

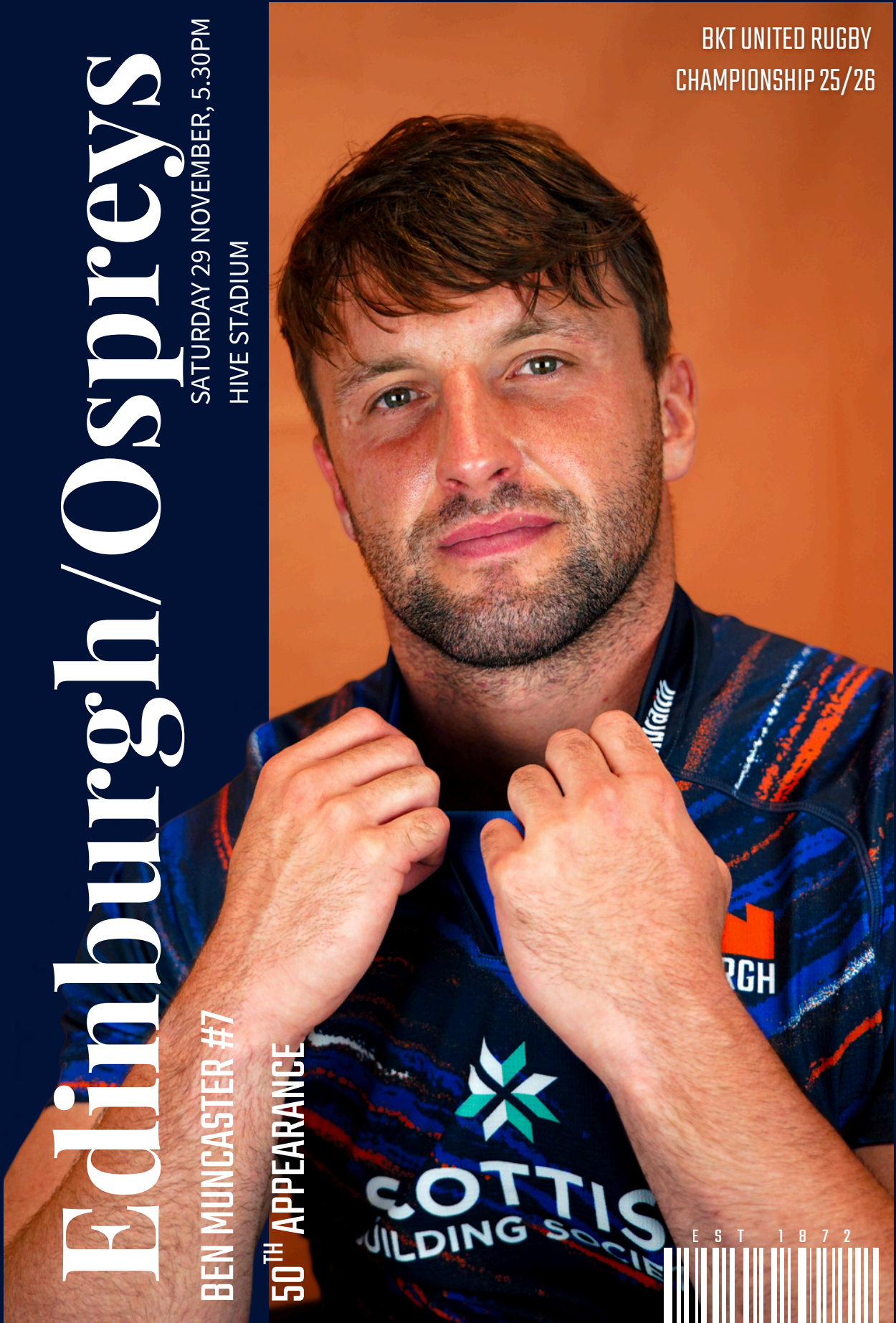
Edinburgh/Ospreys

SATURDAY 29 NOVEMBER, 5.30PM
HIVE STADIUM

BEN MUNCASTER #7

50TH APPEARANCE

BKT UNITED RUGBY
CHAMPIONSHIP 25/26



UNITED RUGBY
CHAMPIONSHIP





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REPRESENT



DOUGLAS STRUTH

MANAGING DIRECTOR'S WELCOME



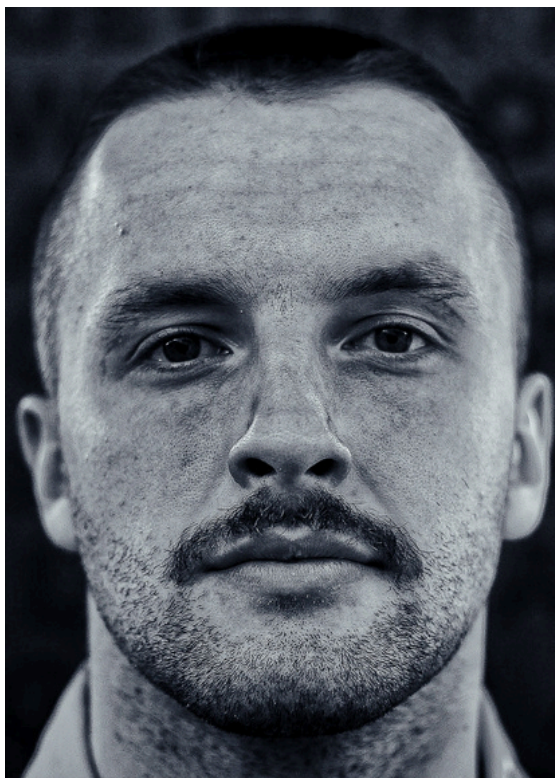
Good evening, and welcome back to Hive Stadium for tonight's BKT United Rugby Championship clash against Ospreys!

It's great to be back at home following the Quilter Autumn Nations Series, as we prepare for a crucial block of league and Investec Champions Cup fixtures, with the small matter of the 1872 Cup along the way!

While we missed being at home, the international breaks are always a proud moment for our club, being able to witness the people we see week in week out representing their country.

There were some standout moments for us as a club, with wing duo Darcy Graham and Duhan van der Merwe both hitting a half century of Scotland caps. We've become accustomed to seeing the pair run out for club and country, with both distancing themselves further at the top of the charts for Scotland's record try scorer!

While we had players making their 50th, we also had Harri Morris and Liam McConnell earning their first international honours in the autumn. Both of them are exciting young players that have grown through our academy, so seeing them represent their country was an incredibly proud moment for us all.



Back to tonight, and another one of our academy graduates will be reaching a standout milestone. Ben Muncaster has been familiar with the capital faithful for a number of years, bringing relentless energy and dynamism to our back row. Tonight the man from North Berwick will be hitting his 50th appearance for the club, an achievement that is richly deserved.

Ben will be running out ahead of the rest of the team tonight, so make sure you're in your seats early to cheer him on!

The squad for tonight's match is an exciting one, with a plethora of stories to be told. Harri Morris and Findlay Thomson will both earn their first starts for the capital, with fellow youngsters Lewis Wells and Tom Currie in the starting side. On the bench Conor McAlpine is set for his first minutes at Hive Stadium, while Ollie Blyth-Lafferty could get his Edinburgh debut if called from the bench. It's great to see so many young and talented players bursting through into the first team, and I'm excited to see how they'll go tonight against a tough and dogged Ospreys side.

Further afield, it's great to see academy duo of Ollie Duncan and Rory McHaffie selected for GBSevens for this weekend's Dubai Sevens. It will be a great experience for them both, and I'm sure they'll learn a huge amount from being part of the tournament.

I can't wait for us to be running out in front of you all again tonight, bringing the atmosphere as we head into this crucial block of matches! Enjoy the match!



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ASHY POTM



Scotland international hooker Ewan Ashman was named Scottish Building Society Player of the Month for October, claiming the public vote after an impressive month in the capital.

The hooker has started the season in rampant form, continuing his run that saw him selected for the British and Irish Lions in the summer.

Ashman has always been known for his rollocking ball carrying, putting in massive shifts against Zebre and Munster in particular, but has also added new levels of set piece accuracy to his game, hitting his man 92% of the time so far this campaign.

On winning the award, Ashman said: “It’s great to receive the award, especially as it’s voted for by our fans. I’ve been really happy with my rugby, but want to help contribute to more wins as we get into the season.

“It’s class that the donation is going to a grassroots club. I’m pretty sure my grandad was a member at Highland back in the day, so really happy for the donation to help the work they’re doing!”



Each month, the winning player won't just receive personal recognition; they'll also get the honour of directing a £500 donation from Scottish Building Society to a grassroots club aligned with Edinburgh Rugby.

This fantastic contribution can be used for a cause or initiative important to that club: whether it's funding essential new kit, upgrading vital training equipment, or helping to run a special community or member programme.

This collaboration is a brilliant way for both Scottish Building Society and Edinburgh Rugby to show appreciation for the incredible dedication of our local clubs. They play a pivotal role in developing the talented stars we see pulling on the Edinburgh jersey week in, week out.

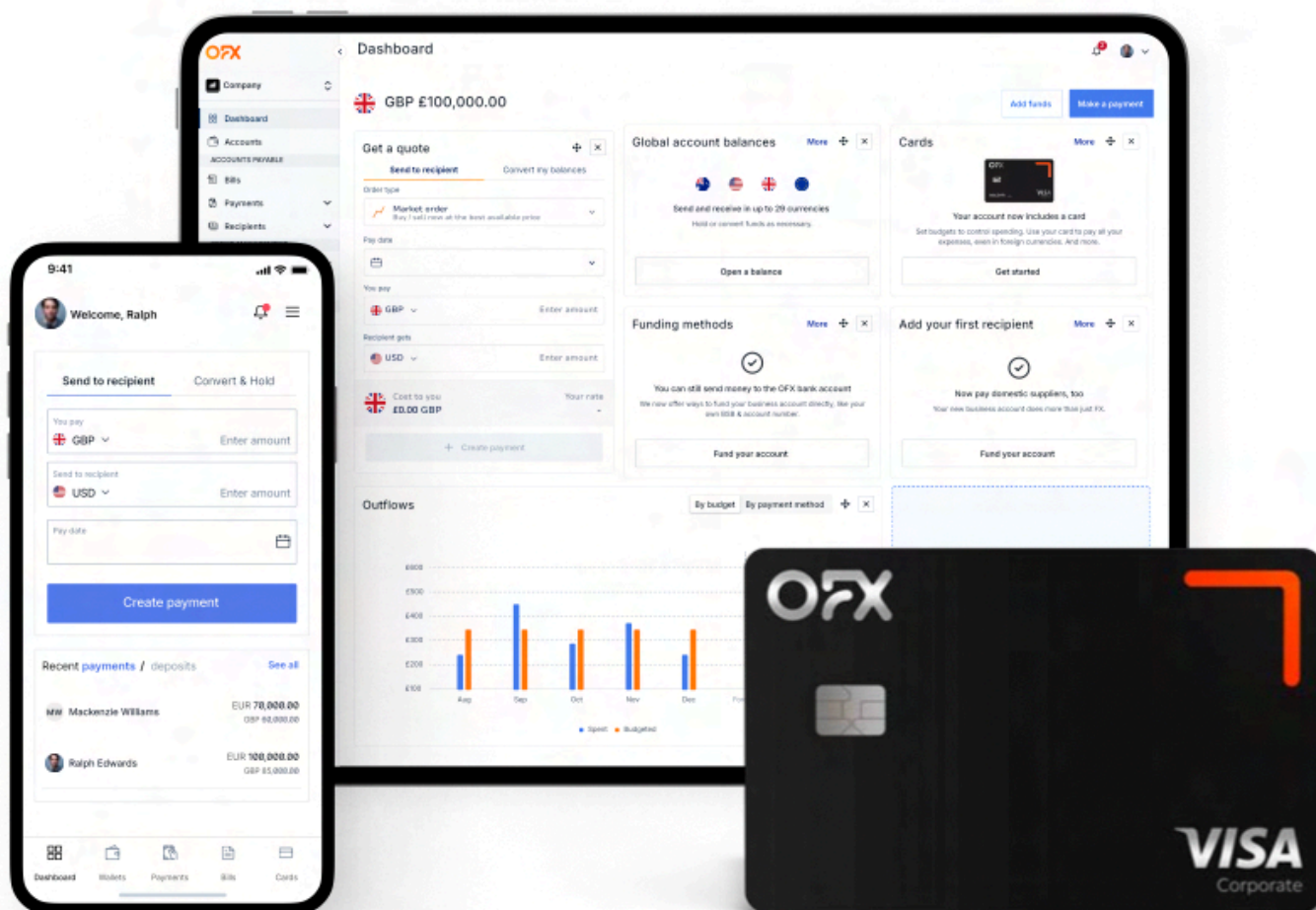
Ewan's donation will go to Highland Rugby Club, who have a thriving population of "active" players, but this season are re-engaging with our "retired" rugby players. Highland are opening their clubhouse every Wednesday for the players (& families) that thought they had "hung up their boots" to get them dusted off and back on their feet for some walking rugby.

After the rugby, they gather upstairs in the clubhouse for a well-earned cuppa, sharing stories and reliving the great matches of years gone by.

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Give us a follow and switch on notifications and get excited for a brand new URC season 🙌

TEAM LINEUPS



EDINBURGH

- 15 WES GOOSEN
- 14 LEWIS WELLS
- 13 PIERS O'CONOR
- 12 FINDLAY THOMSON
- 11 DUHAN VAN DER MERWE
- 10 ROSS THOMPSON
- 9 BEN VELLACOTT

- 1 PIERRE SCHOEMAN
- 2 HARRI MORRIS
- 3 PAUL HILL
- 4 CALLUM HUNTER-HILL
- 5 GRANT GILCHRIST (C)
- 6 LIAM MCCONNELL
- 7 BEN MUNCASTER
- 8 TOM CURRIE

OSPREYS

- 15 MAX NAGY
- 14 DANIEL KASENDE
- 13 EVARDI BOSHOF
- 12 PHIL COKANASIGA
- 11 IESTYN HOPKINS
- 10 JACK WALSH (CC)
- 9 LUKE DAVIES

- 1 CAMERON JONES
- 2 SAM PARRY
- 3 TOM BOTHA
- 4 RYAN SMITH
- 5 HUW SUTTON
- 6 LEWIS LLOYD
- 7 GWILYM EVANS
- 8 ROSS MORIARTY

REPLACEMENTS

- 16 DYLAN RICHARDSON
- 17 BOAN VENTER
- 18 OLLIE BLYTH-LAFFERTY
- 19 MARSHALL SYKES
- 20 MAGNUS BRADBURY
- 21 CONOR MCALPINE
- 22 CAMMY SCOTT
- 23 HARRY PATERSON

REPLACEMENTS

- 16 EFAN DANIEL
- 17 STEFFAN THOMAS
- 18 KIAN HIRE
- 19 LEWIS JONES
- 20 WILL GREATBANKS
- 21 SCOTT WHITLOCK
- 22 LUKE MORGAN
- 23 HARRI HOUSTON

WES GOOSEN

**ALL BLACKS BREAK
FIRES UP GOOSEN FOR
OSPREYS CLASH**

WG



The roar of the crowd at Scottish Gas Murrayfield is nothing new to Wes Goosen, but for the last four weeks, his role has shifted from player to passionate spectator as he took in the Quilter Nations Series from the stands.

Now, with the sights and sounds of the Autumn Internationals firmly in his memory, the electric playmaker is buzzing to get back into the thick of it, starting with a crucial clash against Ospreys this Saturday night at Hive Stadium.

Goosen, whose journey to Edinburgh has brought him from the deep rugby heartlands of New Zealand, used the recent break to recharge and reconnect with his roots. “I had a break. It’s been quite nice,” he reflects on the change of pace.

That break included a distinctly Kiwi flavour when the All Blacks came to town. “I caught up with the All Black boys when they were over here. I’ve got a few good mates in the team. A few dinners, I went for a few beers after the game with them, so it was actually quite nice.”

The reunions were frequent and fulfilling, catching up with former Hurricanes teammates like Billy Proctor, Jordie Barrett, and Du’Plessis Kirifi. “It was very nice. We all used to play in the Hurricanes together, so it was nice to catch up properly. I saw them about four or five times.”



Among those meetings was the experience of watching Scotland take on the All Blacks right here at Scottish Gas Murrayfield.

“They actually gave me some tickets. They all love it here in Scotland. They love the city, they love playing here, they love the crowd. So it was awesome,” continued Goosen.

But what really struck a chord was the atmosphere generated by the home support. “It was really good. It reminded me of when we play Glasgow here at home. It was so loud, such a cool experience to hear the crowd singing Flower of Scotland. Yeah, it’s amazing for those players to experience that.”

Goosen even confessed to fully immersing himself in the spectacle, saying, “I did, yeah,” when asked if he sang both anthems. The experience, he admits, offered a glimpse into a potential international future with Scotland. “I guess it does give you a little bit of a taste. I just take every day as it comes, but it’s a one-of-a-kind experience here at Murrayfield.”



Now, the focus snaps back to club duties. “Yeah, I can’t wait to play. It feels a bit weird having those four weeks off. You want to win, you want to right those wrongs,” he says, feeling the competitive urge return.

“It almost feels like an end-of-season break. Everyone has come back keen, you’ve got the Scotland boys coming back keen, we’re all in it together.”



The return of the international contingent, fresh off a tough run, brings an immediate expectation for them to slot back into the club's rhythm. "The expectation is that we pick them up. They've had a tough four or five weeks of international rugby, so they've got to come to our standards instead of them easing into it. We lead and they have to follow."

He notes that leaders like Grant Gilchrist set the immediate tone: "To be fair, all those boys, like Gilco, he comes in straight away and he leads."

This return to the field at Hive Stadium is more than just a welcome back; it's a pivotal moment in the URC campaign.

"This game here is a must-win for us. We're excited to be back here at the Hive," Goosen asserts.

Despite a few close calls, the team knows where they stand. "We've had a few close losses, but if we win this game we get our season back on track. If a few things had gone the other way we could have been sitting a lot different."

With refreshed bodies, renewed purpose, and the echoes of Scottish Gas Murrayfield still ringing, Wes Goosen and Edinburgh Rugby are ready to make a statement this Saturday.



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MASCOTS

25/26



Hugh, 7

School / Club: Hawick RFC / Stirches Primary School

Favourite Players: Darcy Graham

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

Scoring my first ever try at my first tournament in August.

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

Darcy, do you think you can score 20 tries in the six nations?



Mascot experience sponsored by Breadalbane Finance



Gregor, 10

School / Club: Garioch Rugby Club/ Oldmeldrum

Favourite Players: Duhan van der Merwe

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

Skilled my friend in the final, sent him flying in the opposite direction, then went on to win the trophy!

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

Duhan - If you had a Rugby super power, what would it be and why?

EVERITT: READY FOR A COLOSSAL RUN



EDINBURGH HEAD COACH
SEAN EVERITT

Edinburgh Rugby Head Coach Sean Everitt says his squad is re-energised and champing at the bit to get back into BKT United Rugby Championship action as the club prepares for a monumental festive and New Year period packed with high-stakes fixtures, including the showpiece 1872 Cup derbies.

Following the international window, the focus has entirely shifted back to the club's URC campaign. Everitt is delighted to have a large share of players back together and fully committed to the task at hand.

"It's been a good period to reset, but make no mistake, all eyes are now firmly on the pro game," said Everitt. "We've got a core group of players who have been working relentlessly, and it's a massive boost to have some of our internationals back too."

"There is a great energy around the place at the moment. This club is about collective success, and the next few weeks are critical for us to make a statement in both the URC and Europe."

The colossal run of 10-straight weeks of fixtures begins this Saturday night with the visit of Ospreys to Hive Stadium. With one home game postponed, Everitt is keen to build on the momentum following the brilliant 43-0 win against Benetton in front of the capital faithful.

**HEAD
COACH
PREVIEW**

“Playing only one official home game has been challenging, but we’re keen to continue our good performances at Hive Stadium, feeding off the energy of our supporters and we have missed them.

“This Saturday is a chance to put a marker down. However, the Ospreys are a top-class side, exceptionally well-coached, and they’ll be coming to Edinburgh with fire in their bellies.

“We know it’ll be a tough, physical battle, and we have to be on point from the first whistle.”

The illustrious Investec Champions Cup also returns in December with a blockbuster home opener against French powerhouse RC Toulon – a fixture Everitt believes will be a massive test and a celebration of the club being back at the top table of European rugby.

“European rugby at this time of year has a special kind of magic. Being back in the Champions Cup is huge for us, and drawing a team like Toulon first up at home is simply outstanding,” he said.

EVERITT: READY FOR COLOSSAL RUN



“There’s always a special feeling about taking on French giants in our own backyard. It’s a physical challenge, a tactical battle, and an atmosphere unlike any other. It’s exactly where this club wants to be, testing ourselves against the best.”

Attention then quickly turns to the mouth-watering 1872 Cup double-header against Glasgow Warriors – games which always bring an extra layer of passion and meaning over the festive period.

“The 1872 Cup fixtures are unique, and they are the jewel in the crown of this colossal run,” stated Everitt. “There’s just something about playing your biggest rivals over the holidays that makes these games mean more.

“It’s a battle for bragging rights, for the city, and a chance to truly test yourself under immense pressure. We’d love to get our hands back on that trophy, and to do that, we need to bring our absolute best.”



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SENIOR SQUAD



LOOSEHEAD



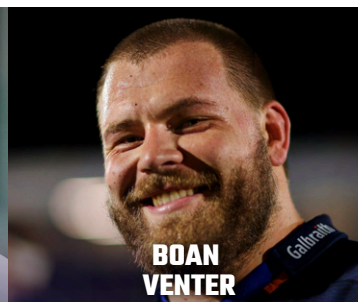
**PIERRE
SCHOEMAN**



**MIKEY
JONES**



**JAMES
WHITCOMBE**



**BOAN
VENTER**

TIGHTHEAD



**D'ARCY
RAE**



**PAUL
HILL**



**RHYS
LITTERICK**



**ANGUS
WILLIAMS**

HOOKER



**EWAN
ASHMAN**



**PADDY
HARRISON**



**HARRI
MORRIS**



**DYLAN
RICHARDSON**

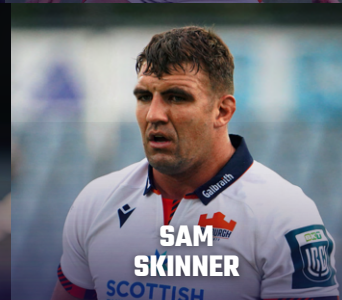
LOCK



**GRANT
GILCHRIST**



**MARSHALL
SYKES**



**SAM
SKINNER**



**GLEN
YOUNG**

LOCK + BACKROW



**CALLUM
HUNTER-HILL**



**ROB
CARMICHAEL**



**MAGNUS
BRADBURY**



**LUKE
CROSBIE**

BACK ROW



**BEN
MUNCASTER**



**FREDDY
DOUGLAS**



**TOM
DODD**



**CONNOR
BOYLE**

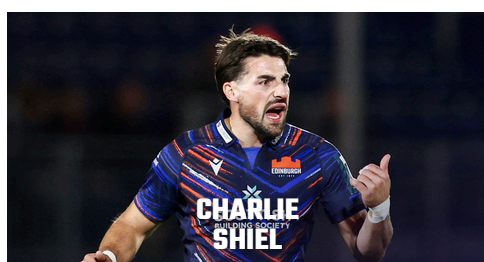
SENIOR SQUAD



BACK ROW



SCRUM-HALF



FLY HALF



CENTRE



BACK THREE



ACADEMY



JERRY BLYTH-LAFFERTY

ROSS MCKNIGHT

OLLIE BLYTH-LAFFERTY

EUAN MCVIE

JACK BROWN

NAIRN MONCRIEFF

SAM BRYD

HECTOR PATTERSON

ISAAC COATES

MAC RUTHERFORD

FIN DOYLE

JAMIE STEWART

OLLIE DUNCAN

FINDLAY THOMSON

HENRY KESTERTON

JACK UTTERSON

SAM LEWENI

LEWIS WELLS

CHRISTIAN LINDSAY

BEN WHITE

HAMISH MACARTHUR

HENRY WIDDOWSON

RORY MCHAFFIE

ROSS WOLFENDEN



SPONSORED PLAYERS



CONNOR BOYLE



HENRY WIDDOWSON



OLLIE DUNCAN



BEN HEALY



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



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PIERRE SCHOEMAN



GRANT GILCHRIST



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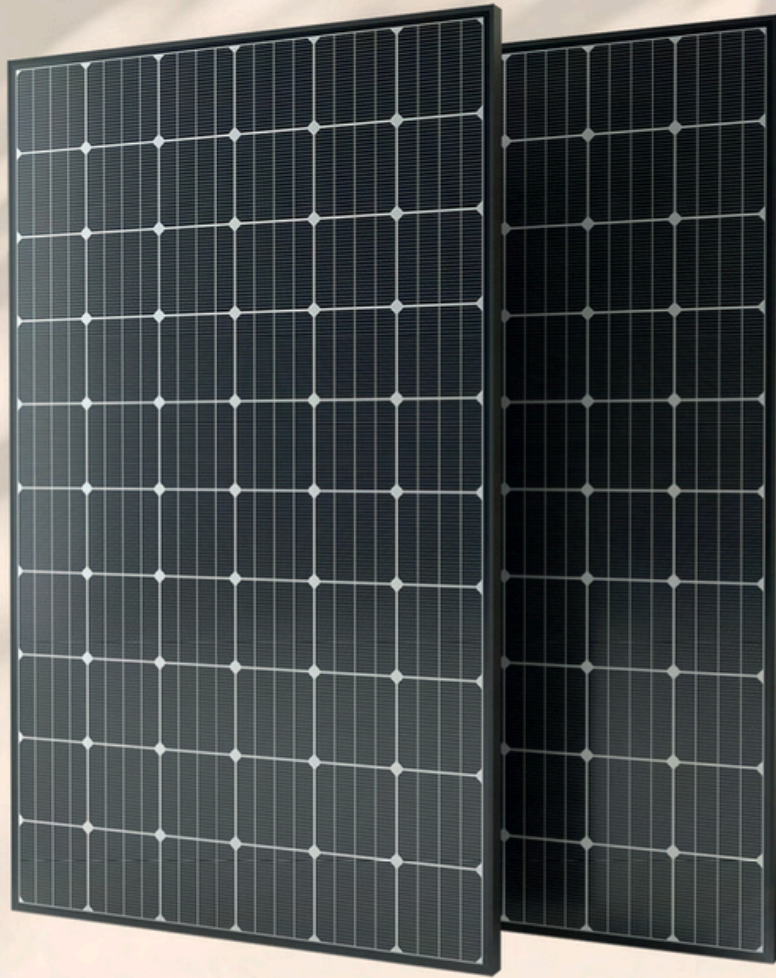
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TRY TRACKS



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 **I can't hold back** Survivor
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
Moses 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 1-4

STAIR 5

MAIN STAND

STAIR 6-9

Saughtonhall
Entry



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Thistle
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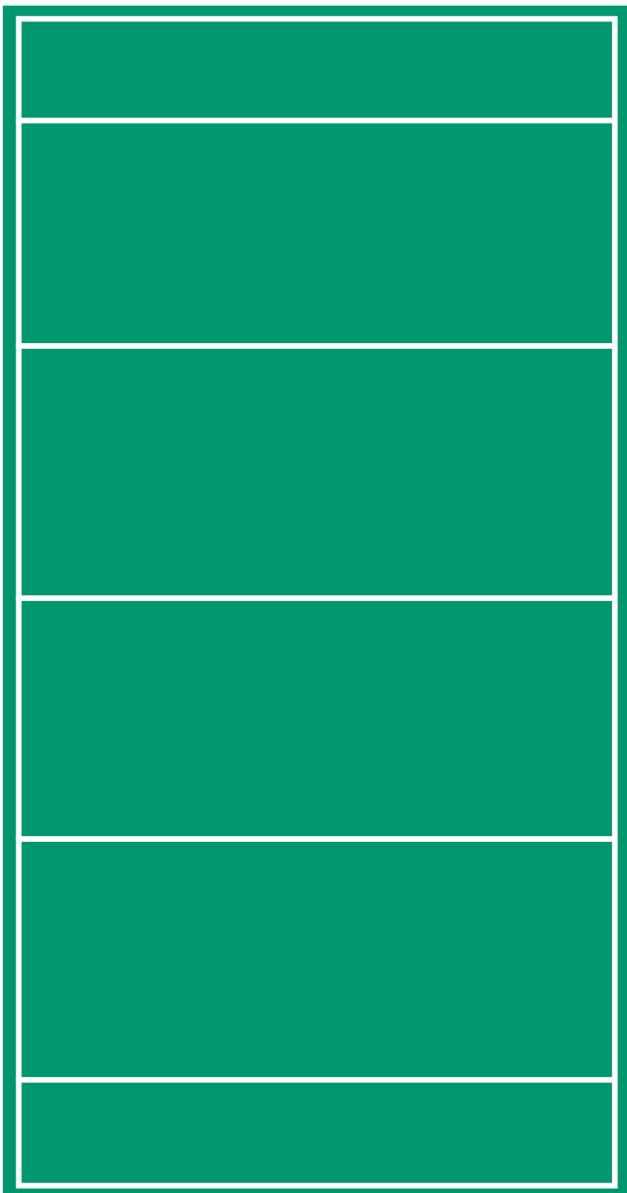


STAIR 27-32



RIVERSIDE STAND

TERRACE F / G / H



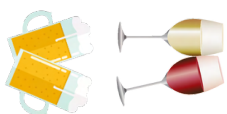
TERRACE B

TERRACE A

MURRAYFIELD STAND

STAIR 14-16

STAIR 10-12



THE
CLUBHOUSE

THISTLE
SUITE

SCOTTISH GAS MURRAYFIELD



TERRACE E

TERRACE D

TERRACE C

STAIR 24-26



LOTHIAN STAND

STAIR 20-23

STAIR 17-19



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Stadium



Roseburn Street
Entry



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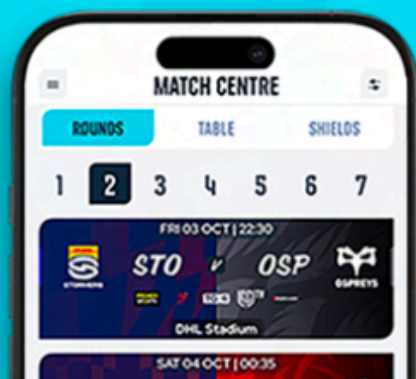
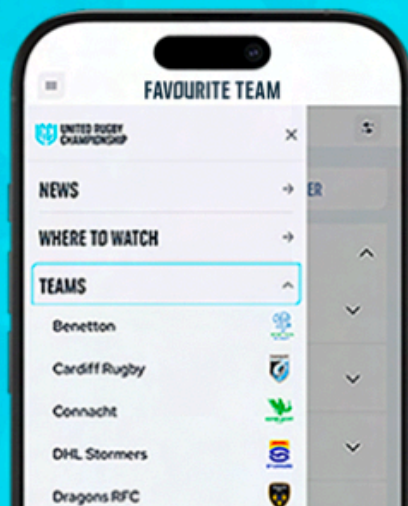
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NEW DATE CONFIRMED FOR EDINBURGH V ULSTER



Edinburgh Rugby's postponed Round 2 fixture against Ulster in the BKT URC has been rescheduled to Friday 13 March (kick-off 7.45pm) at Hive Stadium, with remaining tickets for the fixture now back on sale.

Existing ticket holders are asked to retain their original Edinburgh v Ulster tickets in their app, as they remain valid for the rescheduled match in March.

URC Media Director, Adam Redmond, said: "In confirming these fixtures, the league acknowledges the considerable challenges involved around venue availability, player welfare, and broadcast scheduling.

"The BKT URC would like to thank all key stakeholders for their collaboration in delivering a solution that works for teams, broadcasters, and fans."

Edinburgh Rugby Managing Director, Douglas Struth, said: "We were set to welcome a capacity crowd for our game in September and can now look forward to what is always a big occasion in the club calendar in the New Year.

"Once again, our thanks to everyone who planned to join us at Hive Stadium in September. We look forward to seeing you March, if not before, for this vital match.

"I'd like to thank our fans, the BKT URC and Ulster Rugby for their patience and understanding while we worked to find a solution within the parameters we were operating under."

RUGBY'S OLDEST DERBY



THE 1872 CUP



EDINBURGH v GLASGOW

SAT 27 DEC, 3PM
SCOTTISH GAS MURRAYFIELD

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LAST TIME OUT

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CARDIFF RUGBY 20 - 19 EDINBURGH RUGBY



Edinburgh Rugby suffered a late 20-19 defeat at the hands of Cardiff at the Arms Park on Saturday night, falling to a last-gasp penalty after a free-flowing contest.

The visitors held the lead for the majority of the game, only to see it snatched away in the dying minutes by the boot of Ioan Lloyd.

Edinburgh burst out of the blocks, executing a clinical opening score after just three minutes.

Fly-half Cammy Scott delivered an inch-perfect cross-field kick into space, which winger Lewis Wells gathered in his stride to touch down for his first try for the club, giving Edinburgh an early 5-0 lead.

However, the hosts hit back almost immediately. Following a deep Edinburgh clearance, the home side broke well down the short side, culminating in scrum-half Johan Mulder finishing off the move. The subsequent conversion drifted wide, leaving the scores tied at 5-5 after a breathless opening seven minutes.

The seesaw nature of the contest continued as Edinburgh quickly regained the initiative. A penalty won straight from the restart by the impressive Liam McConnell allowed the visitors to march back downfield.

After battering the Cardiff try-line through several phases, scrum-half Charlie Shiel managed to spin over the whitewash to retake the lead at 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

Just as Edinburgh looked set to march on, following a scrum penalty on halfway, Cardiff launched an attack from deep within their own half.

The length-of-the-field break was finished off by Welsh international Josh Adams, who dotted down to level the scores once again, making it 12-12 after only 15 minutes of exhilarating rugby.

Despite the punishing nature of the exchanges, Edinburgh managed to seize the lead again shortly after. British & Irish Lion hooker Ewan Ashman wrestled over the line after 19 minutes for the visitors' third try.

With James Lang adding the conversion, the score settled at 12-19, which would remain the deficit as the teams headed into the sheds for half-time.

The second half brought a significant change in conditions, with a strong wind and rain sweeping across the pitch, leaving Edinburgh to play into the elements.



Cardiff utilised the wind well and managed to breach the Edinburgh defence for their third try of the evening when former Edinburgh prop Javan Sebastian powered over in the corner. Crucially, the conversion attempt drifted wide, allowing Edinburgh to retain a slender two-point advantage at 17-19.

For the middle period of the second half, Edinburgh held their nerve and maintained pressure, despite the fierce defensive effort from Cardiff. With the two-point lead intact, it became a tense battle of attrition, but Cardiff's defence held firm against repeated waves of attack.

The drama reached its peak in the final minutes when the hosts secured a crucial penalty on the halfway line. Outside-half loan Lloyd duly dispatched the long-range kick, giving Cardiff a 20-19 lead with just minutes remaining.

Cardiff successfully negotiated the final moments, holding on for a dramatic and narrow one-point victory.

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