

EDINBURGH

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

Friday 4 April, 8pm kick-off

*Managing director's welcome
Wes Goosen feature / Press Pass*



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DOUGLAS STRUTH WELCOME



Good afternoon and welcome to Hive Stadium as we welcome Emirates Lions for the EPCR Challenge Cup Round of 16.

It's incredibly exciting to have knockout rugby in the capital, with Hive Stadium playing host for the first time since we welcomed Wasps in 2022.

The energy around the team and club is absolutely buzzing. These are the games we all look forward to, and we're gearing up for some thrilling moments on and off the field.

The atmosphere around the stadium last week was electric, with the squad giving plenty of moments for fans to get on their feet.

A chief reason to celebrate was having Darcy Graham back playing for the capital after the Guinness Six Nations. The Hawick flyer was at his brilliant best, beating 11 defenders whilst scoring one try and setting up another.

Darcy consistently hits high levels with the castle on his chest, as does another one of our back-three stars - Wes Goosen.

Wes endured a tough first season in the capital with multiple injuries, but has put it behind him to become one of our most consistently excellent performers, playing every minute so far this season.

*Edinburgh Rugby vs Emirates Lions
EPCR Challenge Cup*

DOUGLAS STRUTHWELCOME



It's always so special to see the connection between the players, staff, and all those who support the club, and events like these really highlight the growth that is happening around the club.

And a special mention to club centurion Geoff Cross, who will be delivering the match ball ahead of our game. Geoff is a true legend of Edinburgh Rugby, and we're thrilled to have him back at the stadium for this moment. His passion, commitment, and leadership on and off the field have left a lasting legacy, and it's an honour to have him here today!

We're all really excited about what's ahead, and we want to thank each and every one of you for being such a big part of this journey with us. Your support means everything, whether you're here at the games or cheering us on from wherever afar.

Enjoy the game!

*Douglas Struth,
Managing Director*

His remarkable durability is highlighted by his impressive professional playing time, placing him in the 99.2nd percentile for minutes played over the last 10 seasons, ranking 127th out of over 15,700 players worldwide.

Wes has had a brilliant impact on the field, but also off it in culture he brings to the club. We're all really happy that 'Goose' is staying for a couple more years!

Away from the field, it was great to have our first Player Sponsors lunch this week, which was a great event. It was a chance for our sponsors to meet the players and get to know them a bit better. Sponsors enjoyed an exclusive behind-the-scenes training experience, followed by a special lunch with their sponsored players and the wider squad, with insight from co-captains Grant Gilchrist and Ben Vellacott.





DOM MCKAY

EPCR WELCOME

Dear Rugby fans,

On behalf of EPCR, I am delighted to welcome you to these eagerly awaited Round of 16 and Quarter-Final matches – the first knockout weekends of the 2024/2025 season. Following a thrilling and action-packed pool stage, with progression going right down to the wire, we now enter the knockout phase, where every match will be decisive. The pressure is intense, and this is the time when the courage and team spirit of our participating clubs will truly be tested.

The 30th season of our competition is a significant milestone in EPCR's history, and it is thanks to the dedication and passion of the players, clubs, and of course, you, our incredible supporters, that we continue to grow this competition. Your energy and enthusiasm add a unique dimension to every match.

I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our valued partners who make this event possible: Investec, DHL, Georgia Tourism, OMODA | JAECOO, Tissot, Gilbert, and Macron. A special thanks to Investec, our title partner, for their unwavering support, which enables us to continue delivering an exceptional tournament.

The upcoming matches are crucial, and we know that every team will be fighting to move one step closer to Cardiff 2025. This journey is both exciting and historic, and we look forward to experiencing every moment with you.

May the passion for rugby continue to shine, and may the best team win. We look forward to seeing you in the stadiums, ready to write the next chapters of this incredible story.

yours in rugby,
Dominic McKay, EPCR Chairman



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TEAM LINEUPS

EDINBURGH RUGBY vs EMIRATES LIONS

<i>Wes Goosen</i>	<i>15.</i>	<i>Quan Horn</i>
<i>Darcy Graham</i>	<i>14.</i>	<i>Richard Kriel</i>
<i>Matt Currie</i>	<i>13.</i>	<i>Manuel Rass</i>
<i>James Lang</i>	<i>12.</i>	<i>Rynhardt Jonker</i>
<i>Ross McCann</i>	<i>11.</i>	<i>Edwill van der Merwe</i>
<i>Ross Thompson</i>	<i>10.</i>	<i>Gianni Lombard</i>
<i>Ben Vellacott (CC)</i>	<i>9.</i>	<i>Morne van den Berg</i>

<i>Pierre Schoeman</i>	<i>1.</i>	<i>Sj Kotze</i>
<i>Dave Cherry</i>	<i>2.</i>	<i>Franco Marais</i>
<i>Paul Hill</i>	<i>3.</i>	<i>Asenathi Ntlabakanye</i>
<i>Sam Skinner</i>	<i>4.</i>	<i>Ruben Schoeman</i>
<i>Grant Gilchrist (CC)</i>	<i>5.</i>	<i>Darrien Landsberg</i>
<i>Jamie Ritchie</i>	<i>6.</i>	<i>Jarod Cairns</i>
<i>Hamish Watson</i>	<i>7.</i>	<i>Ruan Venter</i>
<i>Magnus Bradbury</i>	<i>8.</i>	<i>Francke Horn (C)</i>

*16. Ewan Ashman 17. Boan Venter
18. Javan Sebastian 19. Glen Young
20. Freddy Douglas 21. Ali Price
22. Cammy Scott 23. Jack Brown*

*16. Jaco Visagie 17. Juan Schoeman
18. RF Schoeman 19. Ivan Esterhuizen
20. Siba Qoma 21. Nico Steyn
22. JC Pretorius 23. Marius Louw*



WES GOOSEN

Goosen find his home at full-back as Edinburgh eye European glory

Wes Goosen committed his future to Edinburgh Rugby earlier this week, signing a new two-year deal that will see him remain at the capital club until 2027.

With the full-back set to make his 50th appearance in Friday night's crucial EPCR Challenge Cup Round of 16 clash against Emirates Lions, Goosen's commitment and form are a timely boost for Edinburgh who will be aiming to secure a home Quarter-Final.

For Goosen, the decision to extend his stay at Hive Stadium was a straightforward one. "It was actually quite an easy decision, really," he explained. "I'm loving my time here, loving being under Sean here, and really enjoying playing full-back. Yeah, so it was actually quite easy. I'm quite settled down in Edinburgh, so I'm pretty happy."



Reflecting on journey since joining Edinburgh in 2022, Goosen feels he has truly found his home in the Scottish capital.

“I just kind of take it as it comes. My first season I felt I didn’t really achieve what I wanted to - I was injured a lot. I wanted to make up for it last season. I really enjoyed last season, so I wanted to come back.

“I really enjoy playing for Edinburgh, and I feel like there’s so much more to be done here. We can win competitions, there’s a lot of potential, a lot of people are staying and I want to be a part of it.”

This season, Goosen has been a key figure, playing every minute of every game, a testament to his durability and mindset.

“Yeah, I think I came off my foot at the end of last season. I came back, and had a bit of a slow start, but I feel like I’m slowly starting to hit my groove now,” explained Goosen.

“My confidence is back and I’m really enjoying it - I’m really enjoying the counter-attack side of the game that we’re pushing. It’s a lot of fun.”

Goosen has also found a new home at full-back, a position he believes suits his skillset perfectly, with the playmaker so solid under the high ball and dangerous when counter-attacking alongside back-three threats like Darcy Graham and Duhan van der Merwe.

“I think full-back suits me more, the playmaking kind of set-up side, but also to have a go myself, punch. I’ve really taken to it,” said Goosen.

I really enjoy setting up people - I guess when you’ve got Darcy and Duhi on the wings it’s really quite easy. Yeah, I think full-back is hopefully my new home.”



His consistent presence on the field, playing every minute, speaks volumes about his commitment to the jersey, with his Head Coach Sean Everitt describing Goosen as a player who ‘embodies what the club looks for in a non Scottish qualified player.’

Goosen added: “Before that unlucky first year, touch wood I’ve never really had that many bad injuries. I’ve been able to play a lot of games, and I’ve always said if you make yourself available it’s the best thing in rugby you can do, is be available to the coach and to your team-mates.

“I guess at the start it was a lot of minutes, but I’d rather be playing the game than not, or running line to line. I’m loving it.”

With a crucial period ahead, Goosen is focused on making the most of the opportunities that come his way as Edinburgh continue to fight in both the URC and EPCR Challenge Cup.

“Yeah, big few weeks. We spoke about it. I guess you go to this comp, EPCR, take one game at a time. You take the Lions, hopefully, you look forward to the Bulls or Bayonne.

“And then back into the URC and it’s pretty much play-off rugby every game. So it’s exciting and I guess that’s the rugby we want to play, is knockout rugby.”

Secured with a new deal and settled at full-back, Goosen is poised to be a pivotal force in Edinburgh's decisive campaign stretch.



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WES GOOSEN
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PIERRE SCHOEMAN

CONSISTENCY IS KEY

The consistency of us as a club, that's what people always question, And I think this is a brilliant time to show it now [with a run of] a few home games.

"We learned a lot against the Dragons, I mean, we got the five points, but it's not nearly as good as we can be.

"We know the South African boys – they'll be hurting from that [Glasgow loss]. They're going to really leave everything out there before they return back from the UK. They're going to come full steam and they're going to remember the previous game at Ellis Park – but so do we and we have to take confidence in learning.

"We can learn a lot from the way Glasgow played the Lions – the speed of ball and contact area and then discipline. Discipline is key. We haven't been really good at it, but we're getting better now. And we set ourselves some targets as well in the contact area. So, yeah, I really think we're going to focus on that.

"And it comes down to set piece with South African sides. They've always prided themselves on set piece, but so do we. Our set piece is really good when we focus and we're on it for the full 80. I really think we can beat them.

PIERRE SCHOEMAN

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



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WES GOOSEN



DARCY GRAHAM



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Hamish MacArthur

Jerry Blyth-Lafferty (hooker)

Hamish MacArthur (scrum-half)

Ollie Blyth-Lafferty (tighthead prop)

Conor McAlpine (scrum-half)

Jack Brown (full-back)

Euan McVie (lock)

Isaac Coates (fly-half)

Nairn Moncrieff (winger)

Tom Currie (back-row)

Harri Morris (hooker)

Freddy Douglas (back-row)

Hector Patterson (scrum-half)

Ollie Duncan (back-row)

Mac Rutherford (lock)

Jack Hocking (full-back)

Jamie Stewart (loosehead prop)

Mikey Jones (loosehead prop)

Findlay Thomson (centre)

Sam Leweni (centre)

Lewis Wells (winger)

Christian Lindsay (lock)

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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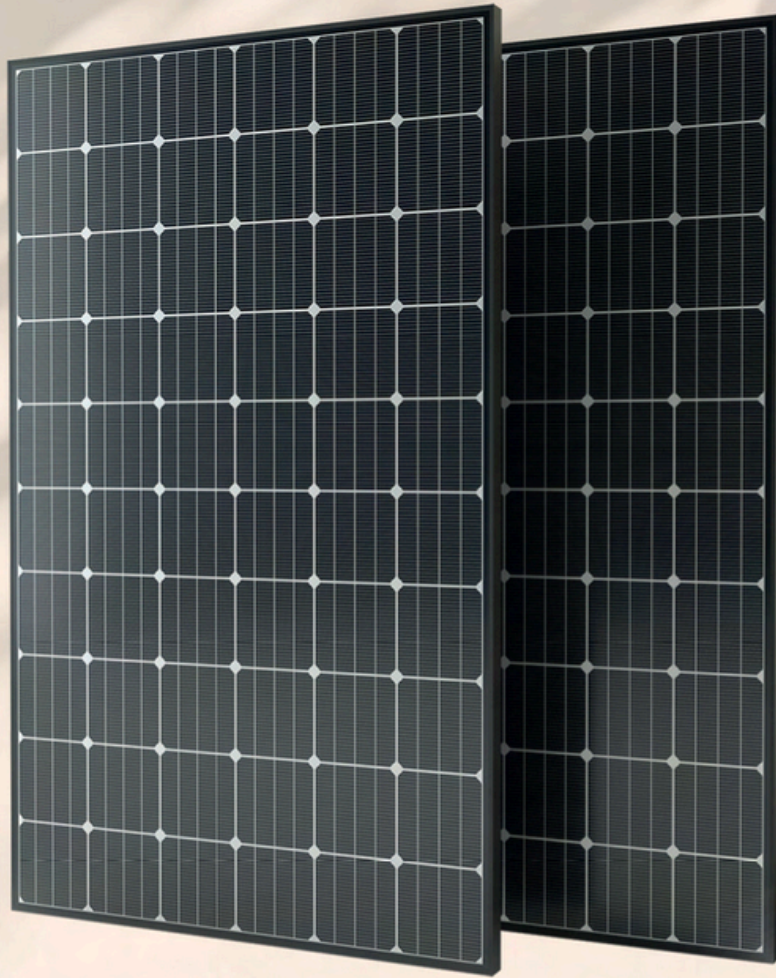
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CONNOR BOYLE	FUNKY TOWN	LIPPS INC
MAGNUS BRADBURY	DELILAH (PULL ME OUT OF THIS)	FRED AGAIN.
ROB CARMICHAEL	BLITZKRIEG BOP	THE RAMONES
DAVE CHERRY	FIREBALL	PITBULL
LUKE CROSBIE	THE SPARK	KABIN CREW, LISDOONVARNA CREW
MATT CURRIE	SAMBA DE JANEIRO	BELLINI
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
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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

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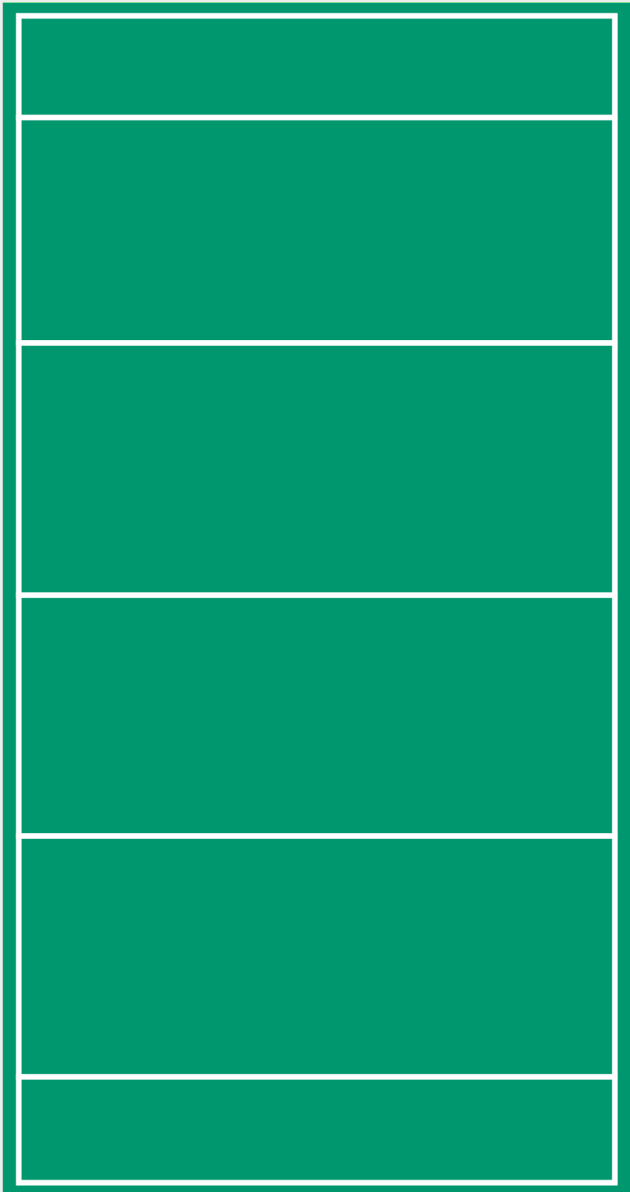


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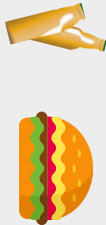


TERRACE E

TERRACE D

TERRACE C

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PRESS PASS SEAN EVERITT



“It’s a difficult team to play against and at the same time I’m sure they’re going to be looking to bounce back”

Edinburgh Rugby are gearing up for a crucial EPCR Challenge Cup Round of 16 clash against Emirates Lions at Hive Stadium this Friday night, with Head Coach Sean Everitt keen to see his side demonstrate the lessons learned from their previous encounter in Johannesburg.

Edinburgh were well beaten by the Lions in October, fuelling a desire for redemption. “I think we learned valuable lessons there in the first half against the Lions,” Everitt reflected.

“We saw Glasgow blitz them as well in the first 40 minutes in really difficult conditions.”

However, Everitt is wary of reading too much into the Lions’ recent heavy defeat to Glasgow Warriors in which the Scotstoun side led 42-0 at half-time.

“I know the Lions really well and I know the individuals there, they’re fighters. They’ve been good in the URC up until that game so you can’t judge them on that game. They’re a good all-round team.”

He highlighted the Lions’ resilience and attacking threat, noting, “The defence was strong and they showed that in the second half against Glasgow and they’ve got some X-Factor

“We’ve got to put in a good performance at home in front of our supporters.”



players there that can turn the game around very quickly which we found out in Johannesburg.

“It’s a difficult team to play against and at the same time I’m sure they’re going to be looking to bounce back because they probably feel a bit embarrassed about that result. Like I said, it’s not because they’re the Lions but they take a lot of pride in their effort.”

Despite the Lions’ result against Glasgow Warriors, Everitt maintained that his team’s preparation remained unchanged.

“No, because that doesn’t change how they play. Like I said to you before, they’re a team on the up,” explained Everitt.

“They’re a bunch of youngsters. They don’t have any fear and they’re willing to mix it with everyone. I think everyone is probably surprised by how well they’ve done so far in the URC. In the URC they’ve got a lot to play for.



“They’re going home post-EPCR and they’ve got four home games. So they’ll probably be looking at a top four if results go their way. And it’s not far off because everyone’s got to play each other in the comp. The Sharks have to tour and they’re sitting in fourth position. So they’ve got a lot to play for. But they’ll also be keen to get their hands on that trophy as well.”

While the competition shifts to the EPCR Challenge Cup, Edinburgh’s mentality remains unchanged, with every game approached as a crucial knockout fixture.

“We’re in a knockout week, every week, so we’re in the same situation as we were last year,” Everitt explained. “I think from a personal point of view we’re better off. We’ve created depth since last year this time. But it’s becoming the norm now. You wake up, try your best, prepare every day to be better and hopefully you perform well on Friday night.”

“You wake up, try your best, prepare every day to be better and hopefully you perform well on Friday night.”

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LAST TIME OUT

EDINBURGH 38-5 DRAGONS

Edinburgh Rugby delivered a commanding performance at Hive Stadium this evening, dispatching Dragons RFC 38-5 in a crucial BKT United Rugby Championship clash.

The six-try victory propelled the capital side back into the playoff positions, securing a vital bonus point and lifting them to 6th place in the table. Despite an early intent, Edinburgh initially struggled to break down a resolute Dragons defence, with the midfield battle proving particularly fierce.

Early setbacks saw Marshall Sykes and Duhan van der Merwe forced off with knocks, disrupting the home side's rhythm. However, Edinburgh's persistence eventually paid off.

A penalty kicked to the corner set the stage for the first try, with hooker Paddy Harrison powering over from a well-executed lineout drive.

Harrison soon doubled his tally, showcasing his pace after Darcy Graham chipped over the top, allowing the hooker to gather and race away.

Graham, who ultimately earned the BKT Player of the Match award, then turned scorer, collecting his own clever chip over the Dragons' defence to add a third try.



The visitors' woes deepened when Ashton Hewitt was sent to the sin bin, and Edinburgh capitalised immediately. Pierre Schoeman crashed over from close range, securing the bonus point before the interval and giving Edinburgh a commanding 26-0 lead at half-time.

Dragons emerged from the break with renewed vigour, and Aaron Wainwright managed to breach the Edinburgh defence to put the visitors on the scoreboard. The second half, however, became a scrappy affair, with both sides struggling to maintain possession and create clear-cut opportunities.

Edinburgh eventually regained their composure, with replacement prop Boan Venter driving over in the 65th minute to extend the lead to 33-5.

The home side then wrapped up the scoring with a well-executed backline move, culminating in Matt Currie diving over in the corner to seal a 38-5 victory.

The bonus-point win was a significant boost for Edinburgh, propelling them back into the top eight and playoff contention.

With their confidence high, Edinburgh now turn their attention to the EPCR Challenge Cup Round of 16, where they will face Emirates Lions at Hive Stadium on Friday, 4 April.



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