

Rugby World Cup 2011 Panel

MK Sporting Lunch Club



Jon Sleightholme

Bath winger Jon Sleightholme established himself at the top of the pecking order in the 1996 and 1997 seasons, winning 12 successive caps, but was then left out in the cold when the Clive Woodward era began. Jon's debut came in Paris in 1996 when he was chosen ahead of Damian Hopley, but the match saw England's first Championship defeat by France since 1988 when Thomas Castangeina scored a late drop goal. England then defeated both Wales and Scotland, but it became clear that this was not a vintage year and Will Carling's men were severely criticised by the press. However, Sleightholme scored his first international try against Ireland to help England to a 28-15 win which saw them nick the Championship from France. Later in

the year Jon scored another try in England's 34-19 defeat by the New Zealand Barbarians, though the match was not given cap status even though the opposition were virtually a full strength All Black side. Despite the criticism and indifferent performances of 1996, England began the 1997 Five Nations Championship in confident style and won their first two matches by record margins, with Sleightholme scoring a brace of tries in a 46-6 thrashing of Ireland in Dublin. In their next game at Twickenham, England seemingly had the French at their mercy when they raced into a 20-6 lead thanks to Lawrence Dallaglio's excellent try and Paul Grayson's accuracy with the boot. However, England inexplicably lost concentration in the second half and allowed the French to steal the game 23-20. England sealed the Triple Crown with victory over Wales, but in truth it was a season of unfulfilled promise. Jon played in just two more internationals on tour in Argentina, before realising that he had no part to play in the Clive Woodward regime. (Jon Collins).



Leon Lloyd

Leon David Lloyd (born 22 September 1977 in Coventry) is a retired English rugby union footballer who played wing or outside centre for Leicester Tigers between 1997 and 2007, spending his final 2007/8 season at Gloucester.

Leon Lloyd agreed a deal to leave Leicester Tigers for Guinness Premiership team Gloucester Rugby.[1]

Prior to making his début for the Tigers first team Leon was a successful try scorer for the Tigers Youth XV and Development XV before a serious car accident sidelined him for six months.

Lloyd made his Tigers début aged 19 in 1996, and displaced ageing England international Rory Underwood from the side. He was part of the squad that won the Madrid Sevens that year. Lloyd was a substitute in the 1997 Heineken Cup Final which Tigers lost 28-9 to Brive. He played for England U21, the Barbarians and England Colts in 1997.

Under backs coach Pat Howard, Lloyd was shifted inside from the wing to outside centre.

Lloyd was included in England's 1999 World Cup squad, but did not play. He gained his first two caps as a replacement against South Africa in 2000, but concern was raised about his discipline as he was seen punching a Springbok player.

He played in the England side during 2001 tour to North America, where he played in three tests. Unfortunately he suffered a shoulder injury that required surgery and kept him out of the Tigers squad for the start of the 2001/02 season.

However, he recovered well and scored two tries, including the match-winner in Tigers' 2001 Heineken Cup Final, only to be injured again when Leicester retained the trophy in May 2002. That injury also ruled him out of the England Sevens squad for the Commonwealth Games in Manchester and eventually led to his retirement in August 2008.

Lloyd runs One Call 4 All, a lifestyle management company based in Leicester, and in March 2009 he was appointed as Foundation Director for Oakham School, the leading independent school in the Midlands, where he will use his excellent contacts and rugby skills to get more money for the school, ensuring its continued success and financial security.



Mike Rayer

Michael Anthony Rayer, he gained his first cap in the 1991 World Cup, as a replacement against Western Samoa, after joining Cardiff from the Llandaff North Club, from where he had skippered Wales Youth including a game against the touring South African Youth side before joining Cardiff RFC in the season 1984-85. He scored over 300 National League points in five seasons during his first spell with the Arms Park Club. Mike won a Wales 'B' cap as a replacement against France in 1987 and had a full match against them in 1989. He was the top scorer with 64 points in three games on the tour of Namibia in 1990 and after being an ever present in Cardiff's league games in 1990-91 and top scorer for the club with 190 points and also scoring a 161 points the season before. He replaced Nigel Walker against Japan and Scotland in 1993-94, scoring one try in the former and two in the

latter from left wing. His big match try scoring continued with one for Cardiff in the 1994 Cup final and another for Wales against Fiji at Suva.