



Edinburgh Rugby vs Benetton Rugby
Friday 24 November, 7.35pm
Hive Stadium



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GOING PLACES TOGETHER

— *Welcome*

Douglas Struth

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



Tonight is club appreciation night, so in addition to cheering on the players in a crucial league and Italian x Scottish Shield match, we will also be celebrating the grassroots clubs that have played a crucial role in developing the players on the pitch tonight – and those that will follow in years to come.

We'll be paying tribute to all those at club level – volunteers, referees, committee members – that help make our great game run all year round, with our players once again pulling on the socks of their boyhood clubs, or local sides they've adopted for the fixture.

It will be a special night for Jamie Ritchie, who is set to become a club centurion, making his hundredth appearance for the capital tonight. An amazing achievement, and he will be wearing the socks of the clubs that played such a big part in his development, Madras RFC and Howe of Fife RFC.

Jamie will be running out ahead of the team, I hope everyone gives him a huge roar to celebrate a landmark appearance for the club, as he becomes our 40th centurion!



Before Jamie runs out, we're also able to celebrate representatives from two of our local clubs that have been thriving of late to deliver the match ball. I'm delighted to welcome the captains of Hawick RFC and Watsonians Women's, Shawn Muir and Rachel Law, whose sides both won the most recent Scottish Cup finals at Scottish Gas Murrayfield.

Another guest that we welcome tonight is Mika, a young Fijian rugby player who has just moved to Edinburgh. A huge rugby fanatic, Mika has started with Forrester RFC, and was greeted with a surprise visit at training by his hero, Big Bill Mata!

A number eight himself, the pair chatted all things rugby, and I'm delighted that we're able to host Mika and his family in hospitality at the match tonight.



Back to tonight's match, we have the task of Benetton in front of us. The visitors arrive with a team jam-packed with Italian internationalists and will provide no small obstacle for us as we search for three home wins on the bounce!

The atmosphere at both the Vodacom Bulls and Connacht matches was electric, and I'm excited for more of the same tonight as we cheer on the boys!

Enjoy the game!

Douglas Struth, Managing Director



16 TEAMS 5 NATIONS 1 CHAMPION



1872 CUP



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TEAM LINEUPS

EDINBURGH

100 Blair Kinghorn 15

Wes Goosen 14

Matt Currie 13

James Lang 12

Duhan van der Merwe 11

Ben Healy 10

Ali Price 9

100 Pierre Schoeman 1

Dave Cherry 2

100 WP Nel 3

Glen Young 4

100 Grant Gilchrist (C) 5

Jamie Ritchie 6

Connor Boyle 7

Luke Crosbie 8

16. Ewan Ashman 17. Boan Venter

18. Angus Williams 19. Marshall Sykes

20. Tom Dodd 21. Ben Vellacott

22. Tim Swiel 23. Chris Dean 100

BENETTON

Rhyno Smith

Paolo Odogwu

Malakai Fekitoa

Marco Zanon

Ignacio Mendy

Jacob Umaga

Andy Uren

Thomas Gallo

Giacomo Nicotera

Giosue Zilocchi

Edoardo Iachizzi

Eli Snyman

Aleddandro Izekor

Michele Lamaro

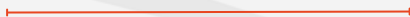
Lorenzo Cannone

16. Bautista Bernasconi 17. Mirco Spagnolo

18. Tiziano Pasquali 19. Riccardo Favretto

20. Toa Halafihi 21. Henry Tine-Stowers

22. Sam Hidalgo-Clyne 23. Giacomo da Re





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JAMIE RITCHIE

NO.6



JAMIE RITCHIE

100 UP

Scotland captain and back-row stalwart Jamie Ritchie will become Edinburgh Rugby's 40th centurion when running out against Benetton tonight.

It's fitting that Ritchie will join the club's distinguished centurions club on 'Club Appreciation Night' where he will likely wear Madras College and Howe of Fife RFC socks, two teams that played such a pivotal role in the Scotland skipper's journey to the top.

It has been at Edinburgh Rugby however – a club that, in Ritchie's own words:



‘has been part of his whole adult life’ – where the back-row has grown from a skinny and wildly courageous openside to a true leader that commands respect across the dressing room.

Having joined the club straight from school as a 17-year-old, Ritchie made his Edinburgh Rugby debut away to Leinster at the RDS Arena in October 2014 – and in truth, the former Scotland U20 has never looked back. “It’s my tenth season, nine years. It has taken me a wee while to get to 100. I got to 50 in Cockers’ first year. It has taken me a while since then, making it is really special,” said Ritchie.



Ritchie continued: “I met with Sean just after we got back from the World Cup. It was one of the things we spoke about at the meeting.

“I said, ‘look, whether I am captain or not you will get the same from me in terms of how I will be around the place. If you decide not to make me captain that’s fine, if you do, that’s fine and whatever the decision I will support whoever is

“That is all I can do. The biggest part of leadership and captaincy for me is being yourself and that should not change whether you have the armband or not.”

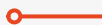
He added: “It is nice to concentrate on playing and be a bit more selfish in my preparation when I am here.

“This club has been part of my whole adult life. I have been here since I finished school when I was 17, and I’ve seen people come and go, but the club has been part of my whole adult life and it means a great deal to me.

“I have grown up here, so for me it will be a very special moment to run out for my 100th.”

Ritchie returned to action for the first time following the Rugby World Cup in last Friday’s bonus-point win against Vodacom Bulls.

Putting in an all-action 80-minute performance, Ritchie showcased why he is one of world rugby’s brightest back-row talents, and without the captaincy in 2023/24 – with Grant Gilchrist and Ben Vellacott leading the team under Everitt – the openside flanker was able to ‘just concentrate on playing.’



“And then it means if I am still captain of Scotland, I can throw all my efforts into that when we get back into camp.”

Sean Everitt's side have enjoyed a hugely promising start to the new campaign, winning four games out five, with Benetton Rugby up next in the Scottish capital.

With Ritchie returning to the fray, the back-row is bolstered by a player who is a true difference-maker, and a player who is nearing 10 years of service for his boyhood club.

Ritchie has seen a lot change in decade of rugby in the capital, but now firmly believes the current crop is building towards 'something special.'

Ritchie said: “I hate to speak too early, but I feel we are building, and we have had some results that have gone to the death that in the past may not have gone our way, but we have found ways to win these games which is really good.

“We have a lot to work on in the meantime, but we are winning and learning which is great rather than off a loss.

“We are building in the right direction and there is a lot of confidence in this group in how we are preparing and coming out of the back end of results.”

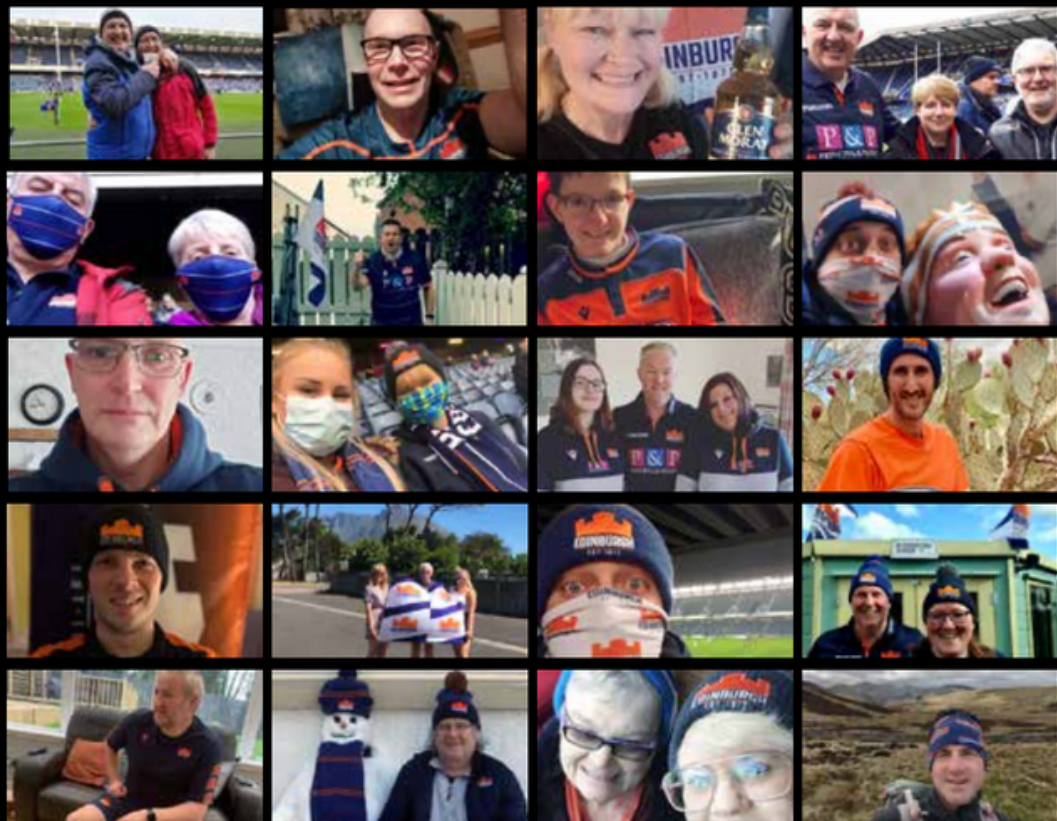
From schoolboy to centurion, Friday night is sure to be a special occasion for Ritchie and his family who are proud to call both the club and the city, home.



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Elixirr Partner, Bob Skinstad.

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Opposition Preview

BENETTON RUGBY

Edinburgh play host to Scottish x Italian shield rivals Benetton Rugby, with the 'Leoni' arriving on an upward trend, and in dangerous form.

The Italian side ply their home rugby at the Stadio Comunale di Monigo in Treviso, and are playing some of the best rugby in their URC History.

Finishing 9th in the league last season, and making an EPCR Challenge Cup semi-final, the men in green and white have never been better.

A host of international talent, including Italy captain Michele Lamaro, feature for the Lions, and will provide stern opposition for the capital men.

We're also able to welcome back two familiar faces, in the form of club centurion Sam Hidalgo-Clyne, and former defence coach Calum 'Kitty' MacRae.



Last Time Out

Edinburgh and Benetton faced each other twice last season, with the home side winning out on both occasions.

The capital men put the Lions to the sword at Hive Stadium, with Duhan van der Merwe scoring a brace in a heavy win on his return to Edinburgh.

The reverse fixture was a closer affair, with Benetton holding on for a big win despite a brace of tries from Henry Immelman. With both sides putting out strong squads, it should be a close run affair on Friday night.

Key Players

The men in green and white boast a plethora of international talent in their squad, from Italy, Argentina, and further afield. In the front row the impressive Thomas Gallo starts, having enjoyed a successful World Cup campaign with Argentina.

Italy captain Michele Lamaro starts in the back row, a dynamic player and passionate leader, he is joined by the talented Lorenzo Cannone at number eight - a fellow Italian internationalist.

Familiar faces start in the backs, with Jacob Umaga at stand-off, and Paolo Odogwu bringing pace out wide. The pair joined from former English Premiership side Wasps, and both add electric spark to the Italian side's back row.

The Benetton midfield is also brimming with talent. Italy international Marco Zanon starts at 12, and plays alongside former all-black and URC Champion Malakai Fekitoa - a summer arrival from Munster.



They're a tough side, and are playing some really good rugby. We know it will be a challenging game.

Sean Everitt



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Fiona Davidson



Chris Chisholm



Fiona Mulryan



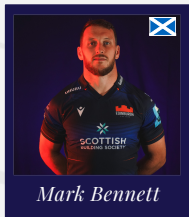
Umair Mohammed

EDINBURGH RUGBY

FIRST TEAM SQUAD



Ewan Ashman



Mark Bennett



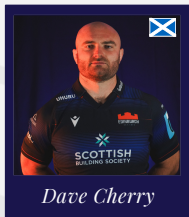
Emiliano Boffelli



Connor Boyle
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Jamie Campbell



Dave Cherry



Luke Crosbie



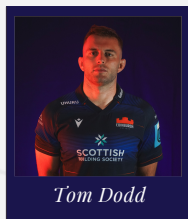
Matt Currie



Chris Dean



Luan de Bruin



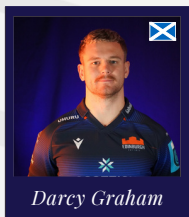
Tom Dodd



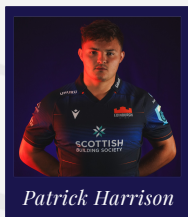
Grant Gilchrist



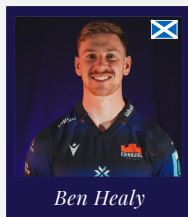
Wes Goosen



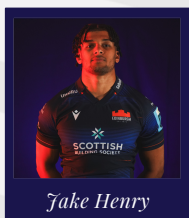
Darcy Graham



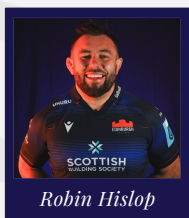
Patrick Harrison



Ben Healy



Jake Henry



Robin Hislop



Jamie Hodgson



Mikey Jones



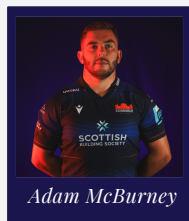
Blair Kinghorn



James Lang
Sponsor: CBS Consulting



Viliame Mata



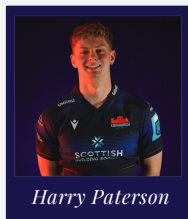
Adam McBurney



Ben Muncaster



WP Nel



Harry Paterson



Ali Price



D'Arcy Rae



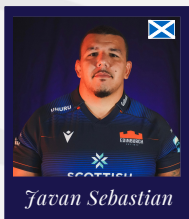
Jamie Ritchie



Cammy Scott
Sponsor: Southside Property Management



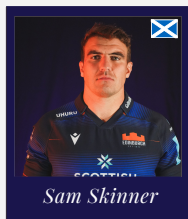
Pierre Schoeman



Javan Sebastian



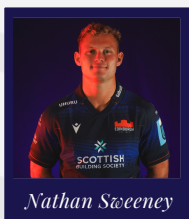
Charlie Shiel



Sam Skinner



Scott Steele



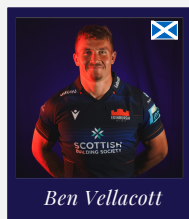
Nathan Sweeney



Marshall Sykes



Duhan VDM
Sponsor: GSS Developments



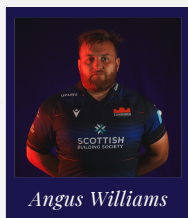
Ben Vellacott



Boan Venter



Hamish Watson



Angus Williams



Glen Young

EDINBURGH RUGBY ACADEMY 2022/23

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

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
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

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
ALI PRICE	Believe	Cher
JAMIE RITCHIE	Seven Nation Army	White Stripes
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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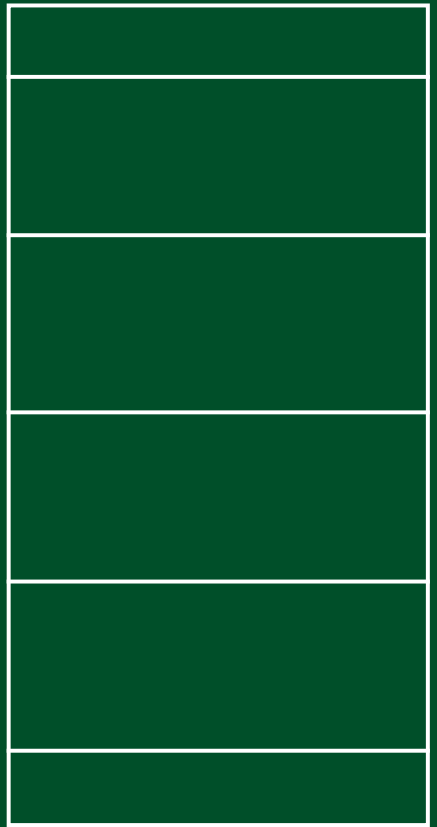


STAIR 27-32



RIVERSIDE STAND

TERRACE F / G / H



TERRACE A

TERRACE B

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 exceeding expectations?

“Not really with the group that we have and the preparation that they had prior to my arrival.

“There were a couple of things that we needed to sort out and I’m sure you’ll have noticed that game management was one of them and the guys are managing the game a hell of a lot better than they did.

“But there has been a lot of learning. I just heard Jamie chatting earlier: he said it’s a lot easier to learn when you’re winning than when you’re losing, and I think that’s the most important thing, that they get into the habit of winning.”

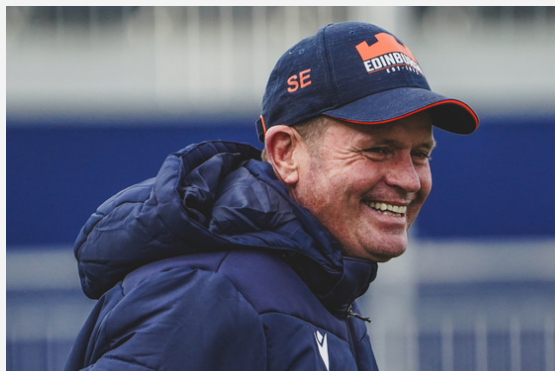
On Franco Smith

“Franco and I go back a long way. He was at the Cheetahs many years ago. I remember him as a player and coaching against him when he played against one of the local clubs in Durban.

“We have chatted a couple of times since I’ve been here. He’s doing a good job at Glasgow and, as you can see, he had a major impact when he came.

“He was involved as a consultant with the Springboks at one stage and he was a front-runner for the coaching position there, so he’s a well-respected coach and done incredibly well.”

The players want to learn and they want to get better – they've certainly shown that although the results have been tight at the end. Hopefully that will help us later on in the competition when you get to knockout stages – if we make it there."



On scrum halves

"It is tricky. It's about balancing it and making sure you're giving everyone time in the saddle because you can't come in cold when you're needed.

"Fortunately, we've got three nines who can fill the role here and start at any stage.

"When we get to the two Glasgow games we'll probably show our hand on what our form side will be, what our championship side will look like.

"But it's good to be able to swap around and rotate like we have. So Ali will get a start sooner rather than later."

On Hamish Watson

"Hamish is back on the training field this week. He'll be involved in the team training later on, on Thursday, then he'll prepare well with us on Friday morning with the non-23, and then he'll be in full training next week and up for selection against Ulster."

On Darcy Graham

"At this stage it's doubtful for Ulster. We're not sure. If it's not Ulster, it'll definitely be Clermont [8 Dec]."



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— *Quick Hits*

Ali Price

I've been going into Scotstoun for ten years. I never thought that last Monday I would be turning up at Murrayfield to train for Edinburgh or that I would be wearing this kit, to be perfectly honest with you!

But here I am. I gave my all over at the Glasgow side of the M8 and I'm excited for this new challenge. It's something that is good for myself and I'm looking to throw myself into it, enjoy playing my rugby and we'll see what happens.

I guess that's me part of the club now and back in the mix. I was keen to get involved straight away, learn my detail on Monday and Tuesday and



show what I can contribute, show what I'm all about to the boys and the club. It's been an enjoyable week.

It's nobody's right to be in an international team. Everyone knows you have to play rugby. I wasn't guaranteed anything: it wasn't a case of 'Go here, we'll play you every week and you'll get in the [Scotland] squad'. That's just not true. I was asked, if the opportunity arose, what would I like to do.



1872 CUP



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Kickstart your Hogmanay celebrations at Scottish Gas Murrayfield this December at our 1872 Cup Street Party – the perfect warm-up for unmissable derby action between Edinburgh Rugby and Glasgow Warriors on Saturday 30 December (kick-off 3pm).

Situated in the 'West Stand Fan Zone' next to Hive Stadium, the Street Party will open at 1pm (ahead of a 3pm kick-off), with plenty of festive fun for the whole family, including four live musical acts on the day: PG Ciarletta, Littlest Chicken with TUATH, Wrest and BLEEKER.

The Fan Zone will take on a festive vibe, meaning Edinburgh and Glasgow supporters can come together for an 1872 Cup 'Street Party' that is sure to keep fans of all ages entertained.

Kids can let loose in our Peter Vardy Driving Simulator and Scottish Building Society Passing Challenge, while parents grab a selection of festive food and drinks to get in the mood for 'The Auld Acquaintance', in Scotland's national stadium, kicking off at an earlier time of 3pm.

If you want to boogie ahead of kick-off, you're in luck! We have four of Scotland's premier unsigned acts lined up to entertain fans from both east and west.

Singer-songwriter PG Ciarletta will get the Street Party going on Saturday 30 December with his distinctive vocal tone, relatable lyrics, rousing anthemic melodies, cheeky character, and undeniable stage presence.

Fans can then sing along to Littlest Chicken with TUATH, a Scottish trad-prop musician with a difference who is sure to get the crowd jumping for some 1872 Cup action.

Acoustic duo Wrest will then close out our outdoor Unsigned Stage set as the Edinburgh-based indie band provide the good vibes ahead of kick-off.

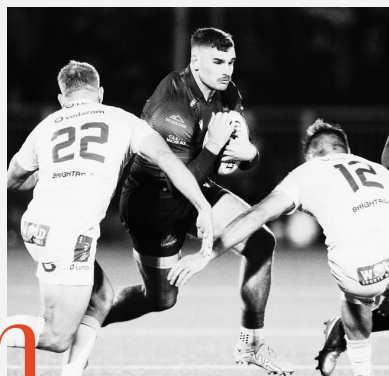
The live music scene will also extend into The Clubhouse, where the festive fun continues with BLEEKER – Edinburgh's favourite duo, who always provide the goods with a string of singalong classics.

Don't miss out next month's 1872 Cup decider at Scottish Gas Murrayfield and join us from 1pm for a Street Party ahead of an unmissable 1872 Cup clash against Glasgow Warriors.

— *Last time out*

31 Edinburgh

23 Vodacom Bulls



Edinburgh Rugby made it four wins out of five in the BKT United Rugby Championship, beating Vodacom Bulls 31-23 with a courageous display against the South Africans who had captain Marcell Coetzee sent off for a dangerous tackle on Pierre Schoeman.

Scotland captain Jamie Ritchie – playing his first game since the Rugby World Cup – was a dynamic influence on his team right from the start. And on-loan Glasgow Warrior Ali Price made his debut off the bench as Everitt's side held off a late fightback from the Bulls.

Johan Goosen created the try that gave the South Africans an eighth-minute lead with a grubber kick that was designed for winger Sergeal Peterson. Following up, Devon Williams dived on the ball to claim a simple score. Goosen added the conversion.

Then Healy sent a penalty to the corner and the pack drove from the lineout, with Ewan Ashman finishing off the try. The conversion attempt went wide, and it was still 13-11 at the break.

The second half had hardly got under way when Coetzee was sent off for barging into Schoeman's head with his right shoulder. The match officials had to watch half a dozen replays before the decision was made to show Coetzee the red card.

Bulls No 8 Cameron Hanekom was sent to the sinbin when Edinburgh attacked right from the restart. That penalty went to touch too, and from the lineout drive Ashman got try No 2. Healy missed the conversion attempt, but at 16-13 Edinburgh were in the lead for the first time.

Then with the Bulls still down to 13 men, Duhan van der Merwe got his team's third try. Mark Bennett and Kinghorn made the space, and when the ball got to the winger he had just enough time to dive in and score in the left corner. Healy's conversion came back off a post. Inside the last quarter, Bill Mata got the bonus-point try from a Healy pass after a solid drive had the Bulls on their back feet. The fly-half converted to make it 28-13 – a score which looked like being a decisive margin until Elrigh Louw got one back for the Bulls from a tap penalty and former Edinburgh fly-half Jaco van der Walt converted.

The home side's eight-point lead then became five when, after Mata was yellow-carded for shoulder-to-head contact on Lions centre Stedman Gans, Van der Walt scored from the penalty. However, Edinburgh held their nerve and played much of the final few minutes in their opponents' half.



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Club appreciation night

who we're representing



1. Pierre Schoeman
Corstorphine Cougars



2. Dave Cherry
Tynedale RFC



3. WP Nel
Watsonians



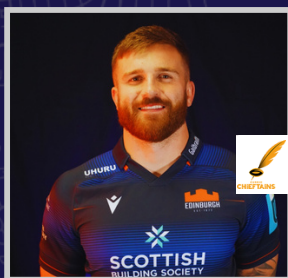
4. Glen Young
Jed Forest RFC



5. Grant Gilchrist (C)
Alloa RFC



6. Jamie Ritchie
Madras/Howe of Fife



8. Luke Crosbie
Currie Chieftans



7. Connor Boyle
Stewart's Melville/Watsonians



9. Ali Price
Ayr RFC



10. Ben Healy
Nenagh RFC



12. James Lang
Rygi Gogledd Cymru



13. Matt Currie
Dumfries Saints



11. Duhan van der Merwe
Heriot's Rugby



14. Wes Goosen
Corstorphine Cougars



15. Blair Kinghorn
Edinburgh Accies



16. Ewan Ashman | Sanbach RFC



17. Boan Venter | Dalkeith RFC



18. Angus Williams | Watsonians



19. Marshall Sykes | Ayr RFC/Woodbridge



20. Tom Dodd | Murrayfield Wanderers



21. Ben Vellacott | Lasswade RFC



22. Tim Swiel | Edinburgh Accies



23. Chris Dean | Edinburgh Accies/North Berwick



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