

# EDINBURGH

VS CASTRES OLYMPIQUE

SATURDAY 17 DECEMBER

KICK-OFF 1PM



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## EPCR WELCOME MESSAGE

A warm welcome to this Round 2 match in the 2022/23 Heineken Champions Cup in what is an historic 28th season as the leading South African clubs make their mark in our world-class tournament

The quality and tradition of the DHL Stormers, Vodacom Bulls and Cell C Sharks will add a new layer of interest as the Heineken Champions Cup extends its global reach and attracts new fans.

For this groundbreaking season, the 24-club format with two pools of 12 has been retained. The four pool stage rounds will be followed by four knockout stage rounds guaranteeing a series of compelling contests which will culminate in the 2023 final at Dublin's Aviva Stadium on Saturday, 20 May. In addition, two clubs from each pool will qualify for the Round of 16 of the EPCR Challenge Cup.

We are delighted to be joined on the journey to Dublin by our long-standing title partner, Heineken, by our official partners, DHL, IHG and Tissot, by our official supporters, Gilbert and Kappa, and also by our official airline partner in South Africa, Qatar Airways.

BT Sport, beIN SPORTS and France Télévisions, who have all renewed their agreements for the new broadcast cycle, will continue to provide superb coverage, and we welcome SuperSport in South Africa, ITV and RTÉ in the UK and Ireland, and FloRugby in the USA, who in addition to S4C in Wales, will showcase the tournament to even more viewers.

On a more sombre note, everyone at EPCR was deeply saddened to learn of the recent passing of our former Chairman and Board member, Paul McNaughton. Paul was a hugely talented all-round sportsman in his heyday and more recently, he proved himself to be equally accomplished as an administrator. He will be sorely missed and we re-extend our condolences to his family and friends.

We hope that you enjoy the match and best wishes to you, the fans, as well as to your club's players and staff for what promises to be another memorable Heineken Champions Cup season.

Yours in rugby,

**Dominic McKay,**  
EPCR Chairman





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# DOUGLAS STRUTH WELCOME

Good afternoon everyone and welcome to DAM Health Stadium for the first Heineken Champions Cup match in our new home, against last season's Top 14 runners up Castres Olympique.

We confirmed our return to the top tier of European rugby on the last day of last season, with a victory over Glasgow Warriors at BT Murrayfield. It was a memorable day for so many reasons, and confirming our return to the top tier of European rugby certainly ranked highly among them.

Today is a day we've all been looking

forward to ever since that day at BT Murrayfield, and what a delight it is to be back.

There's nothing quite like dining at the top table with the European elite and, while we had some great occasions here in the Challenge Cup last season, this is where we want to be as club, year in year out, bringing the best of club rugby here to you at DAM Health Stadium.

We marked our return to the tournament with a trip to face Saracens. The players battled valiantly against the Englishmen in our campaign opener, leaving with a losing bonus point after some fantastic work in one of the toughest arenas in the tournament.



Now back home in Scotland's capital and on home soil, we prepare to host a French side who, like us, lost their opening round and will be desperate to bounce back and get their campaign on track.

The calibre of clubs, combined with an unforgiving tournament structure, means there aren't many second chances for progression, so there is no mistaking how huge a game this is for us today.

Off the field things aren't quite so serious, and I hope you, your friends and families are able to enjoy some of the great things we have going on at the ground as we embrace the build-up to Christmas.

Our 'Big Christmas Day Out' has loads on the go from live music in the fanzone and festive face painting in the clubhouse, to signing and selfie sessions in the shop and free flag giveaways.

We aim to make match days every bit as special off the pitch as they are on it, and we hope you all have a fantastic day.

As this is our last home game before Christmas, I would also like to take the opportunity to wish you and your loved ones a very Merry Christmas from all of us here at Edinburgh Rugby.

Thanks as always for your support, I hope you enjoy the game.

**Douglas Struth**  
Edinburgh Rugby  
Managing Director



150



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## **WELCOME MESSAGE FROM HEINEKEN®**

I would like to extend a very warm welcome to everyone as we commence the 2022/23 Heineken® Champions Cup.

Rugby in the UK is known for bringing people together to enjoy the incredible atmosphere and top-class sporting performances, and so it is with the memory of some truly unforgettable encounters that we excitedly mark the 27th year of our partnership with EPCR.

I would also like to commemorate another momentous anniversary, as this month Edinburgh Rugby celebrate 150 years of representative rugby and a proud sporting history. Cheers to them, and the very best of luck today to all the players, officials and supporters of these fine teams.

We at Heineken® are immensely proud to be sponsor of Europe's leading club rugby competition, a tournament that means so much to rugby fans across the UK and beyond. Enjoy the game today with a cold, refreshing Heineken® or Heineken® 0.0% and as always, please do so responsibly.

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# Meet Castres Olympique



**Get to know our European opponents Castres Olympique ahead of our Heineken Champions Cup clash at DAM Health Stadium.**

## CLUB HISTORY

Founded in 1898, the club took its current name in 1906. They play at the Stade Pierre-Fabre which is one of the smallest in Top 14 with a capacity of 12,500. The team wear blue and white kits.

The team won five French top-division championships in 1949, 1950, 1993, 2013, and 2018 as well as one Coupe de France in 1948.

Castres enjoyed a spectacular campaign in 2021/22, reaching the Top 14 final only to fall short against Montpellier.

## STADIUM

Located in the centre of Castres, Stade Pierre-Fabre is able to hold 12,300 spectators, making it one of the smallest venues in Top 14.

The stadium is currently named after Pierre Fabre the late pharmaceutical magnate who owned Castres Olympique from 1988 until his death in 2013.

## FORM THIS SEASON

Castres currently sit in 11th place in the French Top 14 having won six and lost six, putting them on 25 points, above only Brive, Perpignan and Pau. The French side have won every home match, but lost every away match so far this campaign, encouraging signs for Edinburgh Rugby's supporters.

Despite their away day blues, Castres have made Pierre-Fabre a fortress, claiming the scalps of Stade Francais and Montpellier so far this season.

## LAST TIME OUT

Castres lost their Round 1 match-up to Exeter Chiefs with the English side claiming a commendable 24-12 win at Stade Pierre Fabre.

Castres' points came solely from the boot of Julien Dumora, with the TOP 14 side struggling to offer any sustained threat despite their competitiveness at the breakdown.







## FILIPO NAKOSI

The brother of Josua Tuisova, Nakosi has been at Castres since 2019 where he has quickly developed a reputation of being of the Top 14's most dangerous wingers.

The three-times capped Fijian international featured at the 2019 Rugby World Cup and has so far grabbed two tries this season in all competitions.



## LEONE NAKARAWA

The 2018 EPCR Player of the Year may be in the latter stages of what has been a glistening career, however there is no counting out the 34-year old who returns to Scottish soil for the first time since leaving Glasgow Warriors in 2021.

The talented second-row, capped 66-times for Fiji, is a magician with ball in hand and will be relishing the opportunity of going up against his international teammates, Bill Mata.



## TOM STANIFORTH

Former Brumbies man Staniforth is a workhorse of a lock and tops the French side's carrying stats so far this campaign.

The Canberra-born tight-five forward featured for Australia at U20 level and is ever-present in the Castres second-row, starting 26 games in last year's French Top 14.

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A photograph of Grant Gilchrist, co-captain of Edinburgh Rugby, wearing a red scrum cap and a dark blue jersey with orange accents. The jersey features the number 100, the Edinburgh Rugby crest, and the Scottish Building Society logo. He is looking off to the side with a serious expression.

# GILCHRIST CALLS FOR CONTINUED STANDARDS

**Edinburgh Rugby co-captain Grant Gilchrist praised his side's defensive performance against Saracens in Round 1 and has called on his teammates to use that standard as a benchmark heading into this Saturday's vital Heineken Champions Cup clash against Castres at DAM Health Stadium.**

"Yeah, I thought that was the best we've defended all year," said Gilchrist.

"Off the back of last week – that wasn't us, that second half against Munster, so we had to show a reaction, defensively especially, and I thought we did that.

"Our collisions, our defence, was as good as we've been, and that's our flow now. We've got to make sure that's a minimum standard for us.

"I'm disappointed that we made errors at a few lineouts in the second half and that costs you at Champions Cup level – it's like a Test match.

And if one area of the game doesn't quite go right, it costs you."

Despite the narrow defeat at North London, it was a quality match-up which saw Edinburgh lead for large parts of the match against a side who had won nine from nine so far this season.

That assured performance came off the back of loss to Munster which Gilchrist labelled as 'unacceptable'.

"I'm really proud of the boys, but absolutely gutted, because what we put in I felt was enough to win the game.

“They’ve not lost all season [in the league], so we know the size of the challenge and it shows how well we played. But we don’t come to be plucky losers, so we’re gutted.

“We addressed Munster. We had to be a bit uncomfortable watching all of the stuff back, because it was unacceptable. And we just draw a line in the sand under that. We never go back there again.

“Saracens isn’t a one-off for us in terms of performance level. This is how we play.

“I think Munster was the first Edinburgh performance I’ve been part of in the last few years that has been like that. So we never let that happen again.

“But Sunday against Saracens was a lot more like it. Barring a little error here and there at set piece, I thought we were the better side.”

Gilchrist and Edinburgh now gear up for the test of facing Top 14 runners up Castres at DAM Health Stadium this Saturday with Heineken Champions Cup rugby returning to the Scottish capital for the first time since 2021.

Gilchrist continued: “We undoubtedly will need to maintain the same levels of Saracens. We’re in the Champions Cup. Every team you play is right up there.

“We just hope for a big crowd on Saturday, and hope that with a performance like that we can really drag the home crowd with us. It would be an awesome win and put us right in the mix, having at least left Saracens with a point.

“Playing Champions Cup rugby is why you play, to play in these big games. We loved the way we fronted up in the physical parts against Saracens, our maul D and defensively at the contact area – those are the things that will matter against big French sides as well.”





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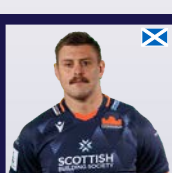
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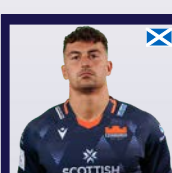
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**HENRY PYRGOS**



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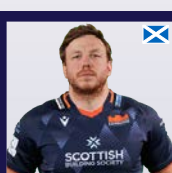
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**BEN VELLACOTT**



**BOAN VENTER**



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# EDINBURGH RUGBY

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**LIAM MCCONNELL**



**HARRI MORRIS**



**HARRY PATERSON**



**MATT RUSSELL**



**CAMERON SCOTT**



**NATHAN SWEENEY**

# 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
Tom Cruse	Who Let The Dogs Out	Baha Men
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 Quo
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	Hound Dog	Elvis Presley
Bill Mata	Ukulele	Blad P2a ft. Khazin
Adam McBurney	Tell Me Ma	Sham Rock
Stuart McInally	Don't Stop me Now	Queen
Ben Muncaster	Crazy Frog	Axel F
WP Nel	Umfaan	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
Duhan van der Merwe	L'Amour Toujours	Gigi D'Agostino
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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# RIVERSIDE STAND

CAT 3

CAT 4 TERRACE



# MAIN STAND



CAT 3

CAT 2

CAT 1

CAT 1

CAT 2

CAT 1

WHEEL CHAIR TERRACE

CAT 2

CAT 3

CAT 3

CAT 3

CAT 3

CAT 3

# LOTHIAN STAND



CAT 3

CAT 2

CAT 1

CAT 1

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CAT 3

CAT 3

# MURRAYFIELD STAND

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CAT 4 TERRACE

CAT 4 TERRACE



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## ON INJURIES FOLLOWING SARACENS

“We’re just waiting on Mark Bennett – he had his HIA. I think everyone else pulled through OK.”

## ON WHAT HE EXPECTS FROM CASTRES

“They’re a really competitive team. They’re not a team of stars, but they got to the Top 14 final last year.

“They play really well, cohesively, as a unit. Their defence is excellent. And they’ve got a little bit of stardust in there – a couple of Fijian players and a couple of other players with real X Factor. So they’re going to be a really difficult team this week.”

## ON FRENCH TEAMS ‘STRUGGLES’ ON THE ROAD

“I think it changes a bit with the bigger games. When I played there, there were definitely some away games when players were rested or not as motivated.

“But Champions Cup games, especially when they lost their first game at home, I think they’ll be really motivated for this week.”

## ON THE DANGER OF CASTRES' FIJIAN STARS

"It adds that X Factor element, certainly. There is Vilimoni Botitu and Leone Nakarawa who we obviously know really well, and they do have that stardust amongst them.

"But I would say it's probably less about their individuals, and more about their cohesive group that they have got. They seem to have a real desire to work for each other."

## ON THE POTENTIAL OF SWITCHING TO BT MURRAYFIELD

"That's the back-up. We're still hopeful that it will go ahead at the DAM Health, but we're pretty fortunate that we've got BT Murrayfield as back-up.

"We played pretty well against Glasgow at BT Murrayfield last season – the fans really got behind us and we put a really strong performance in. We do like playing at DAM Health Stadium as well, though.

"I'm conscious that before we played Glasgow last time that a few of our players said it was a shame that we were not playing at the DAM Health. But then as soon as we ran out on the pitch at BT Murrayfield you could feel a real buzz amongst the supporters and the players as well.

"So if the game is moved for that reason, then we just get on with it and I expect us to rise to the occasion and the crowd to really get behind us as they do at the DAM Health."

## ON THIS YEAR'S CHAMPIONS CUP FORMAT

"It's a complicated system, but it just means that your job is a little bit easier. Win as many games as you can, and don't worry too much about the difference in the match points, all these kind of things.

"There's going to be a really clear focus for us. We've got Castres at home, having played pretty well last week. In our review we talked about keeping on top of the things that we did well, but also stretching our learning and our improvements by adding extra layers to it as well."







# FINALS

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# CAPTAIN RITCHIE RELISHING EUROPEAN CLASH



**Club co-captain Jamie Ritchie will be lining up against a familiar face this Saturday afternoon as Castres Olympique visit the Scottish capital for a vital Heineken Champions Cup clash.**

Castres' Australian forward, Tom Staniforth, and Ritchie were teammates during an exchange year at Strathallan School, during which time the Scotland skipper and towering lock forged a close relationship both on and off the field.

"Both Nick de Crespigny and Tom Staniforth are guys I know well at Castres," explained Ritchie.

"We did a school exchange and I spent a bit of time with them. They were at Canberra Grammar.

"Tom came to Strathallan on exchange a couple of years before I was playing first XV rugby and then I went on one to Canberra and played with Nick.

"I spent about three or four months in Australia. I loved it, I had a great time."

Ritchie will be putting friendships to one side when Castres take to the pitch on Saturday afternoon, with the back-row targeting a bounce-back performance following last weekend's narrow Round 1 defeat to Saracens.

Ritchie put in an impressive shift at StoneX Stadium and following a period of reflection the back-row has described Edinburgh's mistakes on the day as 'easy fixes'.

"Overall, we're pretty happy with how we played against Saracens. It was a comfortable performance. It was a consistent enough performance for 80 minutes," continued Ritchie.

"There were bits there we would want to improve on, but that's the same in every game.

"We had a really positive meeting about those bits and we will be looking to build on that going forward.

“Most of it is in our control. Around the lineout there were two call errors - one we didn't hear and one where we just got it wrong. I'm confident we can take the learnings from that and they are quite easy fixes. It is something to build on.”

Taking on a fully-loaded Top 14 side is exactly what Heineken Champions Cup rugby is all about, and it's an occasion that Ritchie and his Edinburgh teammates are relishing.

“We're hugely excited for Saturday. It is something different as well, coming out of the URC and getting into Europe is a bit of a change of dynamic.

“Everyone's buzzing about being back up at the top table in Europe. It doesn't take too much to motivate them.

“We looked at Castres early in the week. As you would expect with a French team, they are quite pragmatic in the way they approach the game.

“They kick quite a lot in their own half and are quite direct when they get the ball further down. It will certainly be a physical challenge, but one we are looking forward to.”

Ritchie has stepped up to a captaincy role for both club and country this season, co-skippering Edinburgh alongside Grant Gilchrist while leading Scotland for the very first time in the recent Autumn Nations Series.

It's been a role that Ritchie has described himself as being 'prepared for' with the back-row already looking like a natural leader in both the way he carries himself on the field, and deals with decision-making, relationships and even media off the field.



"I felt prepared for the role. I knew what it entailed in terms of the extra stuff to do before and after games," explained Ritchie.

"The main thing for me was trying not to change anything in terms of my preparation of the way I like to approach anything. I have done media in the past and I wasn't going to change that because I was captain.

"For me the most important thing when team captain is making sure I get my preparation right throughout the week so that when you step off the bus for the game you don't have to worry about what you've done.

"It's a bit different at Edinburgh because it is your day-to-day job. It's also shared with Gilco but we have a lot of leaders in the group who can take the reins if you're needing a bit of time away or you just want someone else to take the lead on something."

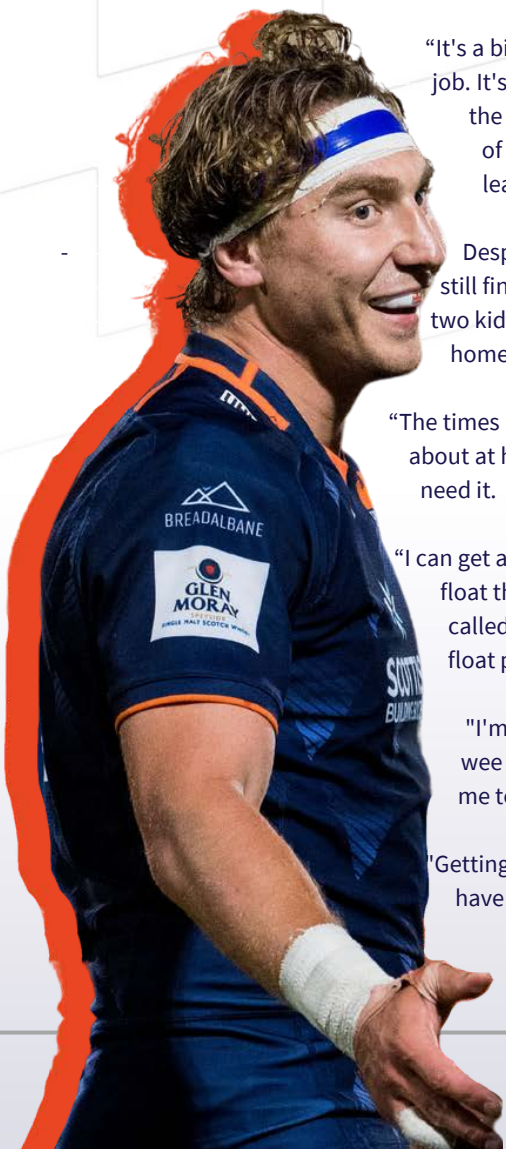
Despite the pressures of captaincy, Ritchie is however still finding time to switch off away from rugby, and with two kids, the back-row is never short of responsibilities at home.

"The times I don't think about rugby is when my kids are running about at home. My wife is great at letting me have some time if need it.

"I can get away to the village to do some recovery. I do these float things out near the airport. There's a company there called Float Philosophy that I like to get down to. I use the float pods there and take an hour

"I'm quite good at switching off. I've been doing this for a wee while now. I do certain things I like to do that help me to get away from it.

"Getting home is a natural one for that because you don't have time to think about anything else."







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**#ALWAYS**EDINBURGH

# TEAM LINEUPS



EDINBURGH

EMILIANO BOFFELLI **15**

WES GOOSEN **14**

MATT CURRIE **13**

CHRIS DEAN **12**

DUHAN VAN DER MERWE **11**

BLAIR KINGHORN **10**

BEN VELLACOTT **9**

PIERRE SCHOEMAN **1**

STUART MCINALLY **2**

WP NEL **3**

GLEN YOUNG **4**

GRANT GILCHRIST (CC) **5**

JAMIE RITCHIE (CC) **6**

LUKE CROSBIE **7**

VILIAME MATA **8**

JULIEN DUMORA

MARTIN LAVEAU

ANTOINE ZEGHDAR

ADRIEN SEGURET

ANTOINE BOUZERAND

BEN BOTICA

JULIEN BLANC

QUENTIN WALCKER

PIERRE COLONNA

AURELIEN AZAR

GAUTHIER MARAVAT

THEO HANNOYER

BAPTISTE DELAPORTE

ASIER USARRAGA

KEVIN KORNATH

CASTRES

16. TOM CRUSE 17. BOAN VENTER  
18. ANGUS WILLIAMS 19. MARSHALL SYKES  
20. BEN MUNCASTER 21. CHARLIE SHIEL  
22. CHARLIE SAVALA 23. CHRIS DEAN

16. BRICE HUMBERT 17. LOIS GUEROIS-GALISSON  
18. ANTOINE GUILLAMON  
19. FLORENT VANVERBERGHE  
20. BAPTISTE COPE 21. JOSAI RAISQUE  
22. RORY KOCKOTT 23. THOMAS LARREGAIN



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