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EPCR WELCOME MESSAGE

A warm welcome to this Round 4 match in the 2022/23 Heineken Champions Cup and a Happy New Year to all as we reach the business end of the tournament's pool stage.

Following the historic introduction of the leading South African clubs, it comes as no surprise that the Cell C Sharks, Vodacom Bulls and DHL Stormers have already made a major impact and all remain in contention to book coveted places in the knockout stage.

With the top eight clubs in each pool guaranteed qualification, there's an important incentive in that the four highest-ranked clubs in each pool will earn home matches in the Round of 16. In addition, the clubs which finish ninth and 10th in each pool will qualify for the Round of 16 of the EPCR Challenge Cup.

So, after what promises to be more world-class action this month, we'll have a clearer idea of the pathway to the eagerly-anticipated Finals weekend at Dublin's Aviva Stadium next May for which nearly 70,000 tickets have already been sold.

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.

Our long-standing broadcast partners, BT Sport, beIN SPORTS and France Télévisions, continue to provide superb coverage of the Heineken Champions Cup in the UK, Ireland and France respectively, while SuperSport in South Africa, ITV and RTÉ in the UK and Ireland, S4C in Wales and FloRugby in the USA and Canada are already making valuable contributions to the growth of tournament.

We hope that you enjoy the match and best wishes to you, the fans, as well as to your club's players and staff as we anticipate the joy and the occasional heartache that comes when qualification for the Heineken Champions Cup knockout stage is on the line!

Yours in rugby,

Dominic McKay, EPCR Chairman



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Good evening, and welcome to DAM Health Stadium for tonight's Heineken Champions Cup clash against Saracens.

Tonight's opponents have become a bit of a familiar face for us, with our two previous encounters being settled by one score, so we can expect a great game of rugby this evening. Both sides have already qualified for the knockout stages, however we'll be playing for a crucial home tie in the last-16.

Last week saw us claim a famous away win against Castres. To get a bonus-point win with four last minute injury changes is a testament to the character in the squad, and a sign of the depth that we're able to build as a squad.

flt was a great occasion, but as Mike Blair said in media, we are pleased but want to go one further and win tonight.

Away from the field there has been plenty of club news in the past week. A big story has been the announcement of the Scotland squad for the 2023 Guinness Six Nations, with Gregor Townsend naming ten Edinburgh players. It's fantastic that we'll once our players again see international stage; it's especially good to see our club co-captain Jamie Ritchie given the armband, who will continue to captain his country.



Amongst the players picked is Luke Crosbie, who has been in stellar form for us, and has seen his scintillating play rewarded. Luke became the first player to win two Scottish Building Society player of the month awards in a season, winning back-to-back trophies.

As part of the player of the month initiative, our main club partner Scottish Building Society donates £500 to the winner's chosen charity. It's a brilliant initiative, and with Luke winning twice in a row, there has been a £1000 donation to the Edinburgh Children's Hospital Charity.

The club has had a long-standing partnership with the charity, and have seen first-hand the amazing, and hard work that they do. It's fantastic that the club and its partners can contribute to the efforts of a local charity that does so much to help our community.

Another player that has made headlines is Dave Cherry. The hooker was named in the Scotland squad on Tuesday, and to cap off an excellent week we were able to announce that Dave has extended his stay with the club. The Merchiston man has been a dedicated servant to this club, and always puts his body on the line for his teammates. Dave is a big asset to the club, and I'm glad we've been able to retain him.

I'd like to extend my welcome to the North Berwick minis section who are our guard of honour tonight. As part of the OurBurgh initiative, we were able to visit the players at one of their sessions during the week. Cammy Hutchison, Chris Dean, and Ben Muncaster braved the cold to help out at their training. It was fantastic to see three players from the town going back to support their grassroots club, and hopefully inspire the next generation of Burgh players!

Tonight should be a cracker; Champions Cup rugby at a packed out DAM Health Stadium. It doesn't get much better!

Douglas StruthEdinburgh Rugby
Managing Director



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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 topclass 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.

Boudewijn Haarsma

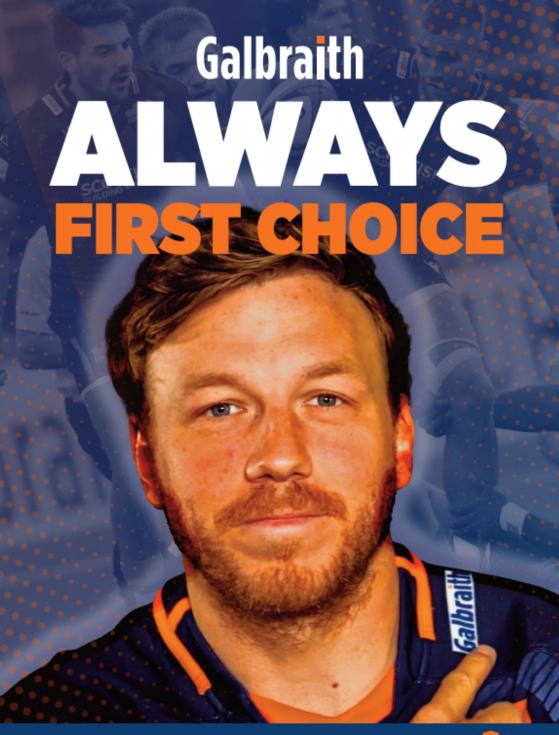
Managing Director Heineken UK

"Everyone at DAM Health wishes Edinburgh Rugby all the best successes this season."



Professor Frank Joseph Director of Medicine, DAM Health









Back-row Luke Crosbie has today been voted Scottish Building Society Player of the Month for December, becoming the first Edinburgh player to win the award twice in a season.

Crosbie has been at his combative best so far this campaign and continued the rich vein of form that saw him claim October's award.

The back-row was devastating against Saracens at StoneX Stadium, and put in typically industrious performances against Munster and Castres at DAM Health Stadium.

The former Livingstone RFC and Currie Chieftans man then capped off an impressive month by crossing the whitewash in his side's home 1872 Cup clash against Glasgow Warriors. Crosbie's form has since been rewarded with a call-up to Scotland's Six Nations squad.

On winning the award, Crosbie said: "It's a real honour to pick up December's Player of the Month award, especially with the fans voting for me to get successive awards.

"We've had some tough matches in December, but I've really enjoyed going toe-to-toe with some of Europe's best in the Champions Cup.

"The staff at the club get to see how hard I'm working, so it's great that the fans have recognised that effort as well.

As part of the monthly award initiative, Main Club Partner Scottish Building Society has donated £500 to Crosbie's chosen charity, with the back-row selecting Edinburgh Children's Hospital Charity.

Edinburgh Rugby and the capital-based charity have a longstanding partnership and the Edinburgh squad made their annual visit and present donation to the 'Sick Kids' last month.

On his chosen charity, Crosbie, said: "I remember when I first visited the hospital with the club seeing the lift it gives the kids there. It's really important work they're doing, and I'm grateful to be in a position where I can help.

"The staff and everyone involved in the charity works so hard, it's a really deserving place for the donation and I'm thankful to Scottish Building Society for the support.

Head Coach Mike Blair praised Crosbie's current form, saying: "Luke has continued to set really high standards in an Edinburgh shirt, and getting back-to-back player of the month awards is testament to that.

"He's shown real leadership on and off the pitch and is a driving force in the behaviours we want to display as a team."

Scottish Building Society, Chief Executive Officer, Paul Denton, said: "Luke Crosbie has had an incredible season so far, so it's no surprise that he has been announced as Scottish Building Society's Player of the Month yet again.

"Going into 2023 and as we reach the final stages of the season, his performance will be critical to Edinburgh's success.

"Aside from his incredible work on the pitch, it is great to see him support an invaluable local charity – Edinburgh Children's Hospital Charity.

"We are proud to donate to the lifechanging medical, mental health and family wellbeing support it provides to people in smeed, as well as help highlight their mission to our audiences."

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Scotland international hooker Dave Cherry this week signed a two-year extension with Edinburgh Rugby. Cherry, 32, celebrates his new deal having this week been named in the Scotland squad for the upcoming Guinness Six Nations Championship.

The hooker – who joined the club from Stade Niçois ahead of the 2018/19 season – has been capped eight times by his country and crossed the whitewash in Sunday's Heineken Champions Cup victory against Castres Olympique.

On penning a new deal, Cherry said: "Edinburgh is home for me and my fiancé, so I'm absolutely thrilled to extend terms with a club that means so much to me.

"I'm really enjoying my rugby at the moment and I think that has shown in my performances in the last few years. I love being part of this squad. We have a such a tightknit group of guys who all play with the same mentality and desire to win.

"I really believe this team can achieve something special and it will be a brilliant occasion taking on Saracens at DAM Health Stadium this Sunday. It's a match that everyone connected to the club can't wait for.

"I'm delighted to re-sign and I'm looking forward to pulling on the Edinburgh jersey for another two years." A product of Merchiston Castle School, Cherry played his senior rugby at Currie before making the move to English Championship side London Scottish in 2014.

The hooker soon cemented himself in the Championship outfit's starting XV, but after three seasons at the Athletic Ground – in which he made 54 appearances, scoring 45 points in the process – Cherry joined Stade Niçois as part of Scottish Rugby's performance pathway partnership.

Cherry was one of seven debutants named in the 2019 Six Nations training squad by Head Coach Gregor Townsend, and eventually made his international debut in the famous away victory over England at Twickenham in February 2021.

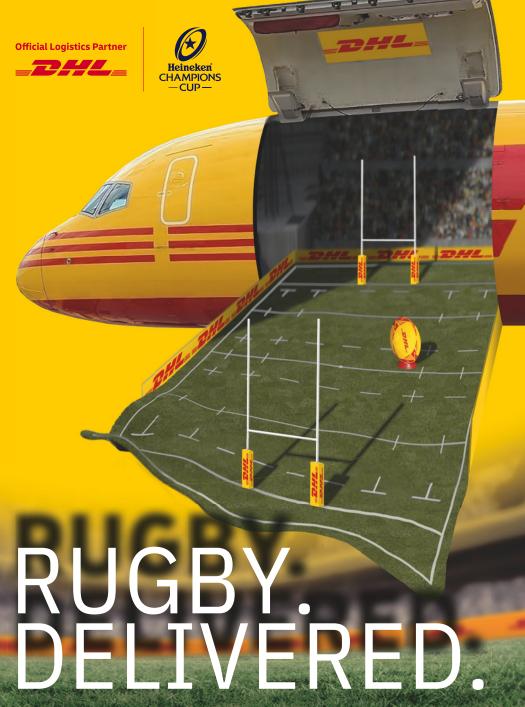
He made his 50th appearance for the club against Connacht in March 2022, marking the occasion in style by scoring a try as Edinburgh won 56-8 against the Irish province.

Head Coach Mike Blair added:

"Dave [Cherry] is a real leader for us and someone that is hugely respected around the club because of his commitment to the jersey – he loves representing the city and when he speaks, players stand up and take notice.

"Dave is a quality operator with a tough edge to his game. We've been really impressed by his performances for club and country and were delighted to see him named in Scotland's Six Nations squaearlier this week."





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EDINBURGH RUGBY

FIRST TEAM SQUAD



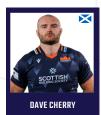












































BLAIR KINGHORN



JAMES LANG





ADAM MCBURNEY









PIERCE PHILLIPS



HENRY PYRGOS







PIERRE SCHOEMAN







MARSHALL SYKES



DUHAN VAN DER MERWE













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EDINBURGH RUGBY

ACADEMY 2022/23



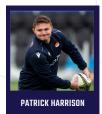


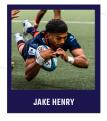














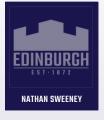












PLAYER TRY TRACKS

Lee-Roy Atalifo
Nick Auterac
Mark Bennett
Jack Blain
Miliano Boffelli
Vouvedo (Tries)
Rosie Sagaitu
The Trashmen
Dwayne Johnson
Whigfield
Bizarrap

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

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

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
Bruce Houston
Right Here, Right Now
Fatboy Slim
Chicagonia

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

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 S

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
Boan Venter
WWE: The Game (Triple H)
Watson
Watson
White Stripes
Roy Jones
Jim Johnston
Stone Roses

Hamish Watson This is the One Stone Rose
Angus Williams Back in Black ACDC
Glen Young We like to Party Vengaboys







TASTE OF FREEDOM







PRESS PASS WITH MIKE BLAIR

ON THE STORY SO FAR

"We were really pleased to have qualified. We were one of the lower URC seeds in the draw, and with that comes a pretty tough draw, so we were playing against Saracens and Castres, who were both in the final of their domestic competitions.

"It's a tough ask, especially how Saracens started the season – I think they were ten from ten.

"So we were pretty aware of how tough an ask it was going to be, and to get something out of each of the first three games gave us a huge amount of confidence.

"We could have won at Saracens, we won with a bonus point at home to Castres when we weren't at our best, and then we won away in France too.

"We talked a lot about creating memories but also about what it takes to win in France. And we talked about character and what that looks like.

"So yeah, really pleased to have got through, but there's a big difference between a home and an away game in the last 16.

"So Sunday is a really important game for us. We believe it will be a great occasion and we'll give it our best crack to get a home draw in the last 16."

ON WHAT IT TAKES TO BEAT SARACENS

"We've been looking at the last three or four games, about what it is the difference between winning and losing, the small margins that can happen. Us being in charge of as much of it as possible.

"And we asked about a couple of games if we were doing everything we possibly could within our power in terms of our work rate off the ball, reacting. And we identified this as an area we can get better at, and I've definitely seen growth in that side of things.

"When we're tired we're not feeling as sorry for ourselves, we're getting up and saying 'This is important', and we're working collectively as a team to do that. So that's something that we've improved on.

"There are lots of bits of detail. We had a couple of lineouts that went askew in that second half [at Castres] and these are bits that need constant attention. But it's us creating environments in training where they're being stressed as well, so training is not too comfortable, it's making players think and have to perform under pressure.

"These are important in big games, which can come down to small margins."

ON WHAT IT TAKES TO BEAT SARACENS

"I didn't see Glasgow's game at the weekend, but obviously their breakdown work against us was excellent, their physicality was really good.

"It's such an important part of the game, because it either slows down opposition ball or massively speeds up your own. We've looked at that again, and I think Saracens will go hard in that area.

"I think they potentially underestimated a little bit around that breakdown work in that first game, but they're really strong in that area as well."

ON THE IMPORTANCE OF SECURING A HOME ROUND OF 16

"It's really important. We've had a little tick in the box that we've got to the knockout stages, which is the first thing, but the big thing is can we get that home win? Because that makes a big difference.

"There's some pretty tough opposition in this competition when it gets to the last 16, a huge amount of quality, so it will be great to get that home game."





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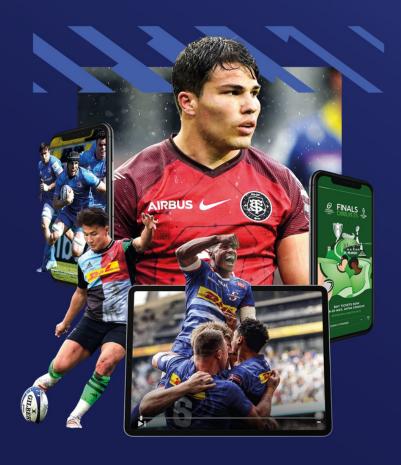


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EDINBURGH'S SCOTLAND STARS



Gregor Townsend has selected 10 Edinburgh Rugby stars in his Scotland squad for the upcoming Guinness Six Nations.

Edinburgh co-captain Jamie Ritchie will once again lead his country, with Townsend selecting the back-row as captain of the squad.

There is a heavy capital influence in the pack, with eight Edinburgh men named amongst the forwards. Props WP Nel and Pierre Schoeman, and hooker Dave Cherry are amongst the front rowers picked, while Grant Gilchrist and Sam Skinner could link up in the second row.

Ritchie is joined in the back-row by Hamish Watson and the in-form Luke Crosbie.

In the backs, fly-half Blair Kinghorn and winger Duhan van der Merwe have been named in the squad. Ben Healy, an incoming signing from Munster for next season, has been selected in a Scotland squad for the first time.

Scotland start their 2023 Six Nations against England at Twickenham (Saturday 4 February 2023, 4.45pm)

Scotland squad for 2023 Guinness Six Nations

Forwards

Ewan Ashman **Josh Bayliss** Simon Berghan Jamie Bhatti Fraser Brown Dave Cherry **Andy Christie Luke Crosbie Jack Dempsey Matt Fagerson** Zander Fagerson **Grant Gilchrist Jonny Gray** Richie Grav **Cameron Henderson** WP Nel Jamie Ritchie Pierre Schoeman Javan Sehastian Sam Skinner **Rory Sutherland**

> George Turner Hamish Watson

Backs

Chris Harris
Ben Healy
Stuart Hogg
George Horne
Blair Kinghorn
Huw Jones
Sean Maitland
Ruaridh McConnochie
Stafford McDowall
Ali Price
Ollie Smith
Kyle Steyn
Finn Russell
Cam Redpath
Sione Tuipulotu

Duhan van der Merwe Ben White







Luca Notarangelo Age: 9 Musselburgh RFC Favourite Player: Big Bill Mata



Fin Norris
Age: 8
Wallacestone, Polmont
Favourite Player: Viliame
Mata - "Big Bill"



Amelia Boyle
Age: 10
Midlothian girls and
North Berwick girls
Favourite Players: Sarah
Law and Ben Muncaster

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TEAM LINEUPS



ELLIOT DALY 15 HENRY IMMELMAN

> 14 JACK BLAIN MAX MALINS

13 MARK BENNETT ALEX LOZOWSKI

12 NICK TOMPKINS JAMES LANG

77 BLAIR KINGHORN SEAN MAITLAND

10 CHARLIE SAVALA **ALEX GOODE**

9 IVAN VAN ZYL BEN VELLACOTT

٦ MAKO VUNIPOLA PIERRE SCHOEMAN

> 2 DAVE CHERRY JAMIE GEORGE (C)

> > 3 WP NEL MARCO RICCIONI

4 MARO ITOJE SAM SKINNER

5 **HUGH TIZARD GRANT GILCHRIST (CC)**

6 **ANDY CHRISTIE** JAMIE RITCHIE (CC)

> 7 **BEN EARL** LUKE CROSBIE

8 **BILLY VUNIPOLA** VILIAME MATA

16. ADAM MCBURNEY 17. BOAN VENTER

18. CHRISTIAN JUDGE 19. NICK ISIEKWE 18. LEE-ROY ATALIFO 19. JAMIE HODGSON

20. THEO DAN 21. ALED DAVIES 20. NICK HAINING 21. HENRY PYRGOS

22. MANU VUNIPOLA 23. ALEX LEWINGTON 22. CAMMY HUTCHISON 23. WES GOOSEN







16. KAPELI PIFELETI 17. ROBIN HISLOP

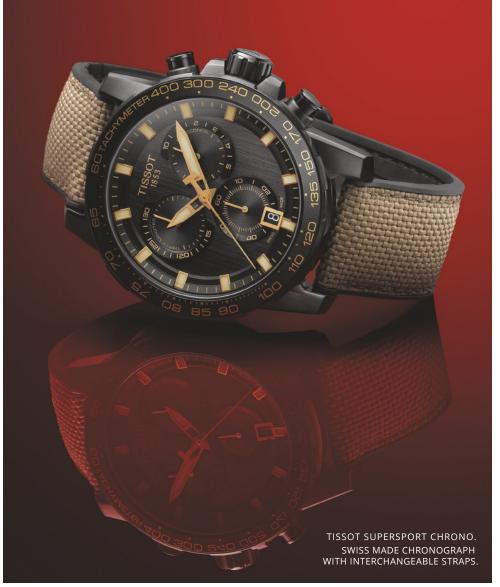








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