

WORLD CUP RUGBY STAR REVEALS AN UNEXPECTED WEAKNESS

THERE HAS only been one occasion when Jason Leonard, the most-capped England rugby player of all time, has been intimidated on the pitch.

That moment came when Leonard met Norman Hadley, a six foot nine Canadian rugby union player with a scar down his cheek that "didn't come from rugby".

For reasons best known to himself, Leonard punched Hadley between the eyes so hard he broke his knuckle and his finger, to which Hadley replied: "Is that the best you can do, princess?"

Leonard told the anecdote at an evening event hosted by specialist finance recruiter KennedyPearce for 300 City guests from companies including ICAP, Munich Re, Morgan Stanley, John Lewis, Northern Rock and Aviva Investors.

But not all Leonard's anecdotes were so colourful, said his interviewer Jeff Grout, KennedyPearce non-executive director and the former business manager for World Cup-winning England manager Sir Clive Woodward. "Along the way, we covered the topics of drugs in sport, high performance environments, and some of the factors that determined England's success in 2003," he said.

Followed by, naturally, the team's prospects in the current World Cup tomorrow when they meet Scotland, the side known for its "frantic" playing pace. "England will slow the game down to then play it to their strengths and win," predicted Leonard.

