

# EDINBURGH

E D I N B U R G H R U G B Y V S  
B E N E T T O N R U G B Y

*Saturday 30th November 2024, 7.35pm kick-off*

*Managing director's welcome  
Jamie Ritchie feature / Press Pass*



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# DOUGLAS STRUTH WELCOME



**Good evening and welcome back to Hive Stadium as we welcome Benetton Rugby for Round 7 of the BKT United Rugby Championship.**

It has felt like a little while since we've been at home, and while I've enjoyed watching our Scotland stars don the thistle, I'm glad to see them all back in Edinburgh colours once again!

Tonight we welcome Benetton, a side who we've had some titanic clashes with over the years. We know they're a tough side to beat, so tonight will be a real battle. I'm excited for it, though, and know with the backing of our fans we've got what it takes to secure a result.

It's great to welcome back Calum MacRae to Hive Stadium. 'Kitty' was a stalwart of the capital club for a number of years, and it's been fantastic to see how well he's been doing as the Benetton defence coach.

We also welcome back a club legend in the form of Nick de Luca, with the club centurion joining us this evening for the match-ball delivery. The Burgh faithful will remember his scything breaks for club and country, so please be in your seats early to give him a good reception!

There were some moments to be really proud of as a club during the Autumn Nations Series, with a number of our players

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*Edinburgh Rugby vs Benetton Rugby  
BKT United Rugby Championship*



The Celtic Challenge is returning for the 2024/25 season, with our full fixture list confirmed and on sale. Kicking off against Glasgow at Hive Stadium on the 20th of December will be an exciting spectacle, with the side getting their own platform to perform against our rivals from the west.

We've also been able to confirm that Claire Cruikshank will be returning as Head Coach in a new full-time role. Last year's campaign was a great success under Claire's, with good rugby and big crowds coming out to support the 'History-Makers'. I'm excited for season two and hope we can see similar backing from the 'Burgh faithful.

Back to tonight, and I hope you're as excited as I am for the return of action at Hive Stadium

Thanks for your support!

*Douglas Struth,  
Managing Director*

their first caps, and playing a part in some record-breaking moments for Scotland.

The Darcy/Duhan jostling to be Scotland's record try scorer is an enjoyable tussle to watch unfold, and speaks to their world class abilities in front of the try line!

While they were breaking records, it was amazing to see Ben Muncaster and Freddy Douglas earn their first caps for Scotland, both featuring against Portugal at Scottish Gas Murrayfield.

Ben has been one of our in-form players this season, so it was brilliant to see that rewarded on the international stage. Freddy enjoyed a special day against Portugal, becoming the youngest Scotland men's debutant since Donald White in 1963 - who he met immediately after the final whistle.

Freddy followed up his debut with a player of the match performance against Chile for Scotland 'A' at Hive Stadium, and could make his club debut from the bench this evening to complete a whirlwind few weeks!





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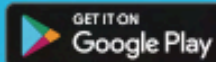
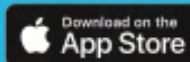


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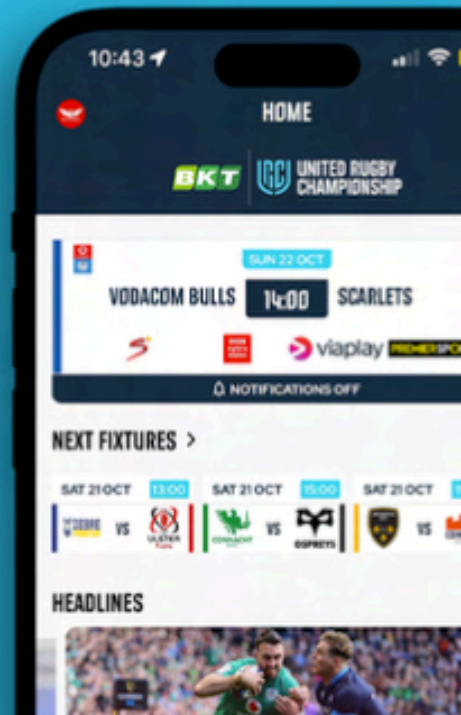
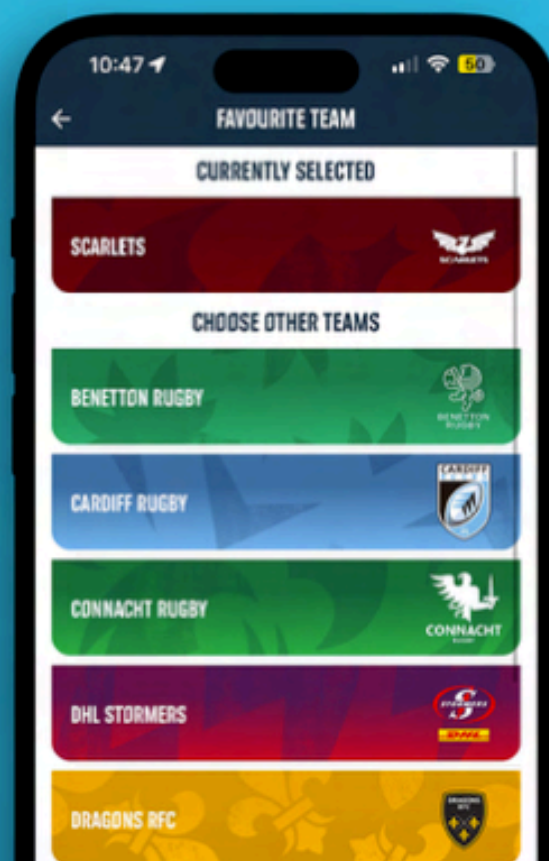


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# TEAM LINEUPS

## EDINBURGH RUGBY vs BENETTON RUGBY

<i>Wes Goosen</i>	<b>15.</b>	<i>Rhyno Smith</i>
<i>Darcy Graham</i>	<b>14.</b>	<i>Ignacio Mendy</i>
<i>Matt Currie</i>	<b>13.</b>	<i>Malakai Fekitoa</i>
<i>Moses Tuipulotu</i>	<b>12.</b>	<i>Marco Zanon</i>
<i>Duhan van der Merwe</i>	<b>11.</b>	<i>Paolo Odogwu</i>
<i>Ross Thompson</i>	<b>10.</b>	<i>Jacob Umaga</i>
<i>Ali Price</i>	<b>9.</b>	<i>Andy Uren</i>

<i>Pierre Schoeman</i>	<b>1.</b>	<i>Nahuel Tetaz</i>
<i>Ewan Ashman</i>	<b>2.</b>	<i>Marco Manfredi</i>
<i>Paul Hill</i>	<b>3.</b>	<i>Enzo Avaca</i>
<i>Marshall Sykes</i>	<b>4.</b>	<i>Scott Scrafton</i>
<i>Grant Gilchrist (C)</i>	<b>5.</b>	<i>Eli Snyman (C)</i>
<i>Jamie Ritchie</i>	<b>6.</b>	<i>Alessandro Izekor</i>
<i>Ben Muncaster</i>	<b>7.</b>	<i>Toa Halafih</i>
<i>Magnus Bradbury</i>	<b>8.</b>	<i>Riccardo Favretto</i>

16. *Patrick Harrison* 17. *Boan Venter*  
18. *D'arcy Rae* 19. *Sam Skinner*  
20. *Freddy Douglas* 21. *Ben Vellacott*  
22. *Ben Healy* 23. *Ross McCann*

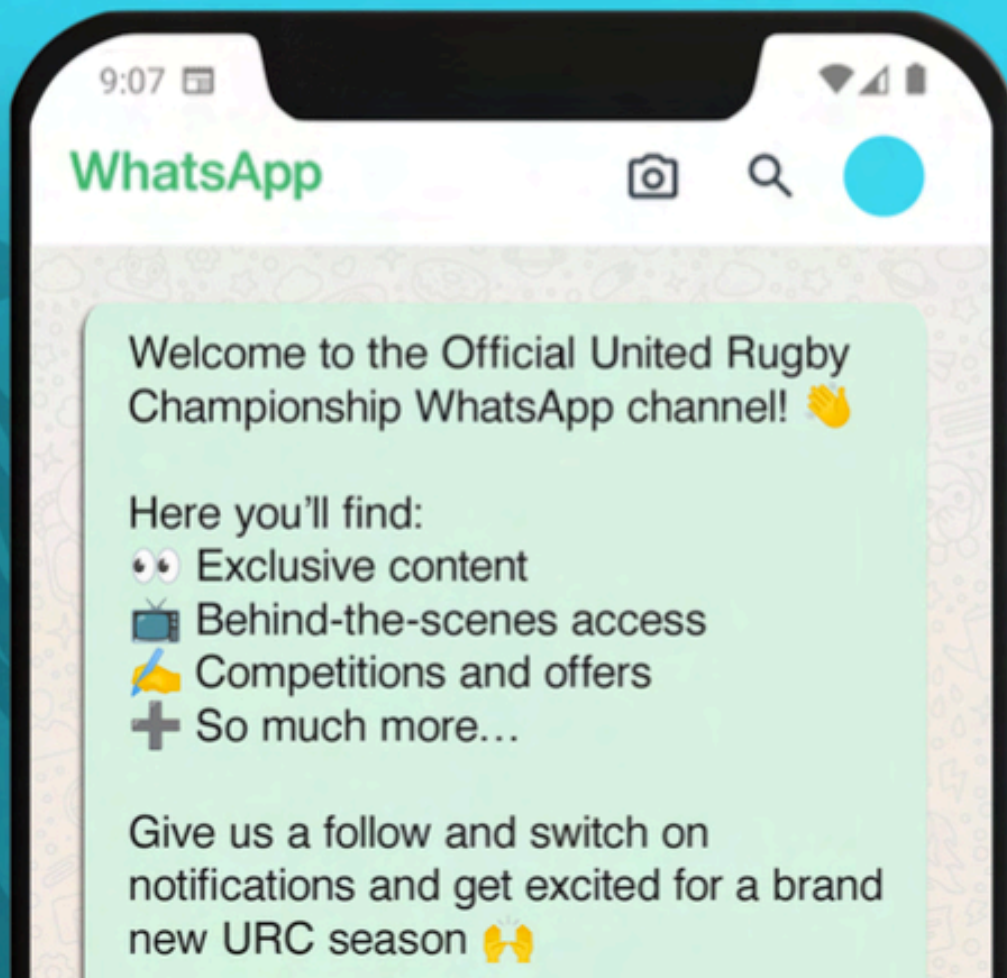
16. *Augustin Creevy* 17. *Destiny Aminu*  
18. *Tiziano Pasquali* 19. *Jadin Kingi*  
20. *Simon Koroiyadi* 21. *Lautaro B Velez*  
22. *Leonardo Marin* 23. *Louis Lynagh*





UNITED RUGBY  
CHAMPIONSHIP

# WHATSAPP CHANNEL





# JAMIE RITCHIE

## *Maintaining momentum*

Jamie Ritchie emerged from Scottish Gas Murrayfield battered and bruised on Sunday evening, having delivered a powerhouse performance in the Scotland back row.

His side's dominant and deserved win over Australia was a testament to his quality and relentless work rate.

A constant threat at the breakdown, the performance was a reminder that Ritchie is one of the world's premier back rowers when on top form.

Now back with his hometown club, Ritchie is relishing the opportunity to maintain that winning momentum as Edinburgh gear up for a crucial clash with Benetton at Hive Stadium on Saturday night.



“I was really happy with the game and the result against Australia,” said Ritchie.

“I’d say that performance was probably up there [in terms of his own game]. I think it was the first full 80 I’ve played for Scotland - not in the summer tour - since the South Africa game in the World Cup.

“It was nice to get through a whole game and feel like I was contributing. Certainly in the last year or so it was probably one of my best.”

The switch from Test rugby to club rugby can often be jarring, but Jamie Ritchie has picked up right where he left off.

The Scottish international is a vital leader for Edinburgh and Ritchie knows his experience will be instrumental against a formidable Benetton side.

“I love being back in and seeing all the lads. Obviously, they had a couple of weeks off at the start, some of them were on holiday, so nice to hear about that. It sounds like they've been working hard the last two weeks and it was exciting to get going back in this week.

“The start of the season has been difficult in some ways. We’ve had some really good performances, so I think it’s important to take confidence from those. But I think coming out of camp there's probably a few guys who have had a bit

---

*Maintaining momentum*



of a freshen up. Some guys who have been here the whole time have had some time off and they'll be really raring to get back into games.

“So I think capitalising on that energy and then bringing in that kind of confidence that we've built up with Scotland and hopefully we'll be able to hit the ground running against Benetton.”

Whether in the Scottish capital or the sunshine of Treviso, Edinburgh and Benetton have a history of thrilling encounters, regardless of location.

Edinburgh have historically held the upper hand at home, however with Benetton secure an upset smash and grab victory at Hive Stadium last season, Edinburgh will be eager to avenge the defeat and reclaim home advantage.

“I think for us, it's probably the two games against Benetton that we were quite frustrated with from last year, so hopefully there's a little bit of redemption.

“What we'll expect, they kick the ball quite a lot. Obviously, we know Calum Macrae really well from his time here and he's really into his contestable kicking game, so with the law changes we'll expect to see quite a few of them. They also look to play a little bit of rugby, so we'll be expecting that.

“It'll be a massive defensive performance for us, which I think will put us in good stead and then when we have the ball, looking to get on the front foot. It's a massive fixture for us.”



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Umair Mohammed

# CLAIRE CRUIKSHANK

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## BACK AT THE WHEEL



Claire Cruikshank will reprise her role as the Edinburgh Rugby Women's team Head Coach for the upcoming Celtic Challenge.

Cruikshank steered Edinburgh to an impressive second placed finish in the team's inaugural season, and now take on the role in a full-time basis as part of the Scottish Rugby Female Performance Pipeline, funded by Royal London's Level the Playing Field programme enabled by the British and Irish Lions.

'Shanks' joins from the University of Edinburgh, where she has worked as Head of Performance Ladies' Rugby, where she has brought success for over a decade in the University game.

Cruikshank will continue to work in a strategic oversight role with the rugby performance programme at the University of Edinburgh, further strengthening the relationship with the club partner.

A former Scotland internationalist and stalwart of the women's game, 'Shanks' has international experience in a coaching capacity, both as Head Coach for the Swedish Women's National Team and as Head Coach for Scotland U20 since 2023.

Cruikshank was also World Rugby Coaching Intern for Scotland Women and the 2021 Women's Rugby World Cup in New Zealand and coached with the national team during the recent WXV2 campaign in Cape Town.



On the appointment, Cruikshank added: “It’s a really exciting role, and I can’t wait to get started. Last season’s Celtic Challenge was amazing to be a part of, and to build on that is an opportunity I’m looking forward to immensely.

“It’s great to see so many of our players from last season doing well, with many earning international honours after playing for Edinburgh. It shows the clear pathway that is available for the girls, and one I’m excited to continue working on.”

Managing Director Douglas Struth added: “It’s brilliant to have Claire back at the club for our second season of the Celtic Challenge.

“Last year’s campaign was a great success, with good rugby and big crowds coming out to support the ‘History-Makers’. I’m excited for season two and hope we can see similar backing from the ‘Burgh faithful!”

On Cruikshank’s appointment, University of Edinburgh Director of Sport and Active Health, Mark Munro, said “We are thrilled to announce that Claire Cruikshank, our Head of Women’s Performance Rugby, has been appointed as the first-ever full-time rugby coach for the Edinburgh Rugby women’s side.

“Claire’s impact on the University of Edinburgh over the past decade has been nothing short of transformative, building a programme that is now a vital pathway for talent to the National Women’s team.”



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# EDINBURGH RUGBY FIRST TEAM SQUAD 24/25



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MARK BENNETT



EMILIANO BOFFELLI



CONNOR BOYLE



MAGNUS BRADBURY



ROB CARMICHAEL



DAVE CHERRY



LUKE CROSBIE



MATT CURRIE



TOM DODD



GRANT GILCHRIST



WES GOOSEN



DARCY GRAHAM



PADDY HARRISON



BEN HEALY



PAUL HILL



ROBIN HISLOP



JAMIE HODGSON



MIKEY JONES



JAMES LANG



ROSS MCCANN



LIAM MCCONNELL



BEN MUNCASTER



HARRY PATERSON



ALI PRICE



D'ARCY RAE



JAMIE RITCHIE



PIERRE SCHOEMAN



MATT SCOTT



CAMMY SCOTT



JAVAN SEBASTIAN



CHARLIE SHIEL



SAM SKINNER



NATHAN SWEENEY



MARSHALL SYKES



ROSS THOMPSON



MOSESE TUIPULOTU



DUHAN VAN DER MERWE



BEN VELLACOTT



BOAN VENTER



HAMISH WATSON



ANGUS WILLIAMS



GLEN YOUNG

# EDINBURGH RUGBY PRO-ACADEMY



*Jerry Blyth-Lafferty (hooker)*

*Ollie Blyth-Lafferty (tighthead prop)*

*Jack Brown (full-back)*

*Isaac Coates (fly-half)*

*Tom Currie (back-row)*

*Freddy Douglas (back-row)*

*Ollie Duncan (back-row)*

*Jack Hocking (full-back)*

*Mikey Jones (loosehead prop)*

*Sam Leweni (centre)*

*Christian Lindsay (lock)*

*Hamish MacArthur (scrum-half)*

*Conor McAlpine (scrum-half)*

*Euan McVie (lock)*

*Nairn Moncrieff (winger)*

*Harri Morris (hooker)*

*Hector Patterson (scrum-half)*

*Mac Rutherford (lock)*

*Jamie Stewart (loosehead prop)*

*Findlay Thomson (centre)*

*Lewis Wells (winger)*

*Ross Wolfenden (fly-half)*

*“With a larger group, we have a fantastic opportunity to nurture these young players and prepare them for the challenges of professional rugby.” – Head Coach Sean Everitt*



# EDINBURGH RUGBY

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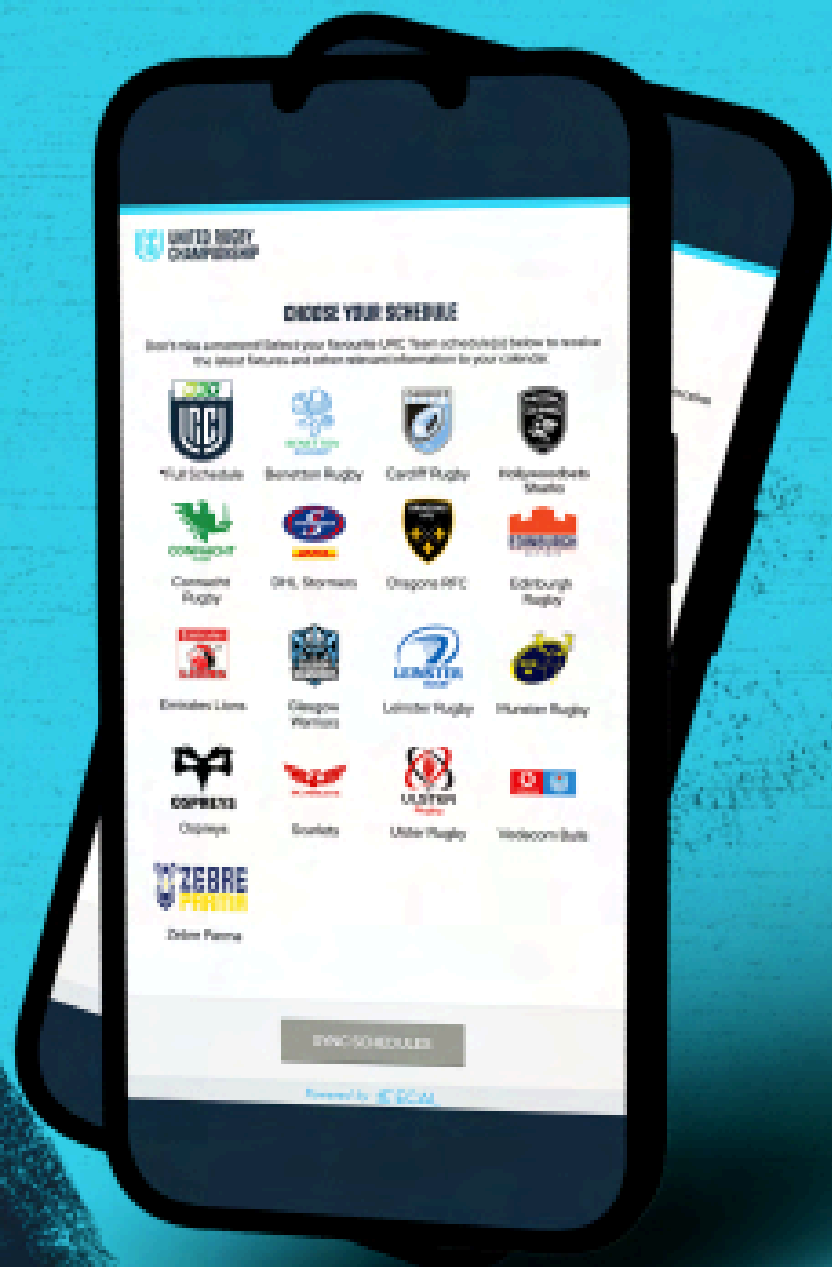
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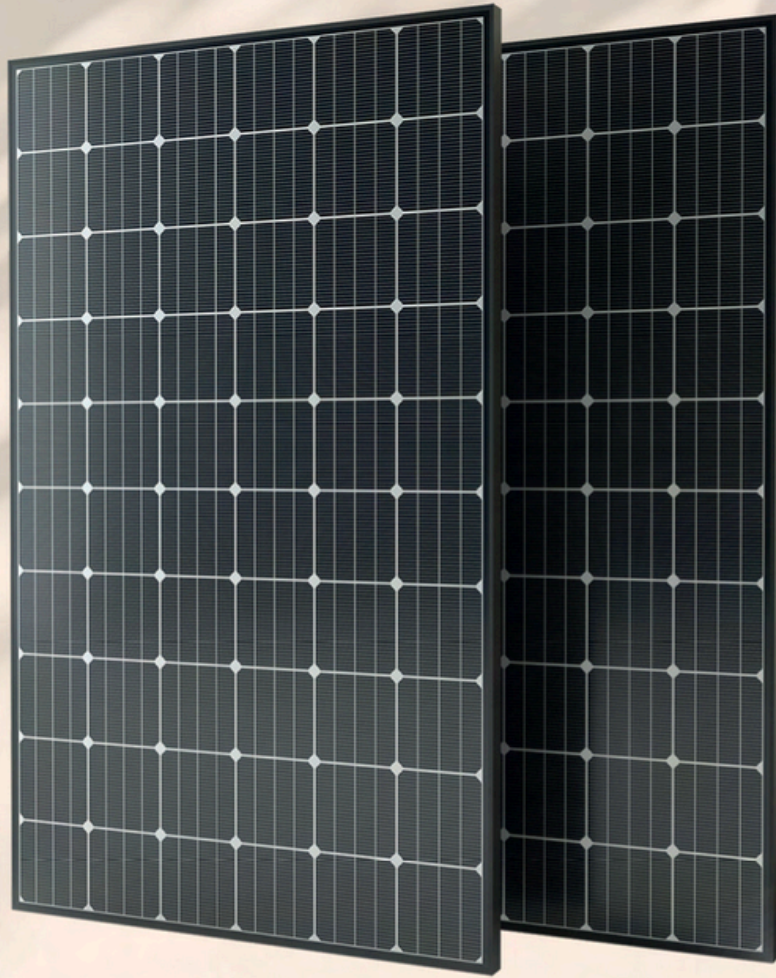
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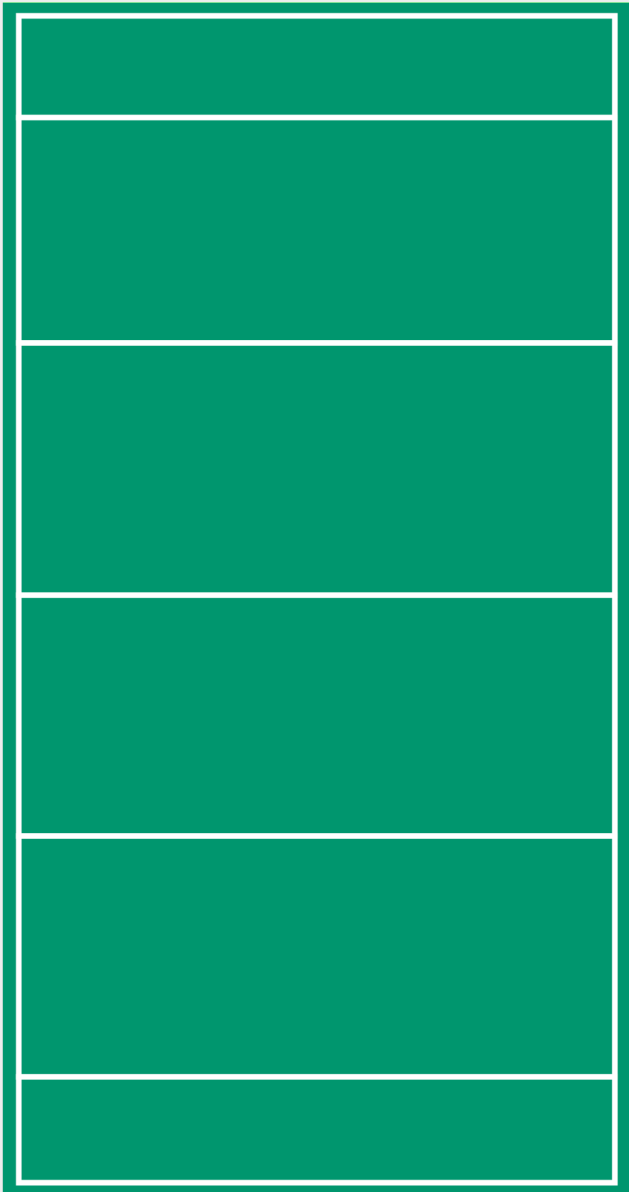
# PLAYER TRY TRACKS

EWAN ASHMAN	INTO THE VALLEY	SKIDS
MARK BENNETT	YOU'RE WELCOME	DWAYNE JOHNSON
EMILIANO BOFFELLI	TRY - QUEVEDO; BZRP MUSIC SESSION KICK - PEPAS	TRY - BIZARRE, QUEVEDO KICK - FARRUKO
CONNOR BOYLE	FUNKY TOWN	LIPPS INC
MAGNUS BRADBURY	DELILAH (PULL ME OUT OF THIS)	FRED AGAIN.
ROB CARMICHAEL	BLITZKRIEG BOP	THE RAMONES
DAVE CHERRY	FIREBALL	PITBULL
LUKE CROSBIE	THE SPARK	KABIN CREW, LISDOONVARNA CREW
MATT CURRIE	SAMBA DE JANEIRO	BELLINI
TOM DODD	CRAZY	GNARLS BARKLEY
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
PAUL HILL	WWE: HERE COMES THE MONEY	WWE + JIM JOHNSTON
ROBIN HISLOP	LEVELS	AVICII
JAMIE HODGSON	UNDERDOG	KASABIAN
MIKEY JONES	GOLD DUST	DJ FRESH
JAMES LANG	BACKBONE	STORMZY
ROSS MCCANN	YOUR LOVE	THE OUTFIELD
LIAM MCCONNELL	CHELSEA DAGGER	THE FRATELLIS
HARRI MORRIS	5, 6, 7, 8	STEPS
BEN MUNCASTER	GIMME GIMME GIMME	ABBA
HARRY PATERSON	DUEL OF THE FATES	JOHN WILLIAMS
ALI PRICE	BELIEVE	CHER
D'ARCY RAE	SABOTAGE	BEASTIE BOYS
JAMIE RITCHIE	SEVEN NATION ARMY	WHITE STRIPES
PIERRE SCHOEMAN	THE GREATEST SHOW	THE GREATEST SHOWMAN ENSEMBLE
CAMMY SCOTT	CAN'T TAKE MY EYES OFF OF YOU	FRANKIE VALLI
MATT SCOTT	JUMP	VAN HALEN
JAVAN SEBASTIAN	MANY MEN	50 CENT
CHARLIE SHIEL	YES SIR I CAN BOOGIE	BACCARA
SAM SKINNER	CALIFORNIA DREAMIN'	THE MAMAS & THE PAPAS
NATHAN SWEENEY	HEY BABY	DJ OTZI
MARSHALL SYKES	A LITTLE LESS CONVERSATION	ELVIS PRESLEY JUNKIE XL EDIT
ROSS THOMPSON	FREE BIRD	MOONLIGHT
MOSESE TUIPULOTU	FLEX (OOH, OOH OOH)	RICH HOMIE QUAN
DUHAN VAN DER MERWE	L'AMOUR TOUJOURS	GIGI D'AGOSTINO
BEN VELLACOTT	HOUDINI	EMINEM
BOAN VENTER	LIVING ON A PRAYER	BON JOVI
HAMISH WATSON	THIS IS THE ONE	STONE ROSES
ANGUS WILLIAMS	BACK IN BLACK	ACDC
GLEN YOUNG	WE LIKE TO PARTY	VENGABOYS

STAIR 27-32

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TERRACE A

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STAIR 5

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STAIR 6-9

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STAIR 24-26



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STAIR 20-23

STAIR 17-19



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# PRESS PASS SEAN EVERITT



*“Our recent matches against Benetton have been tight affairs, and I’m expecting another big test against them on Saturday.”*

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Edinburgh Rugby Head Coach Sean Everitt is relishing the return of several experienced Scotland internationalists ahead of the capital side’s crucial BKT United Rugby Championship clash with Benetton at Hive Stadium on Saturday night.

The likes of Darcy Graham, Jamie Ritchie and Pierre Schoeman are back in the mix, and Everitt believes their experience will be invaluable for the team.

“They’ve come back in today and done medicals after the Autumn Tests,” he confirmed. “They’re all available for selection against Benetton.”

One player that has returned to the training paddock, having sorely been missed due to injury, is lock Sam Skinner.

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*“It’s great to be back to URC action, playing in front of our fans at Hive Stadium.”*





“He’s ready to go,” Everitt said. “He’s brought a lot of energy over the last couple of weeks. He’s feeling like a new man now he’s gone through an extensive rehabilitation. He can’t wait to get on the field.”

Skinner’s return will bolster Edinburgh’s pack, both physically and mentally.

“He’s got a lot of experience, not only in the Premiership and Test rugby but he’s respected here within our group. He’s got leadership experience and he runs the lineout well too,” Everitt added.

Another player making his way back to full fitness is James Lang, with the experienced centre knocking on the door for a return to action.

“Likewise we’ve got James Lang coming back which adds to our depth and it is quite exciting for us going forward,” Everitt said.



While the return of experienced players is a major boost, there are also opportunities for younger players ready to make their mark.

“There’s also opportunities for youngsters over the next few weeks, like Lewis Wells, if we have any more injuries,” Everitt noted.

One young player who has impressed Everitt is Freddy Douglas. The up and coming back-row is fresh off a month to remember having made his Scotland debut against Portugal before impressing in the recent ‘A’ team victory over Chile at Hive Stadium.

“We’re monitoring [Freddy’s] progress. I think he has done well. He is a youngster learning his trade but at the same time he’s got an X Factor which is being able to jackal really well. I think he won five turnovers against Chile which does put him in the reckoning,” Everitt said.

*“Likewise we’ve got James Lang coming back which adds to our depth and it is quite exciting for us going forward.”*



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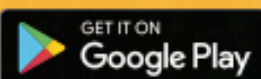
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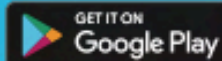


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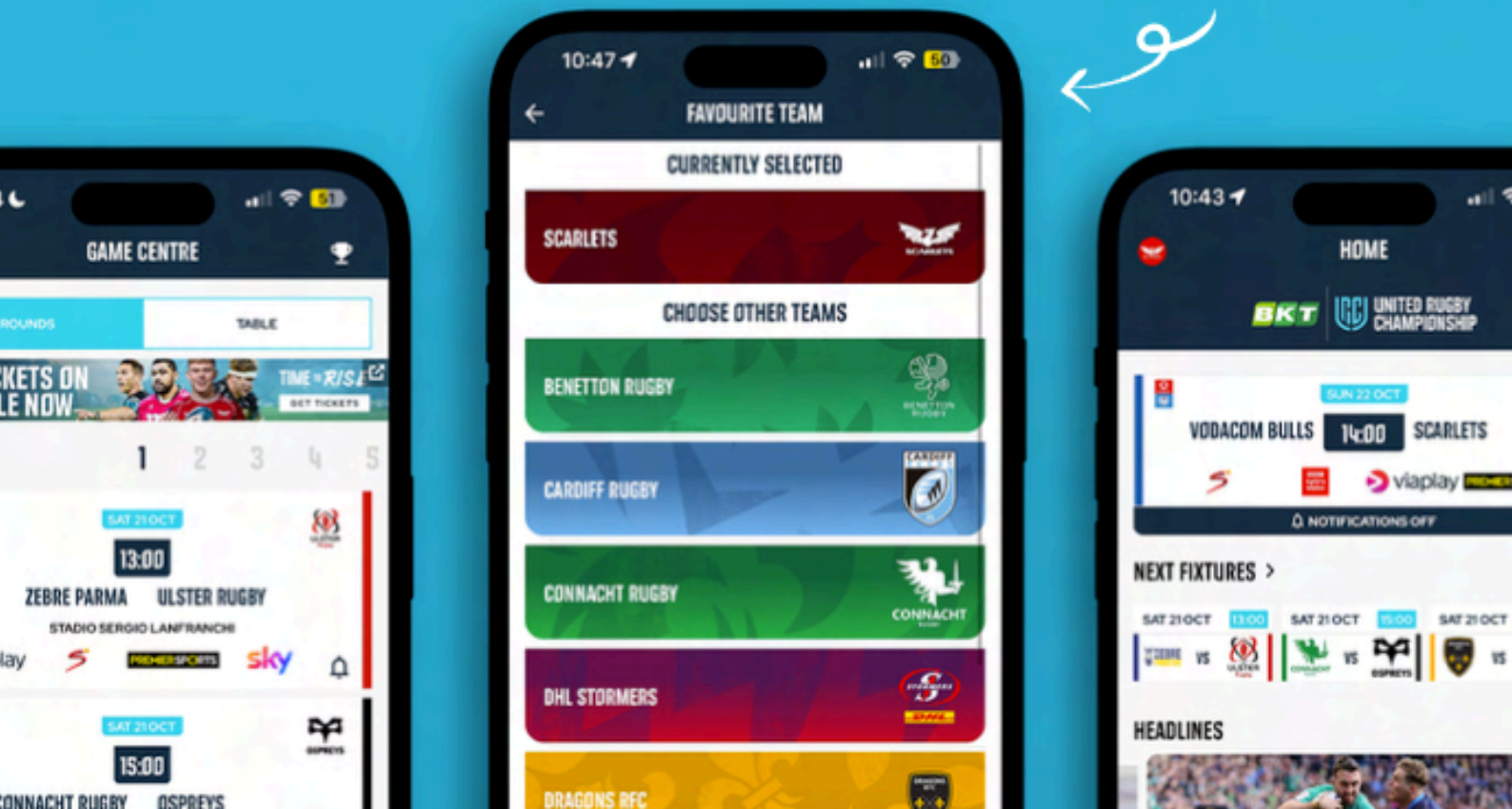


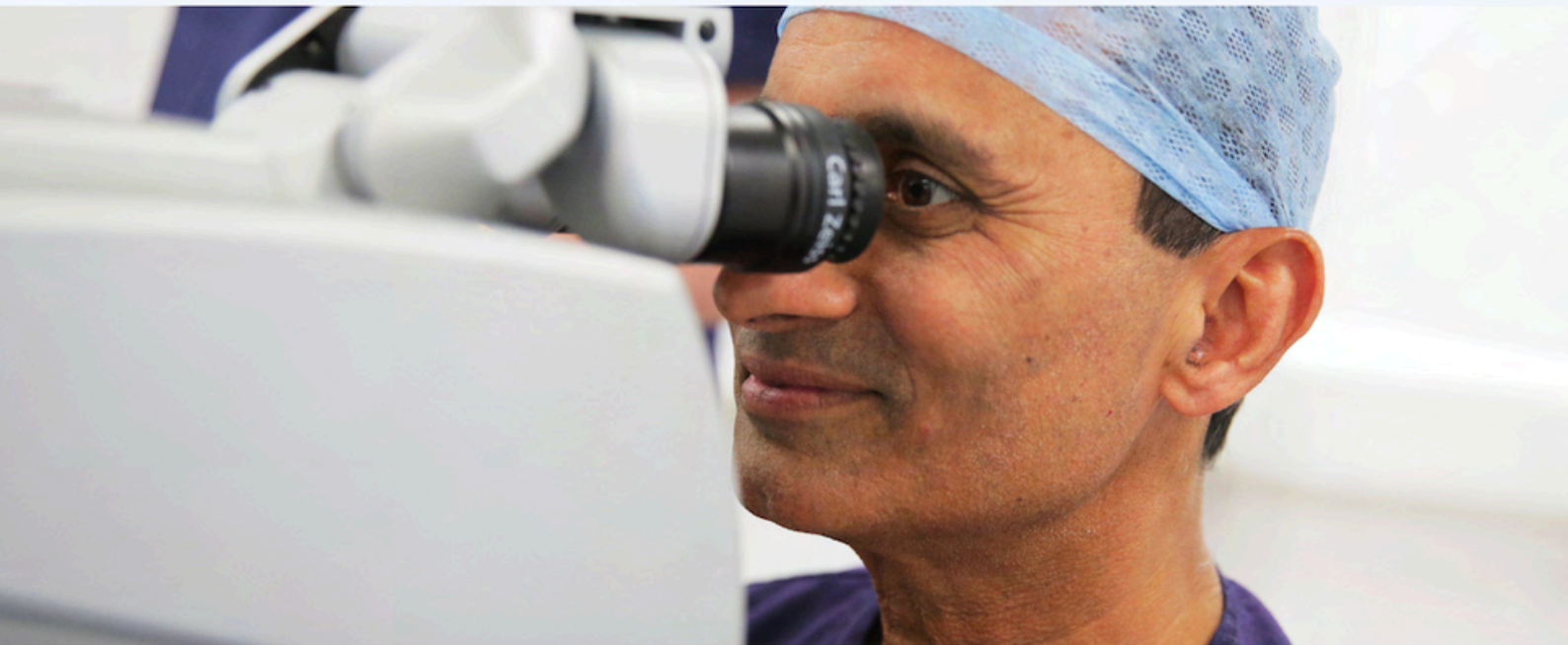
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## SCOTLAND 'A' 19-17 CHILE

Scotland A secured a narrow victory over Chile in their first home match in 10 years, winning 19-17 at Hive Stadium on Saturday night.

Scotland opened their account quickly after being gifted a strong attacking platform inside Chile's half as Ross Thompson nudged a penalty for a line out inside the 22. With Chile not contesting it was an easy win in the air and quickly Ross McCann was able to find space on the right wing before putting full-back Arron Reed through a gap to cross the try line. Ross Thompson lined up the conversion but it was unsuccessful.

But it was an exciting start as Scotland A scored their first home points since 2014. After 10 minutes of interchanging play, Scotland were penalised for holding on in the ruck. With Chile just over the half-way line, they opted to kick for the points to get their account going however, Santiago Videla's shot was short of the mark.

The tides began to turn for Chile as they began to dominate in attack, spending the best part of 10 minutes inside Scotland's half. Jamie Dobie and Freddy Douglas proved themselves to be a real nuisance around the breakdown, constantly causing disruption to the visitors' platform.



However, it was Chile who would next disrupt the flow when full-back Luca Strabucchi got himself between Stafford McDowall and Arron Reed to intercept play. In football fashion he kicked the ball down the pitch, chasing as he went before dotting it down beneath the sticks for their first try. Santiago Videla had an easy conversion in front of the posts, which sailed over for the extras, giving Chile the lead for the first time.

Scotland suffered further misfortune ahead of the half-time whistle as captain McDowall was shown a yellow card by referee Gianluca Gnechi for dangerous clear out at the ruck, croc-rolling his opposition. This ruled him out for the remainder of the half and the opening two minutes of the second half.

The opening phases of the first half saw Scotland defending their try line well, with youngster Douglas, known for his impressive turnover rate at U20 level, doing just that to Chile just meters from the line. Just as Scotland tried to come back into the game, it was time for a break.

Chile were quick to make an impression in the second half and managed to take themselves up to Scotland's 22 for a line out. It was here that Scotland's Jamie Bhatti was penalised for tackling a player in the air. Capitalising on their position in Scottish territory, Chile's Santiago Videla stepped up to the tee once again and kicked a successful penalty to extend the lead for Chile.

After a back and forth 10 minutes neither side was really getting anywhere with penalties being conceded across both sides of the ball. But finally, there was a spark of magic for Scotland. As Chile launched the ball from boot into the sky, Ben Afshar was able to get hands on the ball and make a break, darting his way down the pitch from half way. With the crowd of Hive spurring him on it felt as though he had the legs to go all the way, but he was taken down in contact but Tom Dodd was fast behind him, and he gathered the ball to dot down.

On the hunt for another try and a more solid extension of their lead. After a series of penalties were conceded by Chile, Scotland had a line out on Chile's 5 metre line. The visitors were deemed to have collapsed the maul, and so, Scotland were awarded a penalty try.

Scotland seemed to be doing well controlling the final period of the match, however a misconnection in the backline as the final seconds played out saw Matías Garafulic intercept the ball and charge down the pitch to score under the sticks. Santiago Videla added the extras, closing Chile's account to 17 points and with it, the match. Although it wasn't enough to win, it was an impressive finish for the visitors.



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