmill in the Blues gym - I managed to roll my ankle awkwardly on the running machine and, as it was going pretty fast, it threw me off the other end and I landed in a heap in front of the boys most of whom were laughing hysterically.

**RE: Anybody you would like to thank on your road to recovery?**

SH: The Blues medical team who probably saved my life that day, physios Andy Shea and Tim Atter, Dr Geoff Davies and Dr Varley. Also Dan Baugh who was with me the whole time on the pitch, and Bob Norster who stayed with my family through the night at the hospital. Also the specialist Dr O'Sullivan who worked with me for the duration of my recovery. I'd like to thank the Blues as an organisation for their support through a tough period of my life. Also to Pontypridd RFC - the players, staff and supporters for their well wishes over the past months

**RE: What are your targets for the upcoming season?**

SH: I'm just looking forward to playing again, to get back into the Blues squad regularly, to learn as much as possible from the coaches and other props there such as Gethin (Jenkins.) If I'm not involved with the Blues, I'm equally looking forward to getting stuck in again with Ponty. Trying to get into the team here will be tough enough with the competition for places.

*Richard Evans*  
CLUB HISTORIAN

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# Vital Statistics...

## PONTYPRIDD RFC TEAM STATISTICS 2010/11 (Excl. Pre Season Friendlies)

Player	Position	Started	Rep	Tries	Cons	Pens	DG's	Total
BALLER, Kristian	Scrum Half							0
CLAYTON, Chris	Wing							0
DACEY, Gavin	Centre							0
DICOMIDIS, Chris	Flanker							0
DOWDEN, Huw	Hooker							0
GRATTON, David	Full Back							0
GUNTER, Dean	Outside Half							0
HARFORD, Ryan	Prop							0
HETHERINGTON, Tom	Hooker							0
HUMBERSTONE, Simon	Outside Half							0
KNAGGS, Ken	Prop							0
LOCKE, Craig	Lock							0
LOCKYER, Dafydd	Centre							0
LYONS, Brendan	No.8							0
LUCAS, Garyn	Scrum Half							0
MARTENKO, Chris	Lock							0
NUTHALL, Matthew	Full Back							0
O'CONNOR, Wayne	Flanker							0
OSBORNE, Phil	Prop							0
SAVAGE, Ryan	Lock							0
SIGGERY, Ed	Flanker							0
THOMAS, Adam	Centre							0
THOMAS, Jake	Flanker							0
WATERS, Darren	Flanker							0
WILLIAMS, Gary	Centre							0
WILLIAMS, Jon	Prop							0
WILLIAMS, Lewis	Wing							0
WILLIAMS, Owen	Wing							0
WILLIAMS, Stuart	Prop							0
WYATT, Gareth	Wing							0
<b>Totals</b>				<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

## WELSH PREMIERHIP TABLE 2009/10 - FINAL STANDINGS

	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Against	Tries For	Tries Against	4 Try BP	Losing BP	Pts
1 Neath RFC (Champions)	26	21	0	5	927	532	125	53	18	2	104
2 Swansea RFC	26	19	1	6	780	527	101	60	15	3	96
3 Newport RFC	26	18	0	8	685	470	81	47	9	5	86
<b>4 Pontypridd RFC</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>682</b>	<b>486</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>81</b>
5 Aberavon RFC	26	14	4	8	709	617	82	71	10	3	77
6 Llanelli RFC	26	14	2	10	663	565	76	64	11	6	77
7 Cardiff RFC	26	15	2	9	612	507	69	51	7	4	75
8 Llandoverly RFC	26	12	1	13	636	621	71	68	6	4	60
9 Carm. Quins RFC	26	11	0	15	515	562	52	61	3	5	52
10 Cross Keys RFC	26	9	1	16	502	550	53	100	2	7	47
11 Bedwas RFC	26	8	0	18	516	792	49	95	5	7	44
12 Glam Wanderers RFC	26	7	0	19	461	657	47	88	2	10	40
13 Pontypool RFC	26	7	0	19	464	891	52	113	5	3	36
14 Ebbw Vale RFC	26	5	0	21	312	687	23	82	1	7	28



## PONTYPRIDD RFC TEAM RESULTS 2010/11

Date	Opponents	Comp.	Venue	Result	For	Against	Try	Con	Pen	D/G
<b>2010</b>										
Aug 7th	Birmingham & Solihull	PSF	Home	Won	41	14	7	3	0	0
Aug 13th	Merthyr	PSF	Away	Won	27	3	5	1	0	0
Aug 21st	Coventry	PSF	Home	Won	53	12	8	5	1	0
Aug 28th	Cross Keys	WP	Home							
Sept 4th	Glam Wanderers	WP	Away							
Sept 11th	Carmarthen Quins	WP	Home							
Sept 18th	Aberavon	WP	Away							
Sept 22nd	Glam Wanderers	WP	Home							
Sept 25th	Pontypool	WP	Home							
Oct 2nd	Neath	WP	Away							
Oct 9th	Tonmawr	WP	Away							
Oct 16th	Llandovery	BIC	Away							
Oct 23rd	Cardiff	WP	Home							
Oct 30th	Newport	WP	Away							
Nov 6th	Llanelli	WP	Home							
Nov 9th	Tonmawr	WP	Home							
Nov 13th	Swansea	WP	Away							
Nov 20th	Newport	WP	Home							
Nov 27th	Llandovery	WP	Away							
Dec 4th	Carmarthen Quins	WP	Away							
Dec 11th	Ayr	BIC	Home							
Dec 18th	Birmingham & Solihull	BIC	Home							
Dec 27th	Bedwas	WP	Away							
<b>2011</b>										
Jan 3rd	Aberavon	WP	Home							
Jan 8th	Pontypool	WP	Away							
Jan 15th	Rotherham Titans	BIC	Home							
Jan 22nd	Doncaster Knights	BIC	Away							
Feb 5th	Cardiff	WP	Away							
Feb 26th	Bedwas	WP	Home							
Mar 5th	Cross Keys	WP	Away							
Mar 12th	Neath	WP	Home							
Mar 19th	Llandovery	WP	Home							
Apr 2nd	Swansea	WP	Home							
Apr 16th	Llanelli	WP	Away							
<b>Total</b>					<b>34</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>

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# Opposition...



## CROSSKEYS

Last season Crosskeys finished a disappointing tenth in the Premiership table and thirteen points adrift of a play-off place for the British and Irish Cup. Their league campaign had started well enough, but their eventual modest league finish was due to their losing ten of their last twelve games in the Premiership. This decline started when Pontypridd visited Pandy Park in late January and emerged with a 12-11 victory. After that the Keys slid down the table and to a series of defeats. Their final position didn't do justice to their squad's abilities and in contrast to the team's final tally of only nine wins from twenty six games some individual players had excellent seasons. Gareth David showed his goal kicking prowess as the club's top points scorer and back rower Robert Nash emerged as an inspirational force, being voted the club's Player of the Year.

The close season saw the retirement of veteran club lock and talisman Ben Watkins, at thirty eight years of age, having notched up seventy eight appearances for the Keys in the semi-pro era. Crosskeys re-signed most of their squad, with some notable new additions bolstering the squad in key positions. Experienced tight head prop Marc Jones joined from relegated Ebbw

Vale, and two of the Premiership's most sought after back rowers were enticed to Pandy Park – Swansea's back row utility player Marc Popham and Ebbw Vale's number 8 Rhys Williams, who is regarded as one of the best loose forwards in the Premiership. Centre Nathan Williams also joined from Newport.

Also added to the squad as a centre is the mercurial Lee Thorne, moving from Pontypridd. Lee had made an explosive impact at Sardis Road in his first few games but last season he found his first team opportunities limited due to Ponty's plentiful choice of experienced centres. Another former Sardis Road player who might also feature for the visitors today is hooker Richard Emms. He played eighteen games for Crosskeys last season, including a start as an emergency flanker. Under the coaching trio of Greg Woods, Mark Ring and Jonathan Westwood, Crosskeys come to Sardis Road today with a reinforced squad and high expectations. Ponty will have to play well to meet the challenge of a doughty pack, formidable in the set piece, a back row mix among the best in the Premiership, and the prolific boot of Gareth David.



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# Age Grade Rugby...



## THE FIGHT-BACK FOR THE DOG TRACK

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Please help- this is an emergency!

During my 38 years with Pontypridd Schools Rugby Union the Greyhound Stadium(the Dog Track) Hawthorn, has been the spiritual home of our team, and in September of last year, as an Union, we applied to take over the lease of the ground.

In June of this year we received a letter from RCT informing us that Rhydyfelin Soccer Club wanted to take over the lease. Cll Mrs.Webber and Cll. Mrs Bates, the two local County Councilors are pressurising to make the Soccer Club preferred lease holders.

We believe this to be grossly unfair and counter productive to rugby in our area !

If you agree that this is unfair and counter productive – then please help and express your anger

- Get hold of your local representatives within RCT
- Get hold of friends to help
- Write in to the Authority
- Write to the local press - let's galvanize local opinion and build a campaign!

Undeb Rygbi Ysgolion Pontypridd Schools Rugby Union has been in existence since 1903 and apart from war time interruptions, has been an avenue for young school children to enjoy and develop their rugby skills year in, and year out.

Countless people have freely given up time and energy supporting this fine organization, passing it on to the next generation.

Let's keep it at the Dogtrack for another 100 years!!

Diolch yn fawr

*Gerwyn Caffery*

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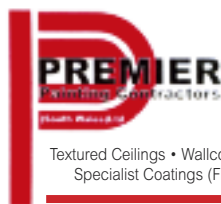
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# Notice Board...

## Golden Bob Award

Today's "Golden Bob" man of the match award for the first game of the new season against Crosskeys is sponsored by long standing club benefactors "The Friends of Pontypridd"



## Match Sponsors



This afternoon's Match Sponsors are Egan Waste Services Ltd. The company have this season resumed their status as main club sponsors, enhancing a long and valued partnership with Pontypridd RFC. We hope that company directors Danny and James Egan enjoy their time in our company. All at Pontypridd RFC will also wish John Egan a long and happy retirement, with the assurance that there will always be a warm welcome guaranteed for him at Sardis Road!

## Today's Mascots

Today's match mascots are fourteen award winners from the Rhondda Schools reading initiative "Only Boys Allowed". Pontypridd RFC have been proud to support this scheme over the past two seasons, and once again we are delighted to welcome a group of youngsters who have worked extremely hard to achieve their awards.

The mascots today represent junior schools from Williamstown, Ysgol yr Eos, Penygraig, Cwmclydach, Llwynypia and Tonyrefail

## Bev & Mike's Big Day



Congratulations from all at Pontypridd RFC to long standing club supporters Bev Kaye and Mike Rose who are getting married this weekend. The couple will tie the knot at Capel Rhondda, Hopkinstown tomorrow (Sunday) with the wedding reception held at... where else but Pontypridd RFC. Best wishes to both Bev and Mike, especially from Mark, Cheryl and all the family.

**Ladies Day Champagne & Rugby At Pontypridd Rugby Saturday September 11<sup>th</sup> 2010**

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## TODAY'S OTHER FIXTURES

Llandovery v Swansea  
Pontypool v Bedwas  
Newport v Llanelli

Glam Wanderers v Neath  
Cardiff v Carmarthen Quins  
Tonmawr v Aberavon



# PONTYPRIDD'S LOCAL RADIO STATION





# PONTYPRIDD v CROSSKEYS



## PONTYPRIDD

## CROSSKEYS

<b>Matthew Nuthall</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>Gareth David</b>
<b>Gareth Wyatt</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>Ryan Lee</b>
<b>Adam Thomas</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>Leon Andrews</b>
<b>Dafydd Lockyer</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>Lee Thorne</b>
<b>Lewis Williams</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>Marcus Johnstone</b>
<b>Dean Gunter</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>Steffan Jones</b>
<b>Kristian Baller</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>Ryan James</b>
<b>Ken Knaggs</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Richard Cornock</b>
<b>Huw Dowden</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Lloyd Burns</b>
<b>Ryan Harford</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Mark Jones</b>
<b>Cory Hill</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Dan Hodge</b>
<b>Ryan Savage</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Tom Lampard</b>
<b>Darren Waters</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Marc Popham</b>
<b>Wayne O'Connor</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>Rob Nash (Capt)</b>
<b>Chris Dicomidis (Capt)</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>Rhys Williams</b>

### Replacements

Lewis Jones; Simon Humberstone;  
Gary Williams; Tom Hetherington; Phil  
Osborne; Jake Thomas; Ed Siggery

Richard Emms; Colin Bridges; Julian  
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Touch Judge 2: Viv Pryce



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