

Edinburgh/Benetton

FRIDAY 17 OCTOBER, 7.45PM
HIVE STADIUM

PIERS O'CONOR #13

BKT UNITED RUGBY
CHAMPIONSHIP 25/26



UNITED RUGBY
CHAMPIONSHIP



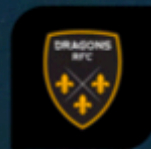


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*BKT UNITED RUGBY
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REPRESENT



DOUGLAS STRUTH

MANAGING DIRECTOR'S WELCOME



It is with immense pleasure that I welcome you all back to Hive Stadium this evening for our BKT United Rugby Championship home opener against Benetton.

Following two weeks on the road, and the unfortunate postponement of our home fixture against Ulster, it really has felt like a long time coming after a lengthy off-season.

It will be brilliant to be back in front of our incredible home support, and you can be sure the squad is absolutely raring to go. We've had a difficult start to the campaign with two tight losses on the road, and the players are desperate to get that first win of the season under our belts this Friday night. They've been working tirelessly and will leave nothing out on the field as we aim to make Hive Stadium a fortress once again.

There's been loads on the go off-field to start the season, with the team busy behind the scenes working to take our match nights to the next level. We are incredibly excited to debut an innovative new pre-match light show at tonight's game, working with the US-based fan experience pioneer, CUE Audio.

Their cutting-edge technology has been used at major sporting fixtures across the NFL, NHL, MLB, and NCAA competitions, as well as at F1's Las Vegas and Miami Grand Prixes. I encourage all our supporters to download the Stadium FX app and get ready to light up the stadium to make this an unforgettable night in the Scottish capital. Let's create a phenomenal atmosphere together!

M A N A G I N G D I R E C T O R ' S W E L C O M E



It's been a really busy time across all areas of the club. We recently launched our new Marcon European jersey, which really brings into focus our exciting return to the Investec Champions Cup, a tournament we're all looking forward to immensely.

We were also delighted to welcome a new on-kit partner to the club in Generation Bathroom and Kitchen Specialists, who will now feature on the back of our shorts. It's fantastic to see our commercial family continue to evolve and grow.

On the community front, we've just hosted our October camps here at Hive Stadium this week. It was brilliant to see over 150 kids across three camps getting hands-on coaching from their Edinburgh heroes. The future of Scottish rugby is looking bright!

Finally, as we turn our attention back to tonight's game, which is set to be a huge night of action, we are immensely proud to welcome Iain and Kenny Milne back to Hive Stadium to deliver the match ball, as they pay tribute to their late brother David.

The Milne brothers, affectionately known as 'The Three Bears', have been woven into the fabric of Edinburgh and Scottish sport since the 1980s, and we can't think of anyone better to get our match night started.

We can't wait for rugby to return to Hive Stadium. Thank you for your unwavering support, and enjoy the game!

DOUGLAS STRUTH
MANAGING DIRECTOR



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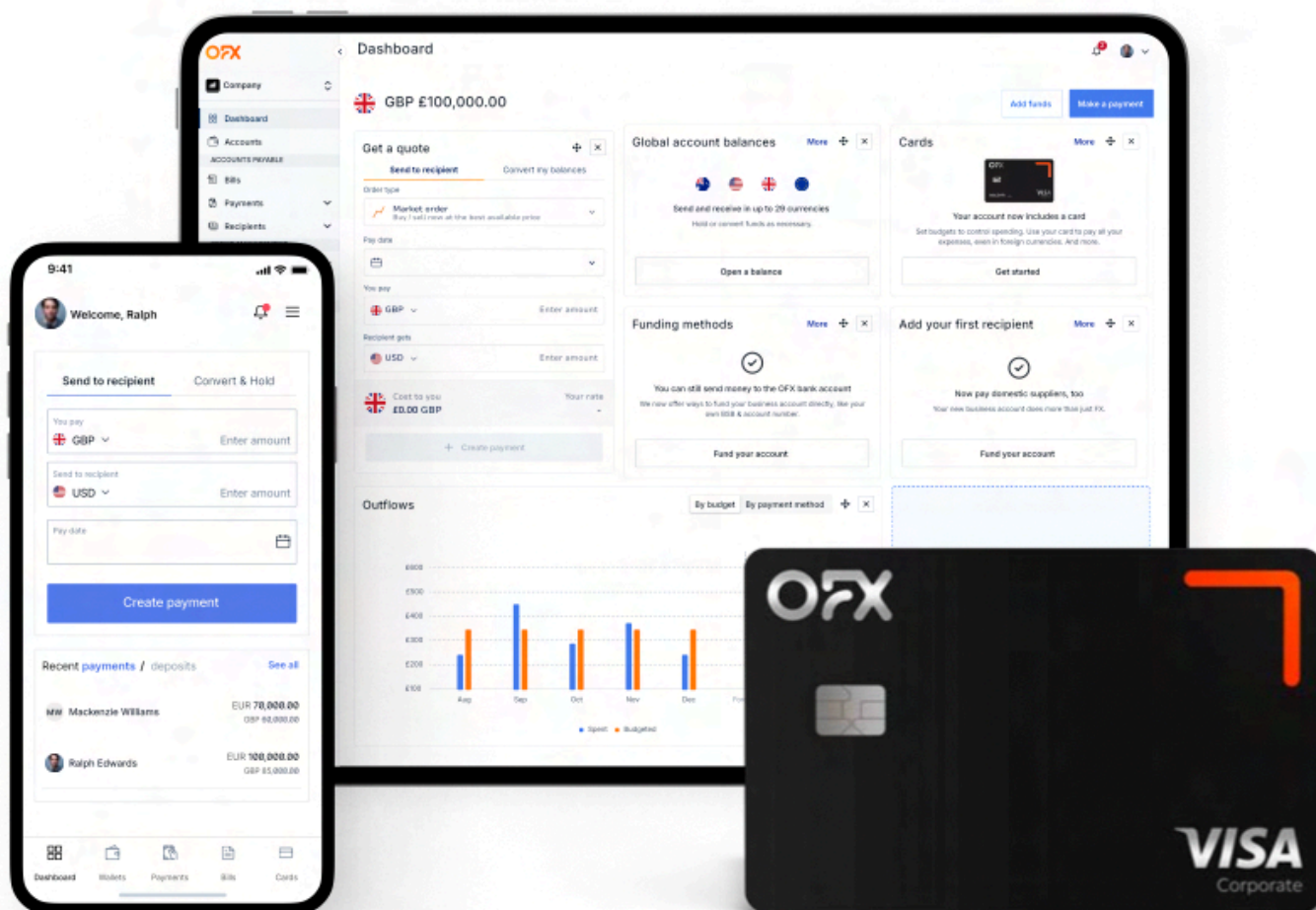
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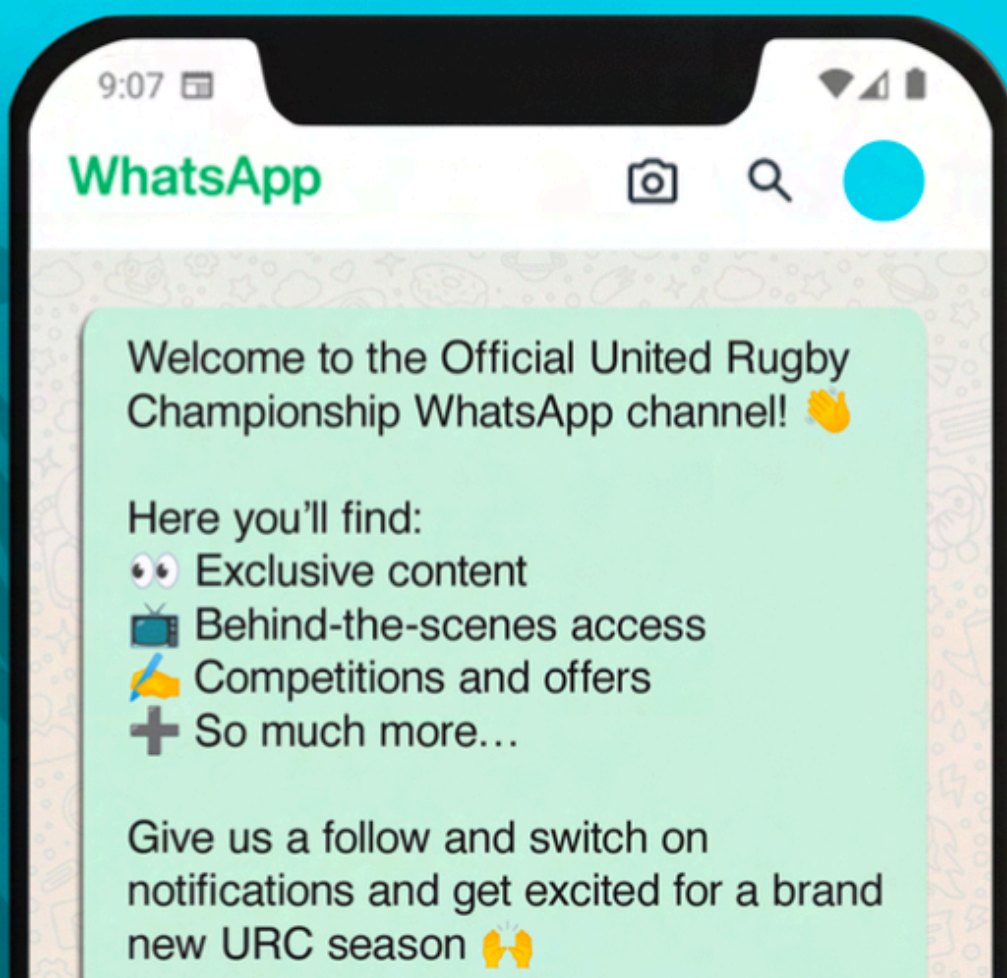


UNITED RUGBY
CHAMPIONSHIP

WHATSAPP CHANNEL



URC



TEAM LINEUPS



EDINBURGH

- 15 WES GOOSEN
- 14 DARCY GRAHAM
- 13 PIERS O'CONOR
- 12 JAMES LANG
- 11 DUHAN VAN DER MERWE
- 10 CAMMY SCOTT
- 9 CHARLIE SHIEL

- 1 PIERRE SCHOEMAN
- 2 EWAN ASHMAN
- 3 D'ARCY RAE
- 4 SAM SKINNER
- 5 GRANT GILCHRIST
- 6 LIAM MCCONNELL
- 7 DYLAN RICHARDSON
- 8 MAGNUS BRADBURY (C)

REPLACEMENTS

- 16 PADDY HARRISON
- 17 JAMES WHITCOMBE
- 18 PAUL HILL
- 19 GLEN YOUNG
- 20 FREDDY DOUGLAS
- 21 BEN VELLACOTT
- 22 ROSS THOMPSON
- 23 ROSS MCCANN

BENETTON

- 15 MATT GALLAGHER
- 14 RHYNO SMITH
- 13 FILIPPO DRAGO
- 12 MALAKAI FEKITOA
- 11 IGNACIO MENDY
- 10 JACOB UMAGA
- 9 LOUIS WERCHON

- 1 MIRCO SPAGNOLO
- 2 SIUA MAILE
- 3 GIOSUE ZILOCCHI
- 4 GIULIO MARINI
- 5 ELI SNYMAN (CC)
- 6 ALESSANDRO IZEKOR
- 7 JOHN BRYANT
- 8 SOOTALA FAASOO

REPLACEMENTS

- 16 BAUTISTA BERNASCONI
- 17 THOMAS GALLO
- 18 TIZIANO PASQUALI
- 19 RICCARDO FAVRETTO
- 20 FEDERICO RUZZA (CC)
- 21 MANUEL ZULIANI
- 22 ALE GARBISI
- 23 LEONARDO MARIN

PIERRE

**"HIT THE DRUM
NOW, YOU CAN'T
MISS A BEAT."**

PS

SCHOEMAN



Edinburgh Rugby prop Pierre Schoeman is not pulling any punches ahead of the team's first home game of the season, a crucial BKT United Rugby Championship clash with Benetton at Hive Stadium this Friday night.

After two narrow away losses to start the campaign, Schoeman insists the squad is ready to be "brutally honest" about the need for immediate improvement and a massive performance for the city's fans.

"We're looking forward to Friday, it's our first home game for the season so everything to play for," Schoeman stated, reflecting on a long wait for a home fixture after the Ulster postponement and two tough road trips.

The wait, however, has only heightened the focus following defeats where the team secured bonus points but ultimately let wins slip away. "The only positive we took from this is the few points we got from two away games. We know we should have beaten them both and it's due to our own discipline and our own errors, basically," he admits. "So it's something we can fix within the group and individually."



That theme of personal ownership is a clear directive from the front-rower, a lesson he brought back from his experience with the Lions. “It's a humble experience [with the Lions]. There's no sheep in there, it's all leaders in a pack and it rubs off on you and you learn a lot of things, like ownership,” he explained.

“You can't be a bystander, you have to make it happen.” That learning is now being applied directly to the current URC campaign, especially as they prepare for a “tough team” in Benetton, who only recently beat Glasgow with a late drop goal.

“We have to play for our city, our fans at the Hive. Make them proud and capture some hearts, showing the physicality we've shown against Munster but a lot more discipline.”



The Munster game, in particular, was a painful reflection of their current issues, doing the hard work only to be undone by soft moments. “When we're on it we can go toe to toe against big teams and then sometimes we let teams off the hook, let them back in with a soft moment. And that's something that we're raising now, that you speak about. It's unacceptable now,” Schoeman said.



That frustration is felt deeply by the players. “The reviews we have, we're brutally honest with each other. It's not like a bloody gentleman's club where you rock up and you get your wages. The boys are putting a lot of effort in and it's unacceptable how we let sometimes ourselves down and also the fans.”

Despite the setbacks, Schoeman insists the fire is there. “The fight the boys showed on Friday is actually something to be proud of, you know. To have four yellow cards and a few things against you, with all that pressure, the boys still fought bloody hard.” Now, the challenge is simple: learn quickly and adapt.

“You have to learn quickly and you have to implement and adapt. You can't take half a URC season [to adapt]... You have to hit the drum now, you can't miss a beat from now on. Take the learnings on board.”

With the season now truly beginning at home, the message from the squad is clear: the fight is there, but the errors must stop, starting Friday.





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Innes, 11

School / Club: Banff Rugby Club

Favourite Players: Duhan Van Der Merwe

Favourite memory from a game you've watched or played in?

When I went to Murrayfield with my best friend to see Scotland v Australia play in November 2024. The atmosphere was brilliant I loved being part of their win that night.

If you could meet any player from our club, past or present, who would it be, and what would you ask them?

Duhan, what top tips can you give me to become the best rugby player and go on and play for Edinburgh and Scotland?



Angus, 9

School / Club: Fraserburgh Rugby Club

Favourite Players: Duhan van der Merwe

Favourite memory from a game you've watched or played in?

When I scored a try in our summer festival at Banff and I had 4 defenders hanging off me!

If you could meet any player from our club, past or present, who would it be, and what would you ask them?

Duhan Van Der Merwe. What's been the highlight of your career so far?

MASCOTS

25/26



Oli, 9

School / Club: Comrie Primary/Crieff Rugby Club

Favourite Players: Duhan Van Der Merwe

Favourite memory from a game you've watched or played in?

The first time watching the All-Blacks perform the Haka

If you could meet any player from our club, past or present, who would it be, and what would you ask them?

Van Der Merwe. What's the best try he has scored for both Scotland and Edinburgh? How does he train to be so fast?



EVERITT: "BENETTON ARE A DANGEROUS TEAM"



EDINBURGH HEAD COACH
SEAN EVERITT

Edinburgh Rugby is bracing for a significant challenge as they finally welcome fans back to Hive Stadium this Friday to face a strong Benetton side in their first home URC fixture of the season.

Head Coach Sean Everitt has been impressed with the Italian team's evolution and knows his squad must be at their best to secure a victory.

"Benetton have done well," Everitt said. "They've changed the way they play... They've had to grow and they certainly look a better outfit than what they showed last year. They're a dangerous team, as you saw when they beat Glasgow at home."

**BENETTON
PREVIEW**

Everitt pointed to new attack coach Pete Wilkins as a key factor in their newfound potency, noting their impressive wins over Glasgow and the Lions. For Edinburgh, this marks a fresh start after a bruising encounter in Limerick that saw them compete fiercely against Munster despite a flurry of four yellow cards.

Everitt was proud of the fighting spirit on display, even if it came at a cost. "The yellow cards in the context of the game and in rugby were correct. So we have to take that on the chin. I'm just proud of the way the guys fought with numbers down," he said.

He praised the players' effort, calling the infringements "high effort yellow cards," and highlighted the team's ability to turn Munster over four times on their goal line.

The focus now is on marrying that competitiveness with composure. "We don't want to lose what we showed on Friday night... But it's about marrying the two," Everitt stressed.

The match is a welcome return to home soil for the team, who were disappointed when their home opener was postponed. "Yeah, we're excited to be back," Everitt confirmed. "I do think we're headed in the right direction and we're looking forward to a good game on Friday."

On the injury front, the team faces a few challenges, with Harry Patterson ruled out after failing an HIA and Ben Muncaster unlikely to feature after rolling his ankle.

EVERITT: "BENETTON ARE A DANGEROUS TEAM"



However, there's good news with key players set to return, including Cammy Scott and Ross Thompson who will be in contention for selection, and Scotland international lock Grant Gilchrist back in the fold.

Everitt also praised the performance of newcomer Dylan Richardson, who "certainly showed what he's about" in his first outing at flanker against Munster.

With the return of key personnel and a determination to channel their aggressive energy more accurately, Edinburgh will be ready to meet the challenge of Benetton head-on in front of their home crowd.



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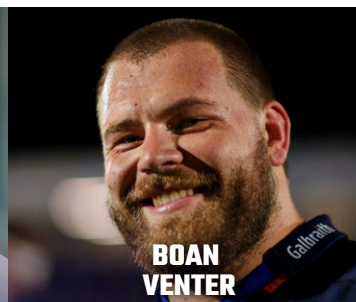


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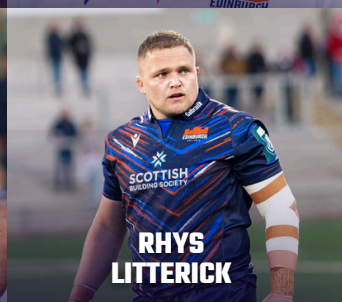
SENIOR SQUAD



LOOSEHEAD



TIGHTHEAD



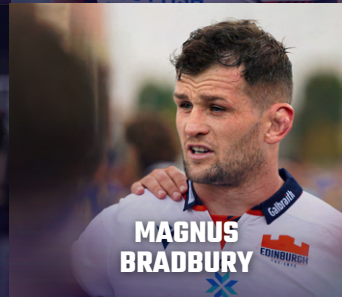
HOOVER



LOCK



LOCK + BACKROW



BACK ROW



SENIOR SQUAD



BACK ROW



**HAMISH
WATSON**

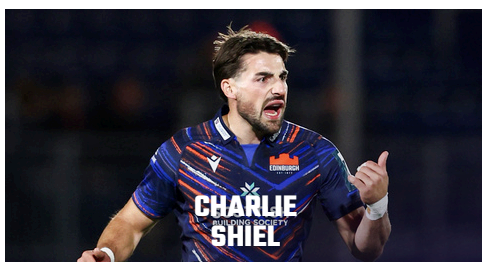


**LIAM
MCCONNELL**



**TOM
CURRIE**

SCRUM-HALF



**CHARLIE
SHIEL**



**BEN
VELLACOTT**



**CONOR
MCALPINE**

FLY HALF



**ROSS
THOMPSON**



**BEN
HEALY**



**CAMMY
SCOTT**

CENTRE



**MOSESE
TUIPULOTU**



**CHARLIE
MCCAIG**



**MATT
CURRIE**



**PIERS
O'CONOR**



**JAMES
LANG**

BACK THREE



**WES
GOOSEN**



**ROSS
MCCANN**



**HARRY
PATERSON**



**DARCY
GRAHAM**



**DUHAN
VAN DER MERWE**



**MALELI
SATALA**

ACADEMY



JERRY BLYTH-LAFFERTY

OLLIE BLYTH-LAFFERTY

JACK BROWN

SAM BRYD

ISAAC COATES

FIN DOYLE

OLLIE DUNCAN

HENRY KESTERTON

SAM LEWENI

CHRISTIAN LINDSAY

HAMISH MACARTHUR

RORY MCHAFFIE

ROSS MCKNIGHT

EUAN MCVIE

NAIRN MONCRIEFF

HECTOR PATTERSON

MAC RUTHERFORD

JAMIE STEWART

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ROSS MCCANN



PIERS O'CONOR



CAMMY SCOTT



MAGNUS BRADBURY



DARCY GRAHAM



LIAM MCCONNELL



SAM BYRD



JAMES WHITCOMBE



HAMISH WATSON



ROSS THOMPSON



HARRI MORRIS



BEN MUNCASTER



FREDDY DOUGLAS



HARRY PATERSON



PADDY HARRISON



PIERRE SCHOEMAN



GRANT GILCHRIST



CHARLIE SHIEL



DYLAN RICHARDSON

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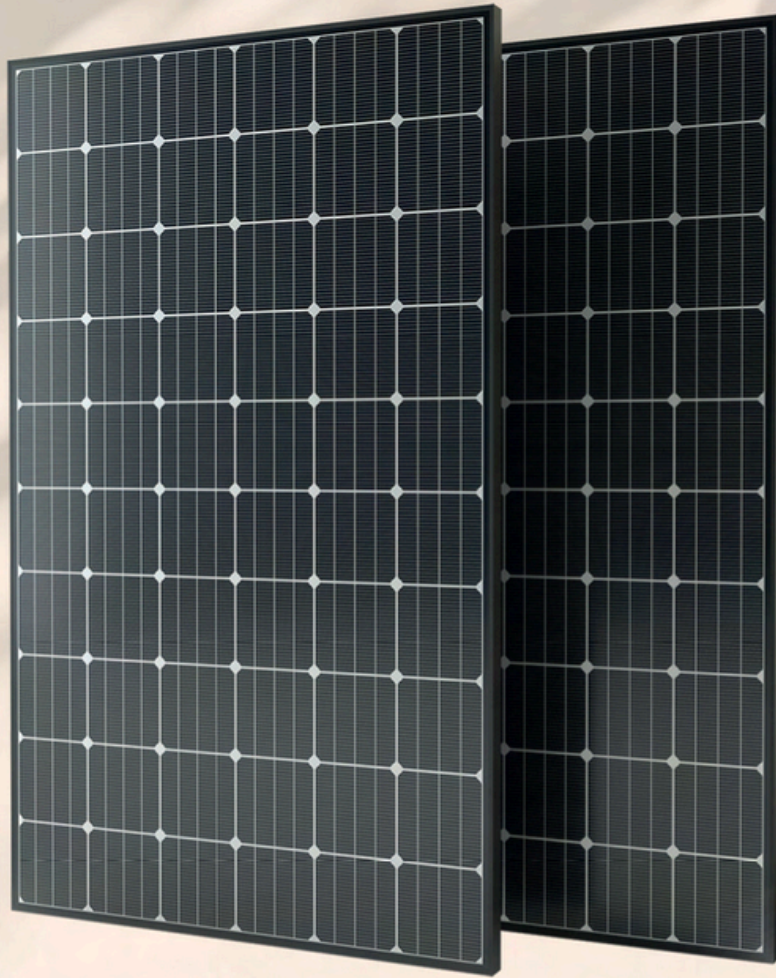
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TRY TRACKS



Ewan Ashman **Into the Valley** Skids

Connor Boyle **Blind** Korn

Magnus Bradbury **No broke boys** Disco lines, tinashe

Jack Brown **That's the way I like it** KC and the sunshine band

Rob Carmichael **Funkytown** Lipps Inc.

Luke Crosbie **The Spark** Kabin Crew, Lisdoonvarna Crew

Matt Currie **Samba de Janeiro** Bellini

Tom Currie **Again** Fetty wap

Tom Dodd **Crazy** Gnarlz Barkley

Freddy Douglas **Starboy** The Weekend

Grant Gilchrist **Rocking all Over the World** Status Quo

Wes Goosen **Hey ya** Outcast

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 **Girls just wanna have fun** Cindy lauper

Callum Hunter-Hill **For Whom The Bell Tolls** Metallica

Mikey Jones **Gold Dust** DJ fresh

James Lang **I like it like that** Pete Rodriguez

Conor McAlpine **Barbara Streisand** Duck sauce

Ross McCann **Sexy boy** Jimmy Hunt and JJ Maguire

Liam McConnell **Born Slippy** Underworld

Harri Morris **Whos that girl** Eve

Ben Muncaster **Hawaii 5 0 theme song** Brian Tyler, Keith power

Piers O'Connor **Levels** Avicii

Harry Paterson **Lady Writer** Dire Straits

D'Arcy Rae **Sabotage** Beastie Boys

Dylan Richardson **The Ketchup Song (Asereje)** Las Ketchup

Malelili Satala **Luther** Kendrick Lamar

Pierre Schoeman **Praise** Elevation Worship

Cammy Scott **Fire** Kasabian

Charlie Shiel **Yes sir, I can boogie** Baccara

Sam Skinner **California Dreamin'** The Mamas & the Papas

Marshall Sykes **Everyday** Eric prydz

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 **Boom Boom Boom** The Outhere Brothers

Boan Venter **The Glen** Levi Herson

Hamish Watson **This is the One** Stone Roses

James Whitcombe **Rock the casbah** The clash

Angus Williams **Back in Black** ACDC

Glen Young **We like to party** Vengaboys

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STAIR 5

MAIN STAND

STAIR 6-9

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Entry



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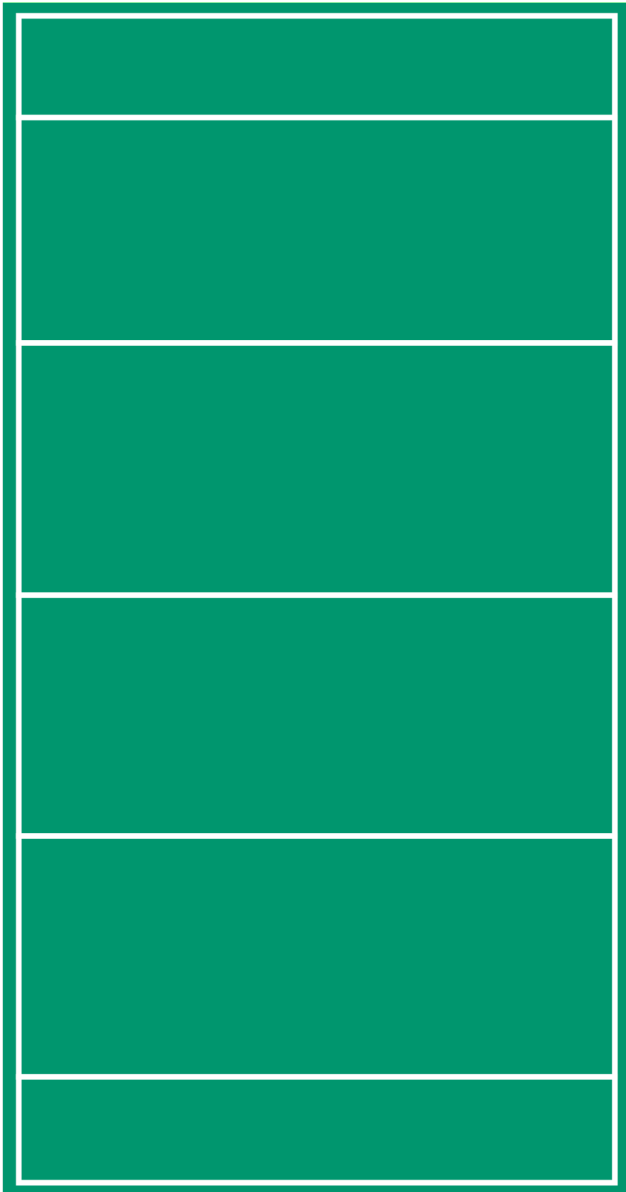


STAIR 27-32



RIVERSIDE STAND

TERRACE F / G / H



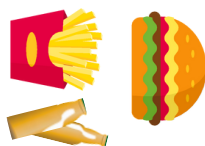
TERRACE B

TERRACE A

MURRAYFIELD STAND

STAIR 14-16

STAIR 10-12



TERRACE E

TERRACE D

TERRACE C

STAIR 24-26



LOTHIAN STAND

STAIR 20-23

STAIR 17-19

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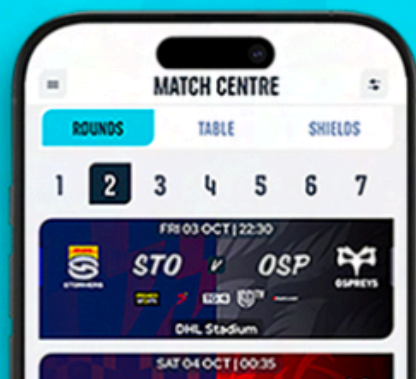
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BUILT FOR THE BOX OFFICE: EUROPEAN JERSEY UNVEILED



Edinburgh Rugby have this week unveiled their new 2025/26 European jersey created by technical sponsor, Macron.

A bold design inspired by burnt orange flames, the kit has been 'built for the box office', a nod to the club's return to the Investec Champions Cup for the first time since 2022/23.

The design features a deep navy base, overlaid with a vibrant gradient of rich orange, and bright coral hues that evoke the colours of a Scottish sunset.

The gradient transition across the shirt creates an impression of orbs of light glowing and radiating with intensity.

The jersey is designed for a body fit and are made from 'eco fabric', which is 100% polyester sourced from recycled plastic.

The primary fabric, Eco Armevo, along with inserts of Eco Boditex and Eco Strong Mesh, ensures a high level of performance, durability and breathability.

Supporters can purchase the new European jersey, alongside the already launched home and alternate kits and a range of Edinburgh Rugby apparel, both online and in-store at the Scottish Rugby Store.

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LAST TIME OUT

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MUNSTER 20 - 19 EDINBURGH RUGBY



Edinburgh were beaten 20-19 by Munster tonight at Virgin Media Park. The visitors, who were playing their first match in almost two weeks after their Round 2 fixture was postponed, were locked in a fiercely contested battle that was ultimately defined by a high penalty count and four yellow cards, culminating in a highly contentious final play.

The match also saw the debut of summer signing Dylan Richardson, the physical flanker acquired from Hollywoodbet Sharks, who was thrown straight into the thick of a ferocious contest.

The hosts opened the scoring immediately in the second minute with an opportunistic coast-to-coast try. A quick lineout led to a speculative hoof downfield, and despite Darcy Graham getting back to the ball, a wicked bounce saw it evade him and land in the hands of Andrew Smith, who touched down for an unconverted score (5-0).

Edinburgh hit back almost instantly, securing a penalty advantage which they kicked to the corner. Hooked Ewan Ashman was the man who finished off a powerful lineout drive to put the visitors ahead (5-7).

The capital side extended their lead on the 16th minute when Ben Vellacott capitalised on an overthrown Munster lineout, eventually sniping over from close range to make it 5-12.

15. Wes Goosen
14. Darcy Graham
13. Piers O'Connor
12. James Lang
11. Duhan VDM
10. Ben Healy
9. Ben Vellacott

1. Pierre Schoeman
2. Ewan Ashman
3. D'arcy Rae
4. Marshall Sykes
5. Sam Skinner
6. Liam McConnell
7. Dylan Richardson
8. Magnus Bradbury (C)

Replacements

16. Paddy Harrison
17. Boan Venter
18. Paul Hill
19. Glen Young
20. Freddy Douglas
21. Ben Muncaster
22. Charlie Shiel
23. Harry Paterson

Despite the advantage, poor discipline quickly derailed Edinburgh's rhythm. Glen Young, an HIA replacement for Marshall Sykes, was shown the first of four yellow cards for getting caught in an offside position. They were soon down to 13 men when D'arcy Rae followed him to the bin for a dangerous tackle.

Munster capitalised on the numerical advantage when Michael Milne powered over on 33 minutes (10-12). Edinburgh, despite the pressure and Richardson's strong debut showing huge physicality in defence, managed to hold onto a narrow two-point lead at the break.

Edinburgh started the second half with renewed focus and extended their lead with a moment of attacking brilliance. James Lang delivered a pinpoint crossfield kick which landed perfectly for Darcy Graham, who collected the ball in his stride to run in and score. Healy's conversion stretched the lead to 10-19.

However, referee Ben Whitehouse once again put himself at the centre of the action, producing his third yellow card of the night.

After Edinburgh had won a penalty, play was brought back for an earlier knock-on in contact. In the ensuing breakdown, flanker Freddy Douglas appeared to get on the ball, but the referee saw a different picture and gave Douglas his marching orders.



Again, down to 14, Edinburgh initially held the line, but Munster proved too strong at the whitewash, with Milne powering over for his second try (15-19).

With the game in the balance, captain Magnus Bradbury was shown Edinburgh's fourth yellow card for a 'croc roll' clear-out. This late loss of personnel proved fatal, allowing the hosts to wrestle over in the corner for the go-ahead score, taking the lead 20-19 for the first time since the opening minutes.

Munster briefly thought they had secured the win when Coombes crossed, but the try was disallowed for a knock-on, giving Edinburgh a dramatic final chance.

A scrum penalty offered an exit to halfway, and when Munster illegally pulled down the subsequent lineout, Healy was able to advance the visitors just shy of the Munster 22. A strong rolling maul seemed to put Edinburgh in a match-winning position, but as the visitors advanced the ball forward with the clock in the red, Munster managed to halt the drive and Whitehouse controversially blew his whistle, calling a turnover and ending the game.

Munster held on for the one-point victory. Edinburgh leave Cork with a single losing bonus point, able to hold their heads high for the fight and resilience they showed.

EDINBURGH

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