

2024/25



BKT UNITED RUGBY CHAMPIONSHIP

EDINBURGH

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

Friday 16th May, 7.35pm kick-off

*Managing director's welcome
Leavers feature / Piers O'Connor*



UNITED RUGBY
CHAMPIONSHIP





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BKT UNITED RUGBY CHAMPIONSHIP



HITS DIFFÉRENT





DOUGLAS STRUTH WELCOME



A very warm welcome back to Hive Stadium for what promises to be a cracking Friday night of rugby as we lock horns with Ulster.

The energy and passion you, our incredible Edinburgh supporters, bring to these occasions is truly something special, and tonight, your role in driving the team forward for the full 80 minutes will be absolutely vital.

The atmosphere during the recent Bath Semi-Final was nothing short of electric.

It was, I think, the kind of environment we all envisioned when we closed our eyes and dreamt of what Hive Stadium could become. You brought that vision to life, and we know you can do it again tonight.

While we focus on the crucial task at hand, tonight also carries a poignant note as we acknowledge the significant contributions of those players who will be departing us at the end of the season.

This week, we announced the departure of 12 men's players, and I want to take this opportunity to particularly shine a light on four true stalwarts of our club: Jamie Ritchie, Mark Bennett, Dave Cherry, and Matt Scott.

*Edinburgh Rugby vs Ulster
BKT United Rugby Championship*

DOUGLAS STRUTHWELCOME



Off the field, today marks an important day as 2025/26 Season Tickets go on general sale. As our matchdays continue to grow in both scale and atmosphere, I would strongly encourage all supporters who haven't yet renewed or purchased a season ticket to get in early to guarantee your place here at Hive Stadium next season.

Your unwavering support is genuinely and hugely appreciated, and we can't wait to share the journey of next season with you.

Finally, I want to take a moment to thank the incredible team behind the team here at Edinburgh Rugby. Our dedicated staff work tirelessly week in and week out to ensure our matchdays are the best they can be. They care deeply about this club and are fully invested in the success of our squad. I hope tonight is another successful one for them too.

But now, it's over to the rugby. Enjoy the game, soak in the atmosphere, and let's get behind the team for 80 minutes. Here's to a big win under the Friday night lights.

*Douglas Struth,
Managing Director*

These four centurions have each poured their heart and soul into Edinburgh Rugby, and it's safe to say their names will forever be etched in our history books.

To all our departing players, a massive thank you for everything you have given to this club. We wish you nothing but the very best as you embark on the next chapters of your careers.

Looking ahead, recruitment continues to be a busy and exciting area for us. Our ambition remains firmly rooted in the mantra of 'watching local lads become legends.'

We believe there's a unique connection when our supporters see players who have come through the Scottish system, representing their club and their country.

It was therefore a real pleasure to recently announce the re-signing of nine talented young Scottish players, including the likes of Jack Brown, Lewis Wells, Tom Currie, and Conor McAlpine, all of whom have made their senior debuts this campaign. We are excited to see them continue their journey with Edinburgh.





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SCAN NOW

CELEBRATING OUR FANS: JAMES LEESON TO PRESENT MATCH BALL AT ULSTER

Edinburgh Rugby is thrilled to announce that long-standing supporter James Leeson will have the honour of delivering the match ball ahead of tomorrow night's crucial BKT United Rugby Championship clash against Ulster at Hive Stadium.

This special moment is a highlight of the club's Fan Appreciation Night, a dedicated celebration of the unwavering support that makes the Edinburgh Rugby community so special.

James's opportunity comes as a deeply heartfelt nomination from his brother, David, who wanted to recognise James's extraordinary support and selfless dedication in the face of personal challenges.

David, who is confined to a wheelchair and lives with secondary progressive multiple sclerosis, explained the profound impact James has had on his life.

In his moving nomination, David shared: "My brother is a huge Edinburgh fan. I'm his brother, I'm confined to a wheelchair and have secondary progressive multiple sclerosis. He has helped me with my care and has supported me through some quite difficult and dark times.

"Life is difficult for me, and he has been an enormous help and support to me. I couldn't have made it this far without him. He has supported Edinburgh as a season ticket holder for years now, attending games home and away; his time away at the games provides him valuable downtime and relaxation from helping and caring for me.

"I want to thank him by nominating him for his care, help, and support. He's a huge Edinburgh supporter, and this means the world to him."

When James heard the news, he was understandably surprised and deeply touched by his brother's incredible thoughtfulness.

"I was very surprised that my brother had nominated me, and to be honest, he is a bit of a joker, so I thought he was winding me up!" James chuckled. "I am very humbled and touched that he thought of me for this experience and am now very much looking forward to it."

James's loyalty to Edinburgh Rugby spans nearly two decades, with countless matches attended both at home and on the road.

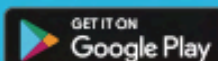
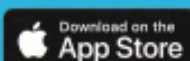
"I have been a season ticket holder at Edinburgh Rugby for 19 years. I have supported them, both home and away, along with my family," James explained. "Having been a rugby player myself, I have enjoyed watching the club evolve, and it is a great honour to deliver the match ball for such a crucial game."

Edinburgh Rugby is immensely proud to recognise James's unwavering support and the remarkable bond he shares with his brother, David. We look forward to welcoming James onto the Hive Stadium pitch tomorrow night and celebrating the incredible dedication of all our fans.

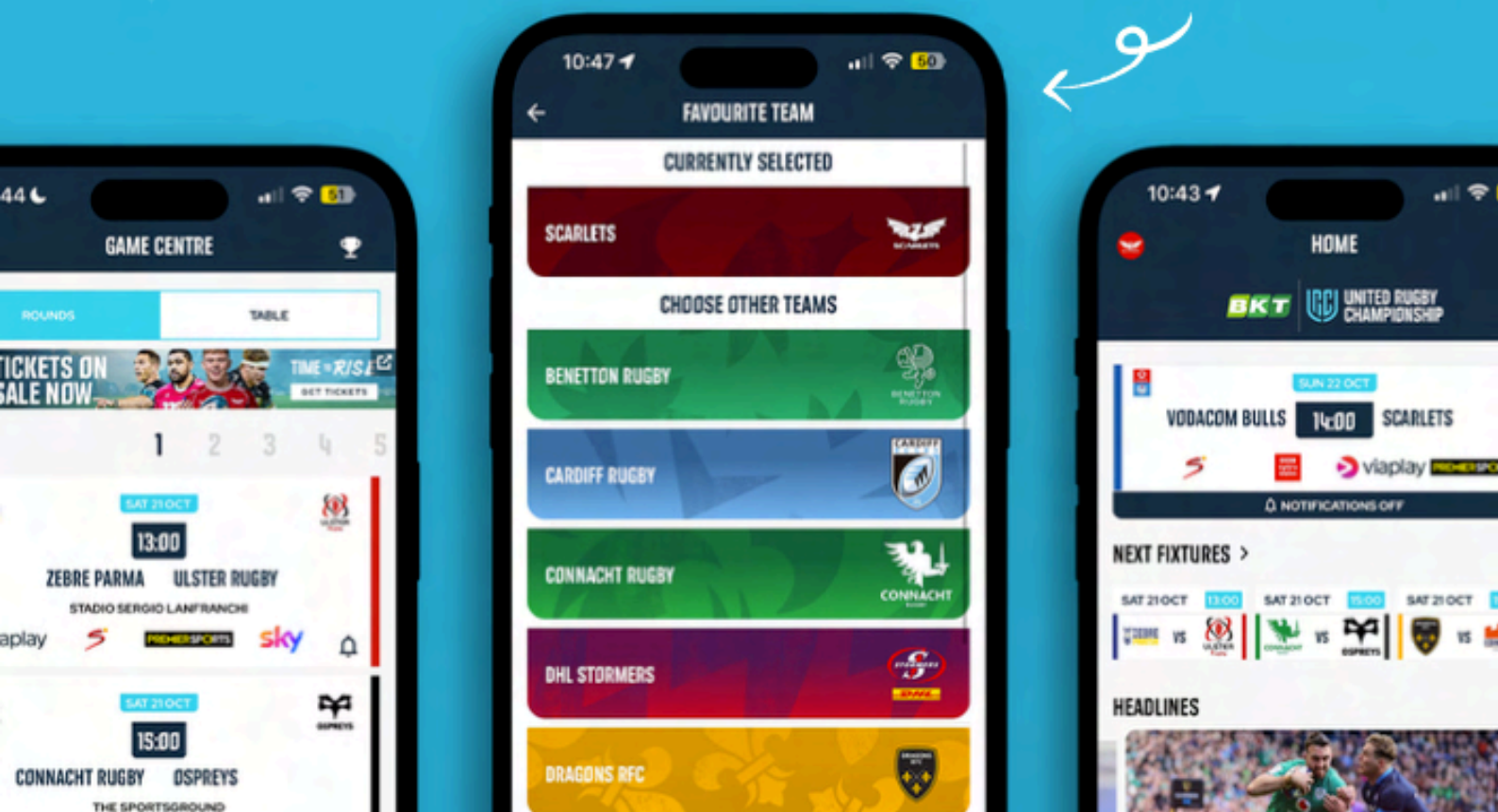


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TEAM LINEUPS

EDINBURGH RUGBY vs ULSTER RUGBY

<i>Wes Goosen</i>	<i>15.</i>	<i>Michael Lozry</i>
<i>Darcy Graham</i>	<i>14.</i>	<i>Werner Kok</i>
<i>Matt Currie</i>	<i>13.</i>	<i>Jude Postlethwaite</i>
<i>James Lang</i>	<i>12.</i>	<i>Stuart McCloskey</i>
<i>Harry Paterson</i>	<i>11.</i>	<i>Jacob Stockdale</i>
<i>Ross Thompson</i>	<i>10.</i>	<i>Jacob Murphy</i>
<i>Ali Price</i>	<i>9.</i>	<i>Nathan Doak</i>

<i>Pierre Schoeman</i>	<i>1.</i>	<i>Andrew Warwick</i>
<i>Ewan Ashman</i>	<i>2.</i>	<i>Rob Herring</i>
<i>D'arcy Rae</i>	<i>3.</i>	<i>Tom O'Toole</i>
<i>Marshall Sykes</i>	<i>4.</i>	<i>Kieran Treadwell</i>
<i>Sam Skinner</i>	<i>5.</i>	<i>Iain Henderson (C)</i>
<i>Ben Muncaster</i>	<i>6.</i>	<i>Cormac Izuchukwu</i>
<i>Hamish Watson</i>	<i>7.</i>	<i>Nick Timoney</i>
<i>Magnus Bradbury (C)</i>	<i>8.</i>	<i>David McCann</i>

16. Paddy Harrison 17. Boan Venter
18. Javan Sebastian 19. Glen Young
20. Jamie Ritchie 21. Charlie Shiel
22. Ben Healy 23. Mark Bennett

16. Tom Stewart 17. Callum Reid
18. Scott Wilson 19. Harry Sheridan
20. James McNabney 21. Dave Shanahan
22. Aidan Morgan 23. Stewart Moore





UNITED RUGBY
CHAMPIONSHIP

WHATSAPP CHANNEL



URC





2024/25 LEAVERS

Edinburgh Rugby today confirmed the 12 mens players to depart the club at the end of the season.

Jamie Ritchie, Mark Bennett, Dave Cherry, Matt Scott, Jamie Hodgson, Ali Price, Emiliano Boffelli, Robin Hislop, Javan Sebastian, Jake Henry, Nathan Sweeney and Jack Hocking will all move on at the end of the current campaign.

Edinburgh Rugby Head Coach Sean Everitt said: "As the season nears its end, we bid farewell to a group of players who have each contributed significantly to Edinburgh Rugby.

"I want to express my sincere gratitude for their unwavering efforts, their commitment to the jersey and the passion they've shown for this club and our supporters.

Every player who departs does so with our best wishes for their future endeavours, both on and off the field.

"In particular, this season sees the departure of four true stalwarts of Edinburgh Rugby, our club centurions: Jamie Ritchie, Mark Bennett, Dave Cherry and Matt Scott. Their dedication and service to this club have been immense, each reaching the remarkable milestone of 100 appearances.

"Their names are forever etched in the history books of Edinburgh Rugby, and their contributions will be remembered by all who have been a part of this journey. We thank them for their commitment and wish them every success in their next chapters."



Jamie Ritchie | Edinburgh player #1202 | 129 appearances | 10 tries

The club centurion will join Perpignan at the end of the current campaign, bringing an end to a remarkable association with the club spanning over ten years.

Ritchie – who joined the club straight from school at the age of 17 – made his Edinburgh Rugby debut in 2014 and has spent the entirety of his professional career in the Scottish capital.

A product of Madras College, Strathallan School and Howe of Fife RFC, Ritchie became Edinburgh Rugby's 40th centurion last season, while the back-row co-captained the team alongside Grant Gilchrist in 2022/23.

Mark Bennett | Edinburgh player #1246 | 110 appearances | 24 tries

Joining in the summer of 2017, the explosive Scotland centre immediately became a key player in the Edinburgh backline, highlighted by a winning try against Leinster in February 2018 during his debut season.

Throughout his impressive eight seasons in the Scottish capital, the Ayrshire-born centre has been renowned for his dynamic play and versatility.

A silver medallist at the 2016 Rio Olympics, his tenure has been marked by a number of significant moments, such as captaining the team against Munster in February 2022 and reaching his 100th club appearance against Ospreys last season. This followed a stellar 2021/22 season where Bennett's 10 tries in 22 appearances earned him the coveted Scottish Building Society Player of the Year award. Bennett will depart Edinburgh Rugby this summer, with his next club destination yet to be confirmed.

**Dave Cherry | Edinburgh player #1252 | 105 appearances
| 13 tries**

Cherry will make the move to RC Vannes at the end of the current campaign having joined Edinburgh Rugby in the summer of 2018.

A Merchiston Castle School alumnus, Cherry honed his senior rugby skills at Currie and Edinburgh Accies before becoming a cornerstone of the capital pack. The hooker swiftly established himself as a reliable and tenacious presence in the forward unit, renowned for his scrummaging power and relentless work ethic across the field.

Reaching a significant landmark in his Edinburgh Rugby career, Cherry made his 100th appearance in December's 1872 Cup victory against Glasgow Warriors at Scottish Gas Murrayfield. The match, played before a record home crowd of over 40,000, was a fitting occasion for a player with such deep roots in the capital's rugby scene.

**Matt Scott | Edinburgh player #1148 | 100 appearances |
19 tries**

Edinburgh Rugby centurion Scott will hang up his boots at the end of the current campaign, finishing his third stint with his hometown team on exactly 100 appearances. From a decorated age-grade career culminating in a rapid ascent to Scotland's national squad at just 21, including a Test debut in Dublin, Matt Scott quickly established himself as a dynamic force for Edinburgh Rugby after his 2011 debut.

Over his initial 60-plus appearances, punctuated by 39 caps for Scotland and four Rugby World Cup outings, the Dunfermline-born centre became a key figure before spells with Gloucester and a Premiership title-winning stint at Leicester Tigers. Demonstrating his enduring connection to the capital, Scott made a celebrated return to Edinburgh ahead of the 2024/25 season, marking his 100th club appearance in October 2024, solidifying his legacy as a committed and impactful player for his home club.



Jamie Hodgson | Edinburgh player #1253 | 67 appearances

A product of Stewart's Melville College, where he captained the first XV, Livingston-born Jamie Hodgson realised his boyhood dream by rising through the Edinburgh Rugby age-grade system. Representing Scotland at both U18 and U20 levels, including the 2018 World Championship, the tenacious second-row quickly integrated into the senior squad, making his debut against Zebre during the 2018-19 campaign.

Balancing early professional appearances with Watsonians, Hodgson's talent and commitment shone through, culminating in a Champions Cup debut against Sale Sharks in December 2020 and a well-deserved full professional contract with his hometown club in January 2021. Hodgson made his Scotland debut against Tonga in October 2021 and has since earned five caps on the international stage. Hodgson will depart Edinburgh Rugby this summer, with his next club destination yet to be confirmed.

Emiliano Boffelli | Edinburgh player #1306 | 41 appearances | 12 tries | 286 points

Edinburgh Rugby announced the signing of Argentinian international Emiliano Boffelli ahead of the 2021/22 season. Boffelli made history in his Edinburgh Rugby debut, scoring after just three minutes as the capital club secured a bonus-point road victory over Dragons in November 2021, one of several highlights in his inaugural season in the Scottish capital. Boffelli started every match in his debut campaign – scoring eight tries – and was eventually named Players' Player of the Season. While the back-three stars has endured a tough time with injury, 'Boff' has remained an ever-popular member of the squad. Boffelli will depart Edinburgh Rugby this summer, with his next club destination yet to be confirmed.

Ali Price | Edinburgh player #1328 | 39 appearances | 6 tries

Having joined from Glasgow Warriors in November 2023, Price has consistently delivered high-quality performances for Edinburgh, making his mark with impressive scoring contributions.

The scrum-half, who will take up a playing opportunity abroad at the end of the season, showcased his attacking prowess on the European stage this campaign, notching a brace against RC Vannes and further tries against Emirates Lions and Bath as Edinburgh reached the EPCR Challenge Cup semi-finals.

Robin Hislop | Edinburgh player #1147 | 30 appearances | 1 try

Returning to his roots in the Scottish capital ahead of the 2023/24 season after a journey through English rugby, Edinburgh Rugby academy product Robin Hislop rejoined the club from Premiership champions Saracens.

Edinburgh player #1147, Hislop debuted for Edinburgh in 2011 and made 20 appearances before departing in 2014. Following stints with Rotherham Titans, Doncaster Knights, and an impressive spell at Wasps, he moved to Saracens, even facing Edinburgh in the Heineken Champions Cup.

His homecoming marked a full-circle moment, highlighted by scoring his first Edinburgh try against Ulster in December, 12 years after his initial debut.

Hislop's next club destination is yet to be confirmed.

Javan Sebastian | Edinburgh player #1325 | 28 appearances | 2 tries

Scotland international tighthead Javan Sebastian joined Edinburgh Rugby from Scarlets ahead of the 2023/24 season, marking a return to his father's birthplace in the Scottish capital. While familiar to west coast fans from a partnership contract with Glasgow Warriors in 2015/16 during his time with Ayr RFC, the former Wales U16 and U18 international made his professional breakthrough with Scarlets, debuting in 2019 and enjoying a standout 2020/21 season.

This form led to a Scotland call-up and his eventual Test debut against Japan in November 2021, followed by appearances in the tour to Argentina. Arriving in Edinburgh after the 2023 Rugby World Cup, Sebastian made an immediate impact, scoring two tries in his debut season against Clermont Auvergne and Zebre. Sebastian's next club destination is yet to be confirmed.

Jake Henry | Edinburgh player #1331 | 5 appearances | 1 try

Winger Jake Henry, a product of Edinburgh Rugby's pro-academy and former Ross Sutherland RFC player, signed his first professional contract in 2023 after representing Scotland at U20 level.

He gained significant attention in the summer of 2022, showcasing his scoring prowess with Scotland 7s at the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, including a hat-trick against Malaysia.

Henry made a memorable try-scoring debut for Edinburgh against DHL Stormers in March 2024. The winger will remain at Championship side Coventry whom he joined on a season-long loan ahead of the current campaign.

Nathan Sweeney | Edinburgh player #1320 | 3 appearances

The rangy fullback joined the club's academy ahead of the 2019-20 season, showcasing his potential after representing Scotland at U18 level and impressing for Edinburgh 'A'.

Overcoming a significant long-term injury, Sweeney marked his return to play with Heriot's in 2022 before achieving his Edinburgh Rugby debut against Connacht in 2023.

Departing the club this summer, Sweeney has yet to confirm his next steps.

Jack Hocking

Born in Edinburgh, Hocking moved to Queensland at the age of three where he received a scholarship to study at Queensland based Ipswich Grammar School. The playmaker joined the club's academy ahead of the 2022/23 season.

Hocking was selected as part of the Scotland 7s team to compete in the 2023 Youth Commonwealth Games in Trinidad and Tobago. His team made history as the first ever team to not only secure a medal at the event, but take home the gold.

Hocking's next club destination is yet to be confirmed.



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PIERS O'CONOR



Edinburgh sign 'quality operator' O'Connor

Edinburgh Rugby is delighted to announce the signing of utility back Piers O'Connor from Connacht on a two-year deal.

The 29-year-old, who is equally adept in the centres, wing and at full-back, will make the move to the Scottish capital this summer.

O'Connor has featured in 17 matches for Connacht – scoring three tries – since making the move to Galway last year.

O'Connor's impressive attacking prowess and versatility are highlighted by his current season statistics for Connacht, where he has recorded the most carries (159), metres gained (710), defenders beaten (32), and clean breaks (19 – seventh most in the URC) for the Irish province.

Speaking about his move to Edinburgh Rugby, O'Connor said: "I'm really excited to get started. Joining a club like Edinburgh is a big opportunity: it's a new environment and a strong squad. It's a great challenge and I'm looking forward to getting stuck in, meeting the group, and doing my bit to help the team push on and win some silverware.

"It's a fresh start and a move I'm looking forward to. Moving to a new city brings new opportunities, on and off the pitch. I can't wait to get up there, get settled and get to work. Edinburgh's a proper rugby city with a strong identity and I'm keen to make it home."

He continued: "Edinburgh are tough to play against, always physical, always competitive, and that's something I want to be part of. The group's been playing some really good rugby, and I'm looking forward to adding to that. I'm excited to join up in the summer and push for a strong, successful season with the team."

Sydney-born and English-raised, Piers O'Connor's rugby journey began with international representation for Ireland U19 before his professional debut with Wasps in November 2014.

His development continued with England U20, where he played a crucial role in their 2015 U20 Six Nations triumph and their subsequent appearance in the Final of the 2015 World Rugby U20 Championship in Italy.



A successful stint with Ealing Trailfinders in the RFU Championship paved the way for a significant move to Bristol Bears in 2018.

During his impactful tenure with the Bears, O'Connor amassed 137 appearances, scoring 36 tries and contributing to their European Rugby Challenge Cup victory in 2020 and a first-place finish in the Gallagher Premiership.

His consistent high-level performances for Bristol were further recognised with a call-up to an England XV for an uncapped match against the Barbarians in 2019.

Edinburgh Rugby Head Coach Sean Everitt added: "Piers is exactly the type of quality operator we look for in a non-Scottish qualified signing. He's an excellent player with the ability to cover multiple positions across the backline, which is hugely valuable for us in managing the demands of a long season.

"His arrival complements the recent re-signing/signing of exciting young Scottish backs like Harry Paterson, Jack Brown and Malelili Satala, and his experience and leadership will be invaluable in helping to get the very best out of other younger players coming through our academy system such as Lewis Wells, Findlay Thomson and Finlay Doyle. Piers isn't here to block anyone's progress; instead, we see him as a catalyst who will further improve those around him.

"His consistent performances and impressive statistics speak for themselves, and his experience and leadership qualities will be a significant asset to our squad both on and off the field. We can't wait to welcome him to the club this summer."



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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



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ANGUS WILLIAMS



GLEN YOUNG

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Nairn Moncrieff

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)

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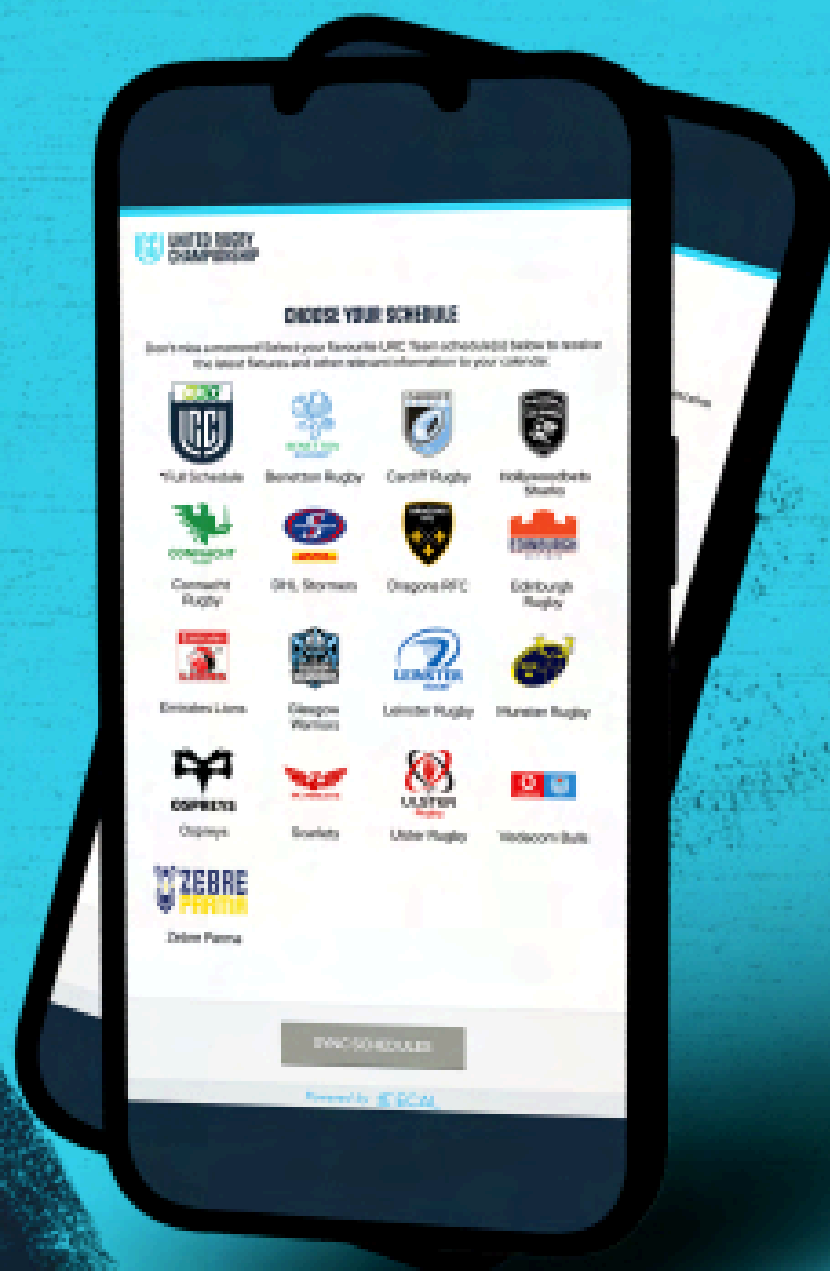
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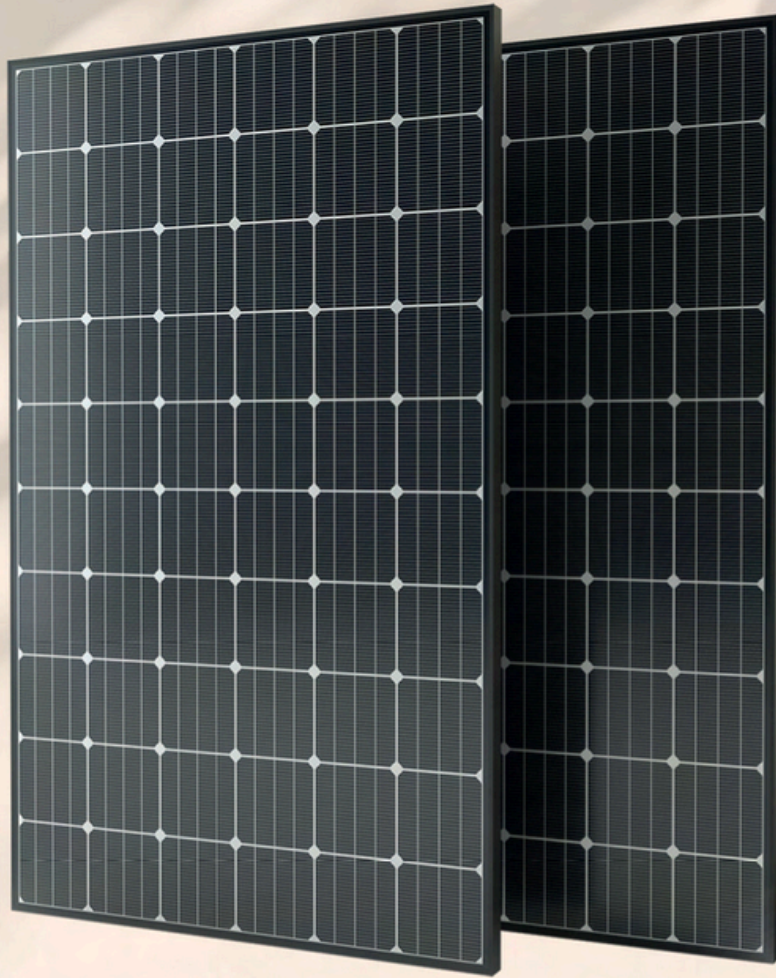
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EMILIANO BOFFELLI	TRY - QUEVEDO: BZRP MUSIC SESSION KICK - PEPAS	TRY - BIZARRE, QUEVEDO KICK - FARRUKO
CONNOR BOYLE	FUNKY TOWN	LIPPS INC
MAGNUS BRADBURY	DELILAH (PULL ME OUT OF THIS)	FRED AGAIN.
ROB CARMICHAEL	BLITZKRIEG BOP	THE RAMONES
DAVE CHERRY	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]
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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



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STAIR 1-4

STAIR 5

MAIN STAND

STAIR 6-9

Saughtonhall
Entry



WHEELCHAIR TERRACE

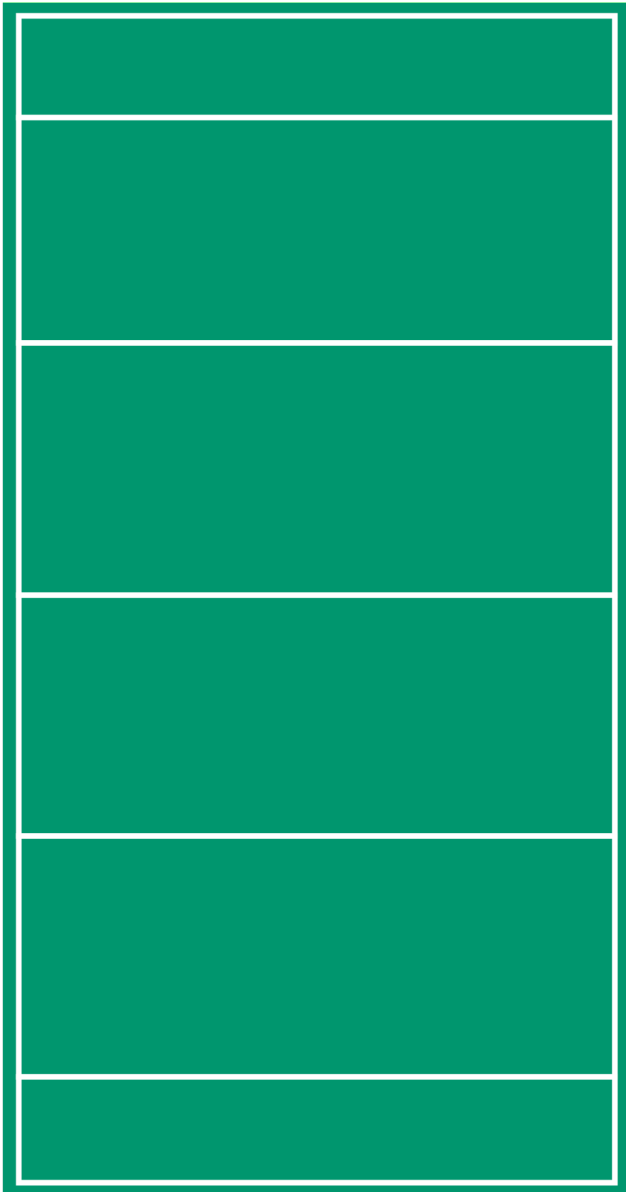


STAIR 27-32



RIVERSIDE STAND

TERRACE F / G / H

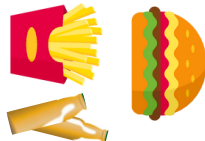


TERRACE B

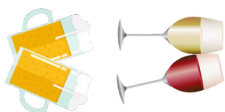
TERRACE A

MURRAYFIELD STAND

STAIR 10-12



STAIR 14-16



STAIR 24-26



LOTHIAN STAND

STAIR 20-23

STAIR 17-19

TERRACE E

TERRACE D

TERRACE C

Roseburn Street
Entry

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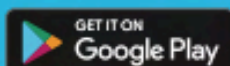
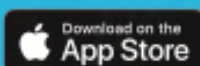


GLEN YOUNG

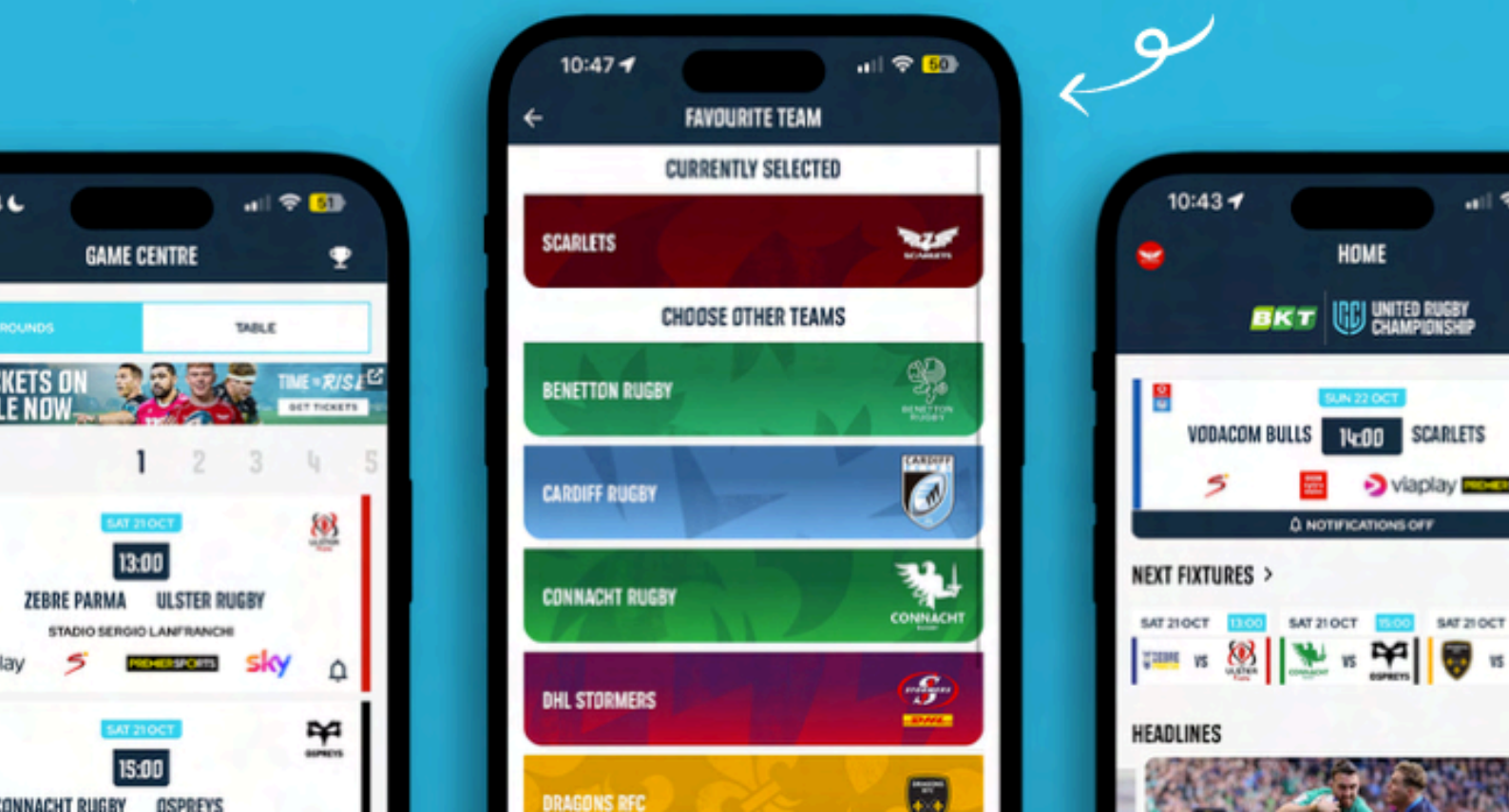


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LAST TIME OUT

CONNACHT 21 – 31 EDINBURGH

Edinburgh boosted their hopes of a top-eight finish in the United Rugby Championship with a vital bonus-point victory over Connacht.

First-half tries from Pierre Schoeman - named in Andy Farrell's Lions squad on Thursday - and Hamish Watson had Edinburgh in control at half-time, but Connacht hit back after the break.

Finn Treacy crossed twice in the opening 11 minutes of the second half to level the scores and a captivating back-and-forth battle followed.

Ben Muncaster crashed over to restore Edinburgh's seven-point advantage following a powerful rolling maul, but Connacht - with faint play-off ambitions of their own - continued to fight.



Shayne Bolton dotted down in the corner, allowing home fly-half JJ Hanrahan to make it 21-21 off the tee.

However, with seven minutes to play, a moment of magic swung the match Edinburgh's way.

Replacement scrum-half Charlie Shiel darted down the side of a ruck and showed an impressive burst of pace to go under the posts for the visitors' bonus-point score before Ben Healy kicked a penalty in the final minute to ensure victory.

Sean Everitt's side are ninth in the URC table, just two points behind Benetton in sixth, while Connacht are out of contention in 14th.

"That's why we didn't look at bringing in another nine in," Everitt replied when asked if Shiel has shown he can step up.

"I feel that we need to give guys that are within our system and have been in our system for a while an opportunity to showcase their talent.

"What we saw tonight was glimpses of what we saw of Charlie early last year away to Leinster when he had quite a few line breaks in that game. He came to turn the game on its head and that's exactly what he did tonight."

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