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Hello and welcome back to DAM Health Stadium as we return home from a two-week tour for tonight's 'Club Appreciation Night' match-up with Emirates Lions.

After plenty of travel, and with over 8,000 miles covered, it's great to back in Edinburgh as we prepare for tonight's hugely exciting Friday night lights encounter.

It's brilliant to be once again celebrating our grassroots clubs via the 'Club Appreciation Night' initiative. It's now our second season running this themed night and I know our squad love the fact we are able to pay tribute to our local clubs that do so much to support us on a weekly basis.

Whether its watching Darcy Graham running down the wing in the green of Hawick or cheering on Grant Gilchrist as he steals lineout ball in the red of Alloa, I think we can all agree it's a cracking initiative and one that brings us all together as club rugby fans, no matter your allegiance.

Although we returned home from South Africa without a win, I was really proud of how the squad battled in both matches.

To score five tries at Lofus while going toeto-toe with a full-strength Bulls team on a short week of preparation was really impressive and had it not been for the boot of Morne Steyn, we'd have prevailed as the first Northern Hemisphere team to ever win in Pretoria.



While in Cape Town, although the end scoreline wasn't one we were satisfied with as a team, we were once again really impressive throughout and looked totally in control for the first 39 minutes of the match.

However, as we so often say, rugby is a game of small margins and DHL Stormers – in the end – showcased why they are Champions of the URC.

Touring is brilliant and it's a great way to bond as a squad and management, however there's nothing quite like home and being back in front of the Edinburgh supporters.

You created a brilliant atmosphere in our Round 1 win against Dragons RFC and I'm once again calling on our fans to make every decibel count as we take on an Emirates Lions side who'll be full of confidence.

After a smash and grab win against Ospreys, the Lions went one better in Cardiff last weekend, claiming a 18-31 victory at Cardiff Arms Park to move up to seventh place in the overall standings.

We're going to have to be at our best tonight but you as supporters also have a huge role to play in backing the team vocally and helping drive us forward for all 80 minutes.

Let's make it another special Friday night lights match-up to remember. Enjoy the game!

Douglas Struth
Edinburgh Rugby Managing Director
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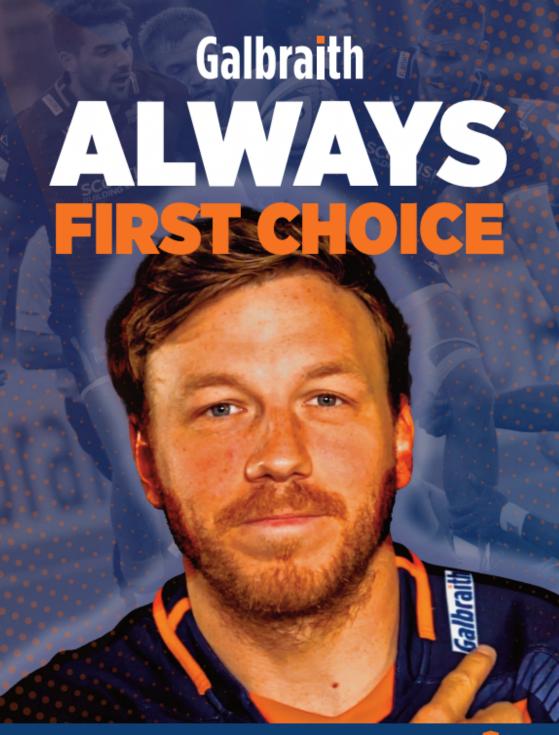
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## "Everyone at DAM Health wishes Edinburgh Rugby all the best successes this season."



Professor Frank Joseph Director of Medicine, DAM Health







#### TEAM LINEUPS

#### FNINRIIRGH

#### **FMIRATES LIONS**

HENRY IMMELMAN 15 ANDRIES COFTZEE DARCY GRAHAM 14 STEAN PIENAAR MATT CURRIE 13 HENCO VAN WYK JAMES LANG 12 MARIUS LOUW 11 FMILIANN RNFFFILL **DUAN HORN** BLAIR KINGHORN 10 GIANNI LOMBARD HENRY PYRGOS 9 SANELE NOHAMBA **RNAN VENTER** STI SITHOLF 1 STIIART MCINALLY P.I ROTHA 2 LIIAN DE BRIIIN 3 RIIAN DREVER **GLEN YOUNG** 4 PIETER JANSEN VAN VUREN 5 REINHARD NOTHNAGEL (C) GRANT GII CHRIST LUKE CROSBIE 6 SIRIISISO SANGWENI HAMISH WATSON 7 RIIAN VENTER VII IAMF MATA FRANCKE HORN

R

16. DAVE CHERRY 17. PIERRE SCHOFMAN 18. WP NFL 19. MARSHALL SYKES 20. BEN MIINCASTER 21. CHARLIE SHIFL 22. CHARLIF SAVALA 23. CHRIS DEAN

16. JACO VISAGIF 17. JP SMITH 18. RIIAN SMITH 19. FMMANIIFI TSHITIIKA 20. RIIHAN STRAFIII I 21. MORNE VAN DERN BERG 22. JORDAN HENDRIKSE 23. ZANDER DIJ PLESSIS

#### **CLUB SOCKS**

#### WHO'S REPRESENTING WHO

Marshall Sykes Ayrshire Rugby Club **Angus Williams** 

**Watsonians RFC** 

Glen Young Jed Forest RFC

**Bruce Houston** Heriots Rugby

Luan De Bruin Corstorphine cougars

**Darcy Graham Hawick** 

Cameron Hutchison NBRFC

Steven Lawrie Watsonians

Dan Gamble Kelso Rugby Club

**Chris Dean** North Berwick - Edinburgh Accies

Charlie shiel Royal High/Currie

Connor Boyle Stew Mel/Watsonians

Ben Vellacott Lasswade

Mark Bennett Cumnock RFC

**Stuart McInally Watsonians** 

Jake Henry Ross Sutherland

Jack Blain Stewart's Melville RFC

Matthew Currie Dumfries and Merchiston

Mike Blair Edinburgh Accies

Jamie Hodgson Watsonians/Stew Mel

**Hamish Watson Edinburgh Accies** Dave Cherry

**Grant Gilchrist** Alloa RFC

**Merchiston Castle & Mull RFC** 

Ben Evans Berwick RFC

**Luke Crosbie** Livingston RFC/ Currie Chieftains **Trinity RFC** 

Viliame Mata **Blair Kinghorn** 

**Edinburgh Accies** 

**Henry Pyrgos** 

**Leith RFC** 

Sam skinner

**Topsham Rugby Club** 

Jamie Jack Southern Knights Watsonians

Harrison Courtney

**North Berwick Rugby Football Club** 

Roan Frostwick Henry Immelman

Portobello RFC

Jaco van der Walt

**Bo'Ness** 

**Boan Venter** Leith RFC

Emiliano Boffelli Inverleith RFC/ Linlithgow RFC

James Lang RGC Rygbi Gogledd Cymru





just got to be a bit more clinical in certain areas of the park.

We took some real positives from it. We should have won the Bulls game, and then after being in the lead against the Stormers we should have shut that out better than we did. So there's lots of positives to take, but I think we just need to be a little bit more clinical."

#### ON MISSING THE BULLS GAME

"I was watching it in my bed, shocking - it was terrible. I was rooming with Jamie Ritchie. I woke up about 2am and I was like 'Oh, I don't feel so good. I was stuck in my hotel room for 36 hours. Terrible. I'm not sure where I got it from - I think it was just me who had it.

Watching from the sideline gave me a new perspective and respect for my family in particular - watching when you can't impact the outcome is stressful.

I thought Charlie (savala) did really well in the circumstances, I thought he was impressive, especially considering he wasn't expecting to play when he was eating his breakfast.



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### TEAM SPIRIT

**GLEN MORAY** 

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Edinburgh Rugby recently unveiled details of an extensive history and heritage project undertaken by the club to commemorate 150 years of representative rugby in the capital and kick-off a countdown to the 1872 Cup anniversary match against Glasgow Warriors at BT Murrayfield Stadium (Friday 30 December, kick-off 7.35pm) – tickets on sale next month.

Starting in 2020, the club's marketing and communications department set out on a journey to identify and categorise every single player and match since the inaugural intercity derby in 1872, against Glasgow Warriors (then Glasgow District) at Burnbank – the first of its kind in world rugby.

Some 1300 players later, Edinburgh Rugby can now plot the club's evolution from its inauguration as a representative select – which faced its Scottish rivals annually in what was essentially an international trial – to the professional club side playing domestically, in Europe and South Africa we know today.

The details of the club's extensive history are now housed on the Edinburgh Rugby website, accompanied by an acknowledgement of all known captains, with capped internationalists and British & Irish Lions to follow later in the year.



Douglas Struth, Edinburgh Rugby Managing Director, said: "It's with great pride that we finally make public the findings of a project we've been working on behind the scenes for so long, and share it with our supporters, sponsors and stakeholders.

"This is a project of pride and passion designed to help everyone associated with Edinburgh Rugby recognise and celebrate the contribution these players, their clubs and schools have made over the past century-and-a-half, and better connect those throughout our history with those taking to the field today."

He added: "We've always known and been proud of the many greats who have represented Edinburgh over the decades but our ability to celebrate those years fully and develop a deeper sense of meaning or belonging through those eras has always been unfulfilled.

"It's been a significant undertaking, with the information often hard to come by and even contradictory, however we're delighted we can recognise all those who have been part of Edinburgh Rugby for a century and a half, tell some of the great stories unearthed throughout this process and celebrate this amazing anniversary of the club and 1872 Cup.

"Tickets to this year's special and decisive BT Murrayfield leg of the 1872 Cup derby will go on sale next month, and we'd encourage everyone to join us at what will be a unique moment in history and, of course, a great contest between world rugby's oldest inter-city rivals."

Former Edinburgh captains, Scotland and British & Irish Lions players Finlay Calder, Gavin Hastings, Andy Irvine, and John Douglas – the club's oldest surviving skipper – were first to see the club's findings when they were presented with a player's tie and a match report sourced from their debut, or in the case of Douglas, his first match as captain in 1970.

Finlay Calder played 35 times for Edinburgh, alongside twin brother Jim (45 appearances) and elder brother John (18 appearances) – with the trio completing an Edinburgh back-row in 1981 against the South of Scotland – the programme for which the club showcased on the day.

Reflecting on the project and his time with Edinburgh, Calder said: "It's really humbling to see. I still remember when I was first asked to play. The letters came out but Jim got mine and was asked to give it to me, so he drove straight down to Lauder. It was a precious moment because that was the platform to the next level.

"We always had good Edinburgh teams and the games were among my fondest memories. We had some really good players – David Sole, the Milnes, Jeremy Richardson.

"The project is just fantastic. It was Todd Blackadder who pointed out to me some time ago that this was the oldest inter-city fixture in the world, which is really something to be very proud of."

Andy Irvine, who made 40 appearances in an Edinburgh shirt over a 20-year period, started

for Edinburgh against the All Blacks in 1979 and skippered the side on the day a 24-year-old Finlay Calder made his debut.

Irvine said: I didn't quite appreciate it was nearly 150 years, which is really something, and I started playing over 50 years ago myself.

"When you look at the tradition of Edinburgh, even back when we played, the inter-city match was a huge game. It was a huge honour to play and pull on the blue jersey of Edinburgh, especially as captain, and more so when you see the quality of Edinburgh captains throughout the years.

"I look back on many great memories with a great sense of pride. It's a huge thing to play for your city and that's why today I still love to come along to watch the Edinburgh pro side. There's really that special feeling and special bond."

Gavin Hastings, who played more then 20 times for Edinburgh and had the honour of captaining Scotland and the British & Irish Lions, was equally impressed with the work done to research and present the club's history in full.

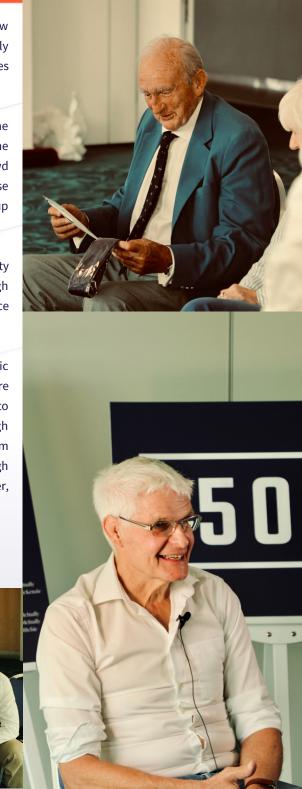


He added: "Scottish rugby is such that you grow up part and parcel of the history and particularly those from Edinburgh, with the big rivalries between the schools and the clubs.

"Even back then I remember being aware of the history and those who had played before me and who had enjoyed the adulation of the crowd – the Dougie Morgans and Bruce Hays – these were all big, big names when I was growing up as a kid.

"The realisation this is the oldest inter-city fixture and that we have 150 years of Edinburgh versus Glasgow is pretty amazing. It's really nice to be part of that, part of history."

The club will now allow for a period of public interrogation of the full player list before allocating and announcing a specific number to every player who has pulled on the Edinburgh shirt, throughout history, for the first time – from the very first (EM Bannerman of Edinburgh Accies in 1872) to the most recent (Sam Skinner, 2022).





## GET INVOLVED ACTION









**URCOFFICIAL** 



The DHL Stormers overcame Edinburgh Rugby's early dominance to emerge as 34-18 victors in Cape Town.

Mike Blair's side were in control for most of the first half, with Pierre Schoeman's powerful try opening up a 10-0 lead.

However, Deon Fourie and Joseph Dweba touched down during a spell in the sin bin for Stuart McInally that straddled the half-time break.

Suleiman Hartzenberg's 67th-minute score gave the hosts further control and, though Dave Cherry went over after Sazi Sandi was red-carded late on, Hartzenberg crossed for the bonus-point try at the death.

Manie Libbok kicked 14 points for the Stormers while Blair Kinghorn booted eight for the capital side.

Kinghorn kicked Edinburgh's first points in the sixth minute as the visitors put pressure on the Stormers.

The hosts were prone to ill-discipline in their own 22 throughout the first half and their repeated infringements caught up with them when Libbok was sent to the sin bin.

Edinburgh had been well on top against 15 men and eventually chalked up the game's opening try after 29 minutes when, following a period of scrum after scrum on the Stormers' five-metre line, Schoeman burrowed over from close range, with Kinghorn adding the extras.

Libbok returned to the field with the Stormers finally enjoying some possession outside their own half and Edinburgh were soon down to 14 themselves when McInally was penalised for not rolling away after hauling down Angelo Davids just short of the line.

The hosts pulled back to 10-7 before half-time after Fourie emerged from a rolling maul to touch down and Libbok split the posts.



Debutant Dweba added a second in similar circumstances after the break, with Libbok making it 14-10 before stretching the lead further with a penalty.

The Stormers lost Evan Roos to the bin for using excessive force in a tussle with Nick Haining – who had to be replaced due to being illegally thrown to the ground – and Kinghorn reduced the deficit by three from the resulting penalty, but it was back to seven shortly after the hour mark thanks to another Libbok effort.

Hartzenberg then intercepted and ran from deep inside his own half to touch down, leaving Libbok with a straightforward conversion, before Sandi saw red for a head-on-head contact with Jamie Ritchie five minutes from time.

Cherry responded with an unconverted try but Hartzenberg had the final say by clinching the try bonus, with Libbok completing the scoring.

#### Team:

- 15. Henry Immelman 14. Darcy Graham 13. MarkBennett 12. James Lang 11. Damien Hoyland
- 10. Blair Kinghorn 9. Ben Vellacott
- 1.Pierre Schoeman 2. Stuart McInally 3. WP Nel
- 4. Sam Skinner 5. Grant Gilchrist 6. Jamie Ritchie
- 7. Hamish Watson 8. Nick Haining Replacements:
- 16. Dave Cherry 17. Boan Venter 18. Luan de Bruin
- 19. Glen Young 20. Ben Muncaster 21. Henry Pyrgos
- 22. Charlie Savala 23. Chris Dean



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#### **EDINBURGH RUGBY**

#### FIRST TEAM SQUAD



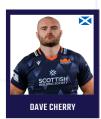








































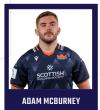
SCOTTISH

BLAIR KINGHORN































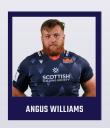














#### **EDINBURGH RUGBY**

#### **ACADEMY 2022/23**



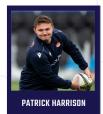






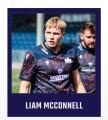






















#### PLAYER TRY TRACKS

Lee-Roy Atalifo Four String Love Rosie Sagaitu Nick Auterac Surfing Bird The Trashmen Mark Bennett You're Welcome **Dwayne Johnson** Jack Blain Saturday Night (radio mix) Whigfield

Emiliano Boffelli Quevedo (Tries) **Bizarrap** Pepas (Kicks) **Farruko** 

Connor Boyle Batman Theme Song Neil Hefti & his Orchestra and Chorus Dave Cherry Boys are back in town Thin Lizzy Harrison Courtney Bohemian Rhapsody

Queen

Luke Crosbie B.O.T.A (Baddest of them all) Eliza Ross, Interplanetary Criminal

Matt Currie Samba de Janeiro Bellini Luan De Bruin Paradise City **Guns N Roses** Chris Dean Born to be Wild **Bruce Springsteen** 

Grant Gilchrist Rocking all over the World Status Ouo

Wes Goosen The Greatest SIX60 Darcy Graham Yabba Dabba Doo / CanCan [Custom]

Nick Haining Live it Up **Mental as Anything** Jamie Hodgson Underdog Kasabian

**Bruce Houston** Right Here, Right Now **Fatboy Slim** Damien Hoyland Walking on the Waves Skippinish **Cammy Hutchison** Toxic **Britney Spears** 

Henry Immelman WWE: Stone Cold Steve Austin **Jim Johnston** Jamie Jack Can't Stop **Red Hot Chilli Peppers** 

Blair Kinghorn Teach me how to Dougie **Cali Swag District** James Lang Edamame bbno\$

Bill Mata Ukulele Blad P2a ft, Khazin Adam McBurney Tell Me Ma **Sham Rock** 

Stuart McInally Don't Stop me Now Oueen Ben Muncaster Crazy Frog Axel F WP Nel Umfaan Klipwerf Orkes

Freddie Owsley Like a G6 Far East movement Pierce Phillips Man I feel like a woman **Shania Twain** Henry Pyrgos Light it Up Major Lazer Jamie Ritchie Edge of Seventeen Stevie Nicks

Charlie Savala Down Under Men at Work Pierre Schoeman The Greatest Show The Greatest Showman Ensemble Charlie Shiel Yes Sir I Can Boogie Baccara

Sam Skinner California Dreamin' The Mamas & the Papas Marshall Sykes Candy Shop 50 Cent

Jaco van der Walt Seven Nation Army White Stripes Ben Vellacott Can't be Touched **Roy Jones** Boan Venter WWE: The Game (Triple H) Jim Johnston Hamish Watson This is the One **Stone Roses** 

Angus Williams Back in Black ACDC Glen Young We like to Party Vengaboys



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THE SPIRIT OF CIVITED ROOM CHAMPIONSHIP

## THE SPIRIT OF UNITED RUGBY CHAMPIONSHIP.



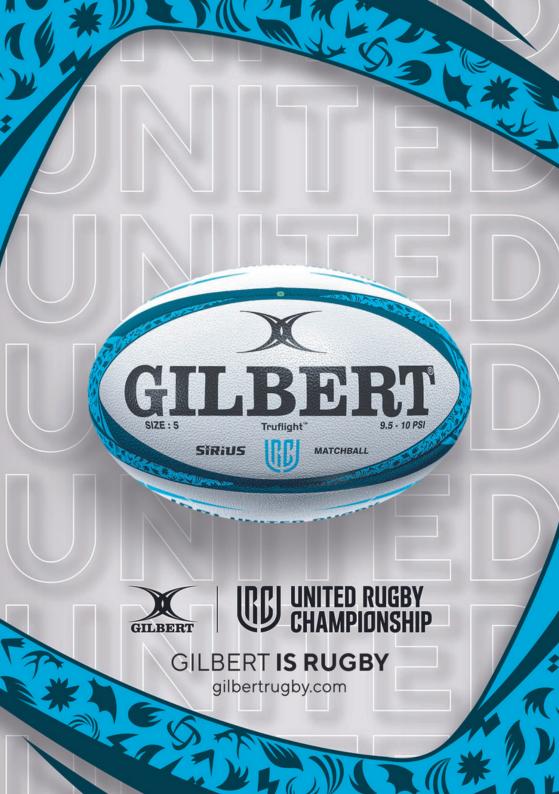




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Enjoy responsibly





Edinburgh Rugby was this week pleased to announce British & Irish Lions and Scotland star winger Duhan van der Merwe is coming back to the capital on a long-term deal, subject to visa, medical and regulatory clearances.

The 6ft 4in, 105kg strike-runner scored 32 tries in 67 appearances for Edinburgh after joining from Montpellier in 2017 – his scintillating form propelling him into the international spotlight after qualifying for Scotland on residency grounds.

He made a try-scoring debut against Georgia in the dark blue of Scotland at BT Murrayfield in 2020 and has racked up 12 tries in 19 Tests to date, as well as starting all three of the Lions' Test matches against South Africa last year.

His return, after two seasons with Worcester Warriors, is a major boost to the capital club and Van der Merwe will now compete for a place in a talented back-three group.

Head Coach Mike Blair was pleased to secure the signing of the star winger, which stands as a statement of intent for the club's style and ambition for the seasons ahead, while sending his sympathies to all those impacted at Worcester.

He said: "I'd first like to send my thoughts to all those impacted at Worcester and to all players, staff and supporters affected by today's sad news.

"Duhan is a phenomenal athlete and rugby player who's showcased his abilities at the highest level. He developed significantly in his three years here and we're looking forward to continuing that together. He's very much one of our own and we're really pleased he's coming home.

"It's an exciting development for the entertaining, attacking brand of rugby we're building at the club and something I'm sure supporters will be thrilled about too."



ter Vardy



Scotland Rugby League kick off their World Cup campaign with a warm up match against England Knights tomorrow afternoon at Myreside.

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