

# SCHOÉ

100TH APPEARANCE

Edinburgh Rugby vs Connacht  
Saturday 11 November, 7.35pm  
Hive Stadium



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— *Welcome*

# Douglas Struth

Good evening, and welcome  
to HIVE Stadium for  
tonight's BKT URC clash  
against Connacht.



After a tough result away against Leinster in Dublin last week, the team will be looking to bounce back against another Irish opponent tonight.

Challenges don't get much tougher than the men from Galway, with Connacht maintaining a three from three win record with an impressive performance against Ulster last week. With an expansive style of play, it should make for an entertaining evening!

While every match is about the whole team and club, we're also going to be singling out one of our most popular players tonight.

Pierre Schoeman joins an exclusive list as a club centurion, making his 100th appearance with the castle on his chest. It's difficult to describe the impact Pierre has had on the club, and indeed its community, cementing himself as a fan favourite in his time here.

Be it barraging carries, scoring tries, or engaging with the fans, he's a player that so many in the capital love. Now a fully fledged Scotland international, representing his new home, i'm sure you'll all give Pierre a huge cheer as he runs out for the hundreth time for Edinburgh Rugby.

Talking of hard carrying props, i'd also like to say a word for Boan Venter, who will be making his 50th appearance for



the club if he comes on from the replacements. Similar to Pierre, he is a big character at the club, and makes a sizeable impact on and off the field. It's been a pleasure watching Big Boan in an Edinburgh top, and we're all excited to see him make his half century!

Away from the front row and into the backs, it was great to see young centre Matt Currie pick up Scottish Building Society for October, after a string of impressive performances in the capital midfield.

As part of Scottish Building Society's sponsorship of the Player of the Month, our main Club Partner will once again donate £500 to each winner's charity or cause of choice.

Matt has chosen to donate the £500 to his former club Dumfries Saints RFC's mini rugby section, as the grassroots side played a pivotal role in aiding his development.

Tonight, we join the rest of the UK in paying tribute to armed forces members who've lost their lives in conflict and the line of duty.

As part of the Remembrance Day activity, we've been proud to join forces with members of military, and in particular, it's been a pleasure working with former Glasgow Warriors and Scotland 7s players Junior Bulumakau, who has acted as a brilliant link in allowing us to support the armed forces.

We also welcome over 150 members of the military, kids or family members to Hive Stadium who will help us properly remember those that paid the ultimate sacrifice.

I hope you enjoy the match, and another great atmosphere at Hive Stadium!



*Douglas Struth, Managing Director*



# 16 TEAMS 5 NATIONS 1 CHAMPION





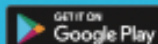


*Pierre Schoeman*  
*#1250*  
*100th Appearance*



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# TEAM LINEUPS

## EDINBURGH

*<sup>100</sup> Blair Kinghorn* 15

*Wes Goosen* 14

*Mark Bennett* 13

*James Lang* 12

*Duhan van der Merwe* 11

*Ben Healy* 10

*Charlie Shiel* 9

*Pierre Schoeman* 1

*Ewan Ashman* 2

*Javan Sebastian* 3

*Glen Young* 4

*<sup>100</sup> Grant Gilchrist (C)* 5

*Tom Dodd* 6

*Connor Boyle* 7

*<sup>100</sup> Viliame Mata* 8

*16. Dave Cherry 17. Boan Venter*

*18. Angus Williams 19. Marshall Sykes*

*20. Ben Muncaster 21. Ben Vellacott*

*22. Chris Dean <sup>100</sup> 23. Ross McCann*

## CONNACHT

*Tiernan O'Halloran*

*John Porch*

*Byron Ralston*

*Tom Daly*

*Andrew Smith*

***Jack Carty (C)***

*Caolin Blade*

*Peter Dooley*

*Tadhg McElroy*

*Jack Aungier*

*Niall Murray*

*Darragh Murray*

*Cian Prendergast*

*Conor Oliver*

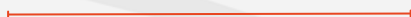
*Sean O'Brien*

*16. Dylan Tierney-Martin 17. Jordan Duggan*

*18. Sam Illo 19. Joe Joyce 20. Farrad Butler*

*21. Colm Reilly 22. David Hawekshaw*

*23. JJ Hanrahan*





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# JAMES LANG

NO.12



# JAMES LANG

## BACK IN THE MIX

*After injury in pre-season caused a late start to the season for James Lang, the centre wasted no time in reintroducing himself to competitive action with a well taken try against Leinster*

“It’s been a long eight weeks of rehab”, said Lang, “so it was great to be back out there at the weekend, blow out the cobwebs, of which there were a few.

“I did about half of the pre-season then got injured and missed the pre-season games which are always key to get your body right. You can’t really replicate game fitness so it’s always tough to get back.



“I tore my calf in training. It wasn’t too bad but it took a good few weeks to get right and I didn’t want to push it too hard with it being the beginning of the season but it’s all good now.”

Lang enjoyed an industrious performance from the bench in Dublin, creating space and beating defenders, while also crashing over for his second try for the club, supporting Charlie Shiel after Blair Kinghorn had created space for the capital men.



“It was great to score because I don’t get too many of them, but disappointed not to get the win or even two [bonus] points because I think they were up for grabs at the end.

“We were disappointed but we’ve addressed that and now look forward to this week against Connacht. It’s a different challenge but one that we’re relishing and definitely up to it.”

A potential opponent will for Lang will be Bunde Aki in Connacht’s midfield.

*“I’ve never played against Bunde but I think the focus for us is how we play and imposing our game plan on them and hopefully we’ll get the result.”*

Saturday’s match is the first of three home matches on the bounce for Edinburgh, with the Bulls and Benetton to follow. For Lang, it’s an important opportunity to get points on the board



“Definitely. It’s always great to play at the Hive in front of our fans. They’ve been great, all last season and this season as well.

*“We want to put on a show and give them something to cheer about.*

“We want to make this place a fortress. We know how important home games are and we need to win as many as we can. There are big challenges coming and we’re ready for them.”

Lang is also enjoying working with new Senior Coach Sean Everitt, and an adapted game plan that has built on the work of Mike Blair.





“I think we’ve kept a lot of the stuff that Mike brought in over the last couple of years. It’s more about the balance now, knowing where to play and not overplaying in what we call the grey areas in between the 10s. And in our own half we don’t want to be keeping hold of the ball for too long and giving teams chances of turnovers or penalties to kick us back into our den.

“I think that’s the biggest thing, the balance in our play, because we’ve got the attacking ability, we’ve got the players out wide and we’ve got the forwards up front so it’s more just about having that balance and knowing when to play and pull the trigger.”

Lang’s role in the midfield includes trying to get the best out of Edinburgh’s back three players. The former Quins man has enjoyed working with the capital’s electric back-three options, and the strength in depth Edinburgh possess in the position.

“We’re stacked and it’s going to be a coach’s nightmare when everyone is fit, trying to pick who to play. That’s the beauty of having such strength in depth. You can give boys a few games and really go at it and you know they’ll be guys who can come in and step up. So you’ve got to leave everything out there on the pitch knowing other lads will come in and do their job.”



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## Opposition Preview

# CONNACHT RUGBY

*Edinburgh play host to table-toppers Connacht, with the Galwaymen having won all three of their opening fixtures of the 2023/24 BKT United Rugby Championship season.*

Representing the Irish province of Connacht, the men in green ply their trade at the Galway Sportsground, and boast a rich history and tradition in the game.

Founded in 1885, the westerners have regularly punched above their weight, with the province home to just over 8% of the total Irish population.

A crowning moment for the side was their triumph in the 2016 PRO12, defeating star-studded provincial rivals Leinster 20-10 at Scottish Gas Murrayfield.

The men in green enjoyed another successful campaign last season, before narrowly losing out in the BKT URC semi-finals away against the Stormers.



## *Last Time Out*

Connacht took a resounding win at the Sportsground, with a Caolin Blade hat-trick inflicting a convincing defeat on the men from the capital.

The reverse fixture in 2021/22 saw a Blair Kinghorn-led Edinburgh side put the visitors to the sword at Hive Stadium, the hosts running out 56-8 winners.

The sides also met in the recent Scottish Building Society pre-season series in an entertaining clash at Hive Stadium - a glimpse into the excitement that can be expected at this Saturday's encounter.

## *Key Players*

Connacht boast a number of high profile Ireland stars in their side, as well as a host of exciting up and coming talents.

The headline acts include key Ireland duo Bundee Aki and Mack Hansen. The pair featured heavily for Ireland in their World Cup campaign, and played a key role in the nation's 2023 Guinness Six Nations title win.

Away from their regular Ireland internationals, Connacht also have snarl in their back row with abrasive flankers Paul Boyle and Conor Oliver, with up-and-coming Ireland star back rower Cian Prendergast

The Galwaymen play an expansive style of rugby, regularly looking to get the ball to back-three flyers Hansen, Tiernan O'Halloran, and John Porch.

With stardust across the park, they are steered by experience half-back pairing of scrum-half Caolin Blade, and experience captain Jack Carty at stand-off.



*Connacht are a team that doesn't go away. We know they've got that fight within themselves.*

---

*Sean Everitt*





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Fiona Davidson



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Umair Mohammed



# EDINBURGH RUGBY

## FIRST TEAM SQUAD



*Ewan Ashman*



*Mark Bennett*



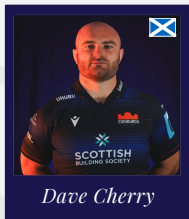
*Emiliano Boffelli*



*Connor Boyle*



*Jamie Campbell*



*Dave Cherry*



*Luke Crosbie*



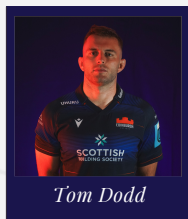
*Matt Currie*



*Chris Dean*



*Luan de Bruin*



*Tom Dodd*



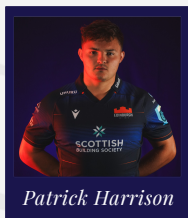
*Grant Gilchrist*



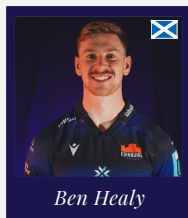
*Wes Goosen*



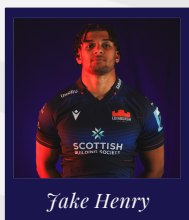
*Darcy Graham*



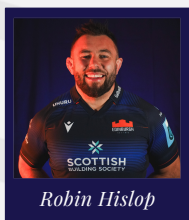
*Patrick Harrison*



*Ben Healy*



*Jake Henry*



*Robin Hislop*



*Jamie Hodgson*



*Mikey Jones*



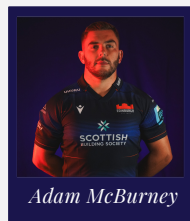
*Blair Kinghorn*



*James Lang*



*Viliame Mata*



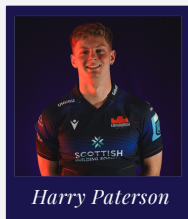
*Adam McBurney*



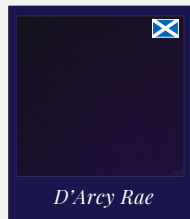
*Ben Muncaster*



*WP Nel*



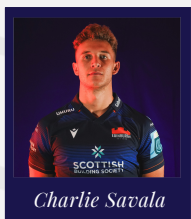
*Harry Paterson*



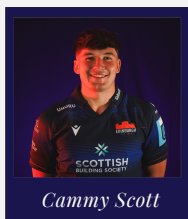
*D'Arcy Rae*



*Jamie Ritchie*



*Charlie Savala*



*Cammy Scott*



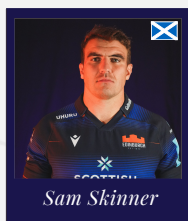
*Pierre Schoeman*



*Javan Sebastian*



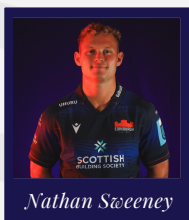
*Charlie Shiel*



*Sam Skinner*



*Scott Steele*



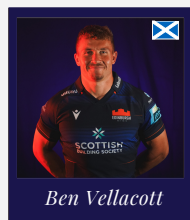
*Nathan Sweeney*



*Marshall Sykes*



*Duhan VDM*



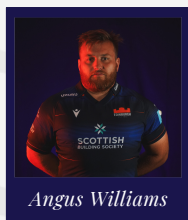
*Ben Vellacott*



*Boan Venter*



*Hamish Watson*



*Angus Williams*



*Glen Young*

# EDINBURGH RUGBY ACADEMY 2022/23

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*Robbie Deans (Loosehead Prop)*

*Harri Morris (Hooker)*

*Jerry Blyth-Lafferty (Hooker)*

*Ollie Blyth-Lafferty (Tighthead Prop)*

*Euan McVie (Lock)*

*Tom Currie (Flanker)*

*Liam McConnell (Flanker)*

*Freddie Douglas (Flanker)*

*Ollie Duncan (Number Eight)*

*Finlay Burgess (Scrum-half)*

*Hector Patterson (Scrum-half)*

*Isaac Coates (Fly-Half)*

*Jack Hocking (Centre)*

*Finn Douglas (Wing)*

*Jack Brown (Full-Back)*





# PLAYER TRY TRACKS

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EWAN ASHMAN	Into the Valley	Skids
MARK BENNETT	You're Welcome	Dwayne Johnson
EMILIANO BOFFELLI	Quevedo (Tries)	Bizarrap
	Pepas (Kicks)	Farruko
CONNOR BOYLE	Funky Town	Lipps Inc
JAMIE CAMPBELL	Love Tonight - Edit	Shouse
DAVE CHERRY	Boys are Back in Town	Thin Lizzy
LUKE CROSBIE	B.O.T.A	Eliza Ross, Interplanetary Criminal
MATT CURRIE	Samba de Janeiro	Bellini
LUAN DE BRUIN	Holding out for a Hero	Bonnie Tyler
CHRIS DEAN	Born to Run	Bruce Springsteen
TOM DODD	Crazy	Gnarls Barkley
MITCH EADIE	<i>tbc</i>	<i>tbc</i>
JORDAN EDMUNDS	Radioactive	Imagine Dragons
GRANT GILCHRIST	Rocking All Over the World	Status Quo
WES GOOSEN	I Gotta Feeling	Black Eyed Peas
DARCY GRAHAM	Yabba Dabba Doo / CanCan	[Custom]
PADDY HARRISON	Country Roads	john Denver
BEN HEALY	Heaven is a Place on Earth	Belinda Carlisle
JAKE HENRY	<i>tbc</i>	<i>tbc</i>
BOMBER HISLOP	Levels	Avicii
JAMIE HODGSON	Underdog	Kasabian
MIKEY JONES	Gold Dust	DJ Fresh
BLAIR KINGHORN	Teach me how to Dougie	Cali Swag District
JAMES LANG	Hound Dog	Elvis Presley

# PLAYER TRY TRACKS

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BILL MATA	Ukulele	Blad P2a ft. Khazin
ADAM MCBURNEY	Tell Me Ma	Sham Rock
ROSS MCCANN	The Snake	Al Wilson
BEN MUNCASTER	Crazy Frog	Axel F
CAM NEILD	<i>tbc</i>	<i>tbc</i>
WP NEL	Umfaan	Klipwerf Orkes
HARRY PATERSON	Duel of the Fates	John Williams
JAMIE RITCHIE	Edge of Seventeen	Stevie Nicks
CHARLIE SAVALA	Down Under	Men at Work
PIERRE SCHOEMAN	The Greatest Show	The Greatest Showman Ensemble
CAMMY SCOTT	Can't Take My Eyes Off Of You	Frankie Valli
JAVAN SEBASTIAN	Many Men – Album Version	50 Cent
CHARLIE SHIEL	Yes Sir, I Can Boogie	Baccara
SAM SKINNER	California Dreamin'	The Mamas & The Papas
SCOTT STEELE	Bounce	Calvin Harris
NATHAN SWEENEY	Hey Baby	DJ Otzi
TIM SWIEL	<i>tbc</i>	<i>tbc</i>
MARSHALL SYKES	Candy Shop	50 Cent
DUHAN VD MERWE	L'Amour Toujours	Gigi D'Agostino
BEN VELLACOTT	Without Me	Eminem
BOAN VENTER	WWE: The Game	Jim Johnston
HAMISH WATSON	This is the One	Stone Roses
ANGUS WILLIAMS	Back in Black	AC/DC
GLEN YOUNG	We Like to Party	Vengaboys

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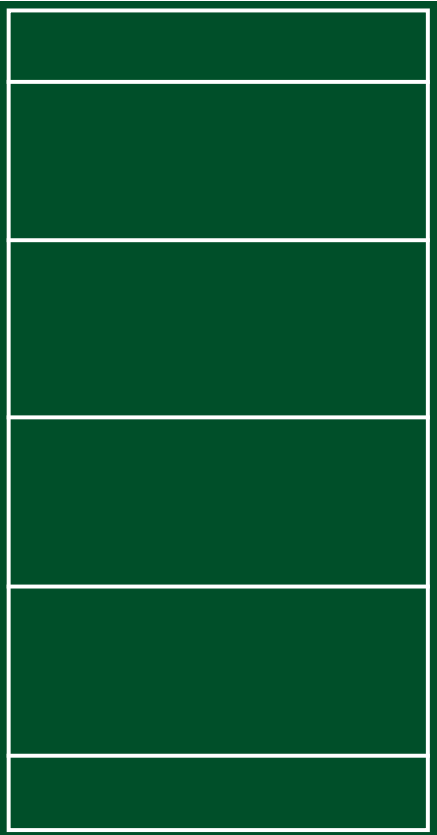


STAIR 27-32



RIVERSIDE STAND

TERRACE F / G / H



MURRAYFIELD STAND

STAIR 14-16



STAIR 17-19

LOTHIAN STAND

STAIR 20-23



STAIR 24-26



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*P. Petroianu*





# PRESS PASS

SEAN EVERITT

## *On Hamish Watson and injuries*

“It’s a blow because he got player of the match against the Lions and he was doing pretty well against Leinster.

“Unfortunately he got that head knock pretty early and he did well to carry through until half-time. Losing a British and Irish Lion and a guy who has been in form is a loss to the team but it’s a great opportunity.

“Connor Boyle came on at half-time against the Dragons and he could have walked away with the player of the match from those 40 minutes.

“It’s a great opportunity for the guy. Let’s see if he can stake a claim to keep that No.7 jersey – that’s going to be his challenge.”

## *On Connacht*

“Every week is a battle in the URC. We saw how Connacht can go with ball in hand in the first 40 minutes against us last season when we played them here.

“They had a good comeback against Ulster so it’s a team who doesn’t go away. We know they’ve got that fight within themselves and we know it’s not going to be an easy team to play against.

*“The boys will be keen to bounce back and show what they can do against an unbeaten Connacht team. Every team is beatable, however, and we will be going out to get the win on Saturday.”*



### *On the search of an 80 minute performance*

“The more the team plays together the better [we’ll get]. We will try to get consistency in our selection so we can build cohesion.

“It’s not been easy across the last few weeks as we had a different team against the Dragons to our last friendly against Bath. Then we had new arrivals and another two new players last week.

The more the team trains together and plays together – the better we’ll get. If you look at how we played against Leinster and you talk about 80 minute performances, the effort was there but it was just our inaccuracy.

“Sometimes it’s not about the number of inaccuracies or penalties, it’s about where you are conceding them. Unfortunately that played into their hands because we had dominance for the first twenty minutes and the last twenty.

“We just weren’t good enough in the middle part of the game as far as the error rate was concerned. We’ve had a chat about it as individuals and they need to look at themselves and see where we can fix it.”





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— *Quick Hits*

# Wes Goosen

I'm really enjoying the start of the season - loving just playing rugby again, to be honest, after the pretty average year last year with the injuries. But yeah, I'm loving playing for Edinburgh.

I feel like it's slowly coming back. I think it was about eight or nine months since I last played, so it was a bit of time. I'm happy, but there's still more to give and another level that I want to get to.

Connacht had a good pre-season - everyone has been there together the whole time and gone through that period together.



When we played them here in that pre-season game it was a full 80-minute team that they showed us. We came out for the first 40 and they came out for the second 40 and really showed out.

So we know it's going to be a tough game. We know what they bring - they bring a lot of phases - so we've just got to stay in there and go for the full 80.

# Scottish Building Society POTM Matt Currie

*Edinburgh Rugby centre Matt Currie has been voted October's Scottish Building Society Player of the Month after an impressive run of performances in the capital midfield to start the 2023/24 campaign.*

Starting in a new position of inside-centre, Currie has been one of the team's standout players in the opening three fixtures of the season, with Edinburgh Rugby securing hard-fought wins against Dragons RFC at Rodney Parade and Emirates Lions at Hive Stadium.

Against Dragons RFC in Round 1, Currie was a constant threat with ball in hand while his tenaciousness in defence provided a sound platform from which the capital side were able to battle back and secure a road win.







Up against Emirates Lions, Currie continued to impress in the number 12 jersey with his explosive running off stand-off Ben Healy the difference in providing go-forward ball as Edinburgh Rugby made it two wins from two to start the season.

On being named October's Scottish Building Society Player of the Month, Currie said: "It was great to start the season off with two wins early on. Leinster was a bit disappointing, but I've still really enjoyed playing in the opening games and hopefully we can kick on from here.

"I've played most of my rugby at 13 but I'm enjoying the change at the moment and think it's always helpful to be versatile across a few positions.

"I missed most of last season due to injury so I'm just happy to be back playing and get a few games under my belt – whether that is at 12 or 13 I don't really mind."

Currie has chosen to donate the £500 to his former club Dumfries Saints RFC's mini rugby section, as the grassroots side played a pivotal role in aiding his development to become a pro rugby player.

The centre played his junior rugby in Dumfries before moving to the city's Merchiston Castle School.

On the £500 donation from Scottish Building Society, Currie said: "I'm really grateful for the opportunity to give a little bit back to Dumfries.

"That's where my rugby journey started and where I fell in love with the game. I've still got ties with the club as my older brother plays there at the moment and it's a great club – so hopefully they can put the donation to good use."

— *Last time out*

# 36 Leinster 27 Edinburgh



*Despite a battling second-half performance, Edinburgh fell short in Dublin last weekend, with Leinster claiming a 36-27 victory at RDS Arena.*

EEdinburgh threatened to grab two losing bonus-points with a late flurry of tries – however those efforts came up short as the capital side suffered their first defeat of the new campaign.

Edinburgh managed scores through three replacements – James Lang, Connor Boyle and Boan Venter – however those tries weren't enough to inspire a heroic comeback with poor first-half discipline at the root of the capital club's problems.

With Glen Young yellow carded on 30 minutes, Leinster were able to capitalise with an outbreak of simple scores scored from just a metres out.

With Lee Barron, Max Deegan and Ciaran Frawley all running in scores for the hosts, Edinburgh trailed 21-6 at the break. A pair of Ben Healy penalties – who remained perfect from the tee – kept the capital side on the scoreboard.

Edinburgh came out battling in the second-half and got back on the scoresheet with a coast-to-coast try.

With Blair Kinghorn breaking from inside his 22m, the full-back found supporting scrum-half Charlie Shiel.

From Shiel to the trailing replacement Lang, Edinburgh were back in it (28-13).

Leinster had proved too strong inside Edinburgh's red zone all afternoon however and they soon extended their lead with hooker James Culhane the try-scorer after another potent lineout drive (33-13).

Edinburgh weren't done however and with Connor Boyle adding the finish touches to a strong lineout drive, it was a 13-point game (33-20).

Edinburgh had further hope when Venter popped up with another close-range score only moment later – however a penalty from Leinster's Sam Prendergast all but closed the door on the capital outfit's chances of a losing BP.

Edinburgh now turn their attention to a run of home fixtures in November with Connacht, Vodacom Bulls and Benetton Rugby all set to visit the Scottish capital in the coming weeks.





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