

Edinburgh/Glasgow

SATURDAY 27 DECEMBER, 3PM
SCOTTISH GAS MURRAYFIELD

MAGNUS BRADBURY #8
SKIPPER



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CHAMPIONSHIP 25/26



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REPRESENT



DOUGLAS STRUTH

MANAGING DIRECTOR'S WELCOME



Good afternoon and a very warm welcome to Scottish Gas Murrayfield.

Firstly, I would like to wish all our fans a very Merry Christmas. I hope you all had a brilliant day celebrating with your friends and family, and that you are ready for one of the biggest highlights of our sporting year.

Today is a massive day for Edinburgh Rugby. It is a rare and wonderful occasion to have both our men's and women's teams in action on the same afternoon. Beyond the scores on the board, this fixture allows us to celebrate everything that is great about rugby in the East of Scotland and our supporting regions.

The 1872 Cup remains a unique focal point for the club, and a monumental amount of effort goes into making this day a success. I want to personally thank everyone from Edinburgh Rugby, and the wider team at Scottish Rugby, who work tirelessly behind the scenes to support this historic fixture.

There is so much happening around the stadium today to ensure this is a true festival of rugby. From our street party fan zones and the atmosphere-building pipe band arrival to the pre-match light show, we want this to be an unforgettable experience.

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



Crucially, we are also using today to connect with our wider community. Through our 'Tickets to Inspire' initiative, we have worked with over 30 local charities to provide tickets to those who might not otherwise have the opportunity to watch top-class professional rugby. Seeing the game grow and remain inclusive is a core pillar of what we do.

It is also my great pleasure to welcome several groups of outstanding young players to the pitch. We are delighted to celebrate our recent Youth Cup winners who all lifted silverware right here during the recent National Youth Cup Finals.

Please join me in congratulating: Boroughmuir U18s, Currie U18s, Melrose U16s, Highland Eagles U16s and Kelso Girls Section. They will be taking part in a pre-match lap of honour, and I know you will give them the reception their hard work deserves.

Furthermore, we are excited to welcome home a true club legend. WP Nel, our recent double centurion, will be delivering the match ball ahead of kick-off. Make sure you are in your seats early to welcome one of Edinburgh's greatest-ever servants back to the Murrayfield turf.

On the rugby front, the stakes couldn't be higher. While we were disappointed to lose to Glasgow in the opening leg, we were incredibly proud of the way the team fronted up defensively. The "fight" is clearly there. Tomorrow, we need to find that extra gear in attack to bridge the 12-point gap.

With the trophy on the line, everything is still to play for. I can assure you the squad will be going hell for leather to bring the 1872 Cup home to the capital.

With over 37,000 Edinburgh fans expected in the stands, the atmosphere promises to be electric. This is a day for celebrating rugby in Edinburgh, and we are so glad you are here to be part of it.

Enjoy both games, make plenty of noise, and here's to wins for both our men's and women's teams.

Douglas Struth
Managing Director, Edinburgh Rugby

DOUGLAS STRUTH
MANAGING DIRECTOR



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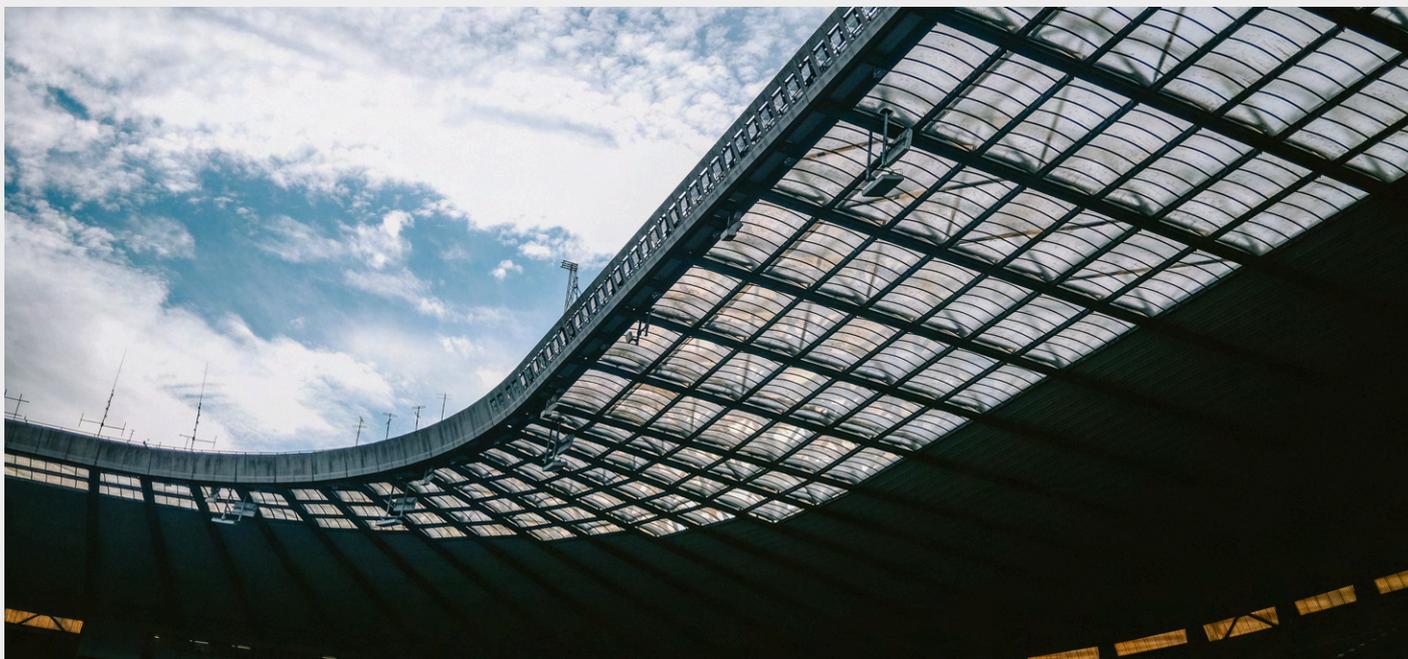
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1872 CUP: WHAT'S ON GUIDE



Edinburgh Rugby take on Glasgow Warriors this Saturday 27 December (kick-off 3pm) in the 1872 Cup decider at Scottish Gas Murrayfield. Here's 'What's On' as over 30,000 fans from East and West descend on the national stadium for world rugby's oldest derby!

Get in early!

General turnstiles open at 1pm. Get into Scottish Gas Murrayfield early and enjoy the pre-match festivities!

Team arrival

Cheer on the team at 1.20pm as they are piped from the North Stand to West Stand. This arrival is a key part of the matchday build-up, and we want to create a tunnel of noise for the players as they make their way to the West Stand Main Reception entrance. Fans are asked to line the West Stand roadway and concourse and be in position by 1.20pm!

Scottish Rugby Store

The Scottish Rugby store will be open pre and post match, meaning you can get kitted out in all your favourite gear, including brand new 1872 Cup merch!

Supporters Public Bar

The Supporters Public Bar remains open in the Scottish Gas Murrayfield Thistle Suite.

With plenty of seating and live URC action on the big screens, it's the perfect spot to stay warm and grab a pre-match drink or bite to eat. Official Charity Partner It's Good 2 Give will also be selling raffle tickets, make sure you get one to be in with the chance of winning some amazing prizes, all while supporting young cancer patients and their families.

Ball delivery from WP Nel

Edinburgh Rugby double centurion and Scotland international WP Nel will be on hand to deliver the match ball ahead of kick-off! Make sure you're in your seats early as we celebrate the career of a true capital great.

Light up Scottish Gas Murrayfield!

Fans are invited to welcome the teams to the pitch by participating in a pre-match Light Show, which is set to music and powered by the mobile phones of those in attendance. In order to participate, match-goers simply have to download the Stadium FX app on their mobile device before the fixture.

The app is available for all Apple or Android users via the links below. Once the Stadium FX app has been downloaded, CUE's technology does not require cellular service, Bluetooth, or an internet connection to work, eliminating any potential connectivity issues on matchday.

Download 'Stadium FX' app [HERE](#) for iOS or [HERE](#) for Android on your mobile phone before arriving at Scottish Gas Murrayfield on Saturday.

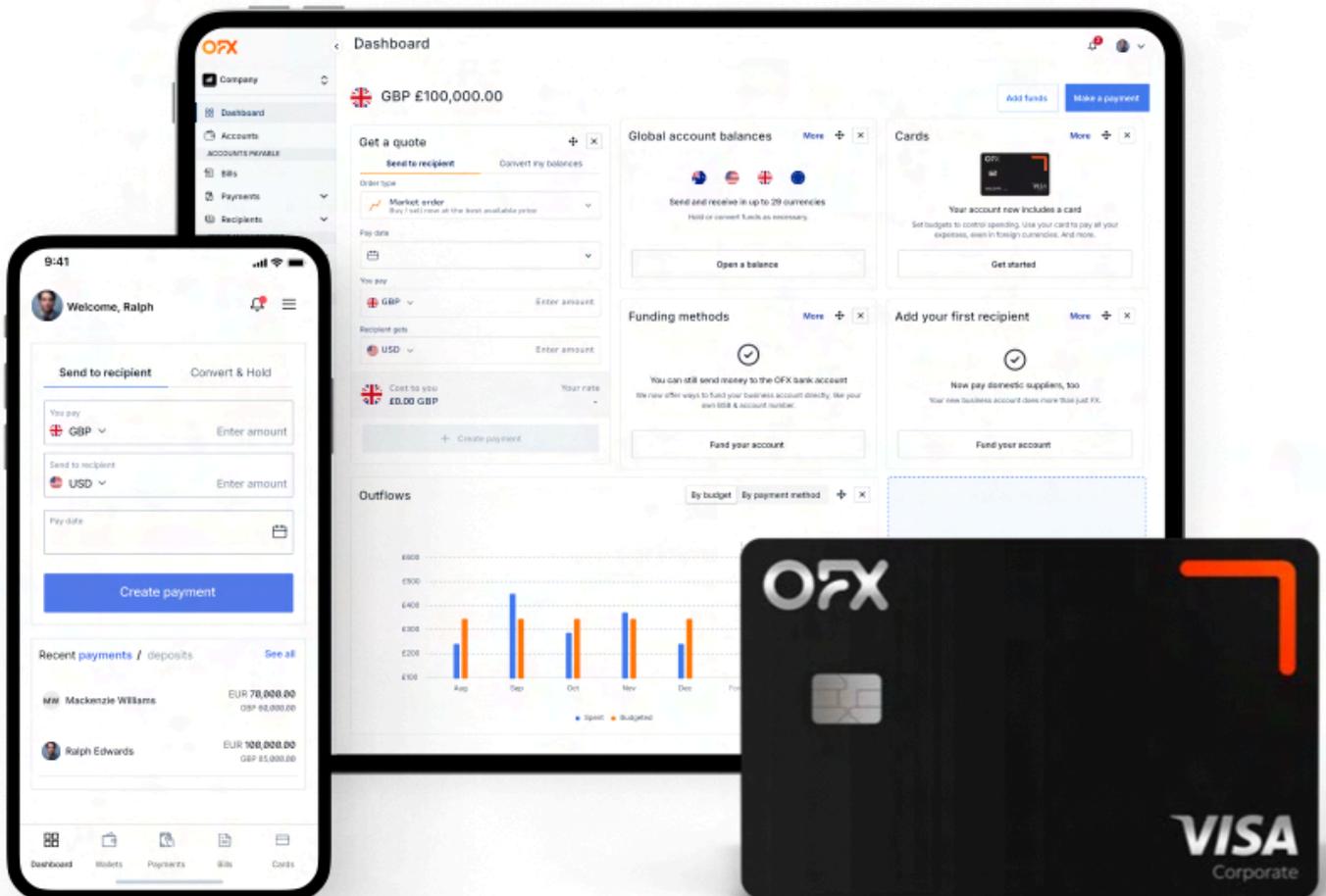
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BACKING THE
'BURGH**

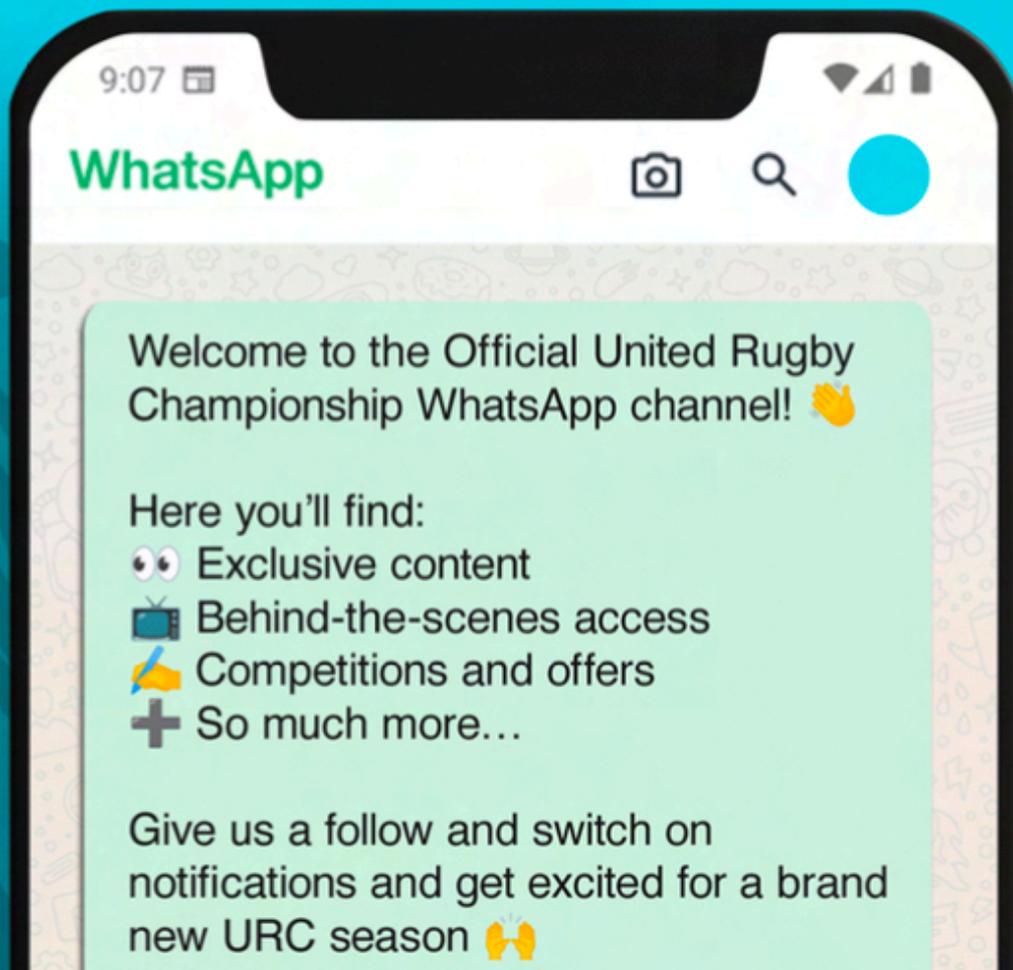


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CHAMPIONSHIP

WHATSAPP CHANNEL



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TEAM LINEUPS



EDINBURGH

- 15 WES GOOSEN
- 14 DARCY GRAHAM
- 13 MATT CURRIE
- 12 JAMES LANG
- 11 DUHAN VAN DER MERWE
- 10 CAMMY SCOTT
- 9 BEN VELLACOTT

- 1 PIERRE SCHOEMAN
- 2 HARRI MORRIS
- 3 PAUL HILL
- 4 GLEN YOUNG
- 5 GRANT GILCHRIST
- 6 LIAM MCCONNELL
- 7 DYLAN RICHARDSON
- 8 MAGNUS BRADBURY (C)

GLASGOW

- 15 OLLIE SMITH
- 14 KYLE STEYN
- 13 STAFFORD MCDOWALL
- 12 SIONE TUIPULOTU
- 11 JAMIE DOBIE
- 10 ADAM HASTINGS
- 9 GEORGE HORNE

- 1 PATRICK SCHICKERLING
- 2 JOHNNY MATTHEWS
- 3 SAM TALAKAI
- 4 ALEX CRAIG
- 5 ALEX SAMUEL
- 6 MATT FAGERSON
- 7 ANGUS FRASER
- 8 JACK DEMPSEY

REPLACEMENTS

- 16 JERRY BLYTH-LAFFERTY
- 17 BOAN VENTER
- 18 OLLIE BLYTH-LAFFERTY
- 19 CALLUM HUNTER-HILL
- 20 FREDDY DOUGLAS
- 21 CHARLIE SHIEL
- 22 ROSS THOMPSON
- 23 JACK BROWN

REPLACEMENTS

- 16 GREGOR HIDDLESTONE
- 17 NATHAN MCBETH
- 18 ZANDER FAGERSON
- 19 SCOTT CUMMINGS
- 20 GREGOR BROWN
- 21 RORY DARGE
- 22 BEN AFSHAR
- 23 DAN LANCASTER

MAGNUS | BRADBURY



The bruises on Magnus Bradbury's face tell the story of a brutal afternoon at Hampden Park, but his words ahead of the 1872 Cup decider are focused on a different kind of aggression.

Following a 24-12 defeat to Glasgow Warriors in the opening leg, the Edinburgh back-row is adamant that while “dogged” defence kept them in the hunt, the capital side must find their clinical edge to overturn the aggregate deficit at Scottish Gas Murrayfield.

Reflecting on an afternoon where Sean Everitt's men were forced to tackle themselves to a standstill, Bradbury was honest about the physical toll of the encounter. “Well, look at me,” he remarked, gesturing to the marks of a high-intensity derby.

“We can commend ourselves for the fight that we had. Defensively, the tackles make sense. We held them out and nullified their attack at times, but we can't keep doing it.”



While the defensive effort was heroic, Bradbury is under no illusions: you cannot win the oldest inter-city trophy in world rugby by tackling alone. For the Scotland international, the formula for the second leg is simple: Edinburgh must become the aggressors.

“What we can take from that is we need to work on our attack and throw some punches in attack,” Bradbury insisted. “We can’t get into their 22 then suddenly be back in our own. Any team in the world, no matter how good your ‘D’ is, is going to break at some point. Teams will work that out.”

A major part of that offensive evolution involves unlocking Edinburgh’s strike runners. With Duhan van der Merwe and Darcy Graham short of opportunities in the first leg, Bradbury highlighted the need to feed the “lethal” finishers in the squad.



“My immediate thoughts are they didn’t get the ball in space as regularly as they should have,” he admitted. “We want these guys to get on the ball in space, because they’re lethal. That will be a work-on for us this week, definitely.”

Despite the 12-point gap on aggregate, the mood in the camp remains defiant. Bradbury believes the quick turnaround – and the unique nature of back-to-back games against the same opponent – works in Edinburgh’s favour.



“It’s quite nice in a way, because you don’t have to switch to a completely different team to look at. Video-wise, you can look at the first leg and it’s pretty easy to transfer that into what’s going on this week. If we can throw some punches, 12 points isn’t a huge aggregate to overcome.”

If Edinburgh are to stage a comeback, they will do so backed by a massive home crowd. With ticket sales already past the 30,000 mark, the atmosphere at Scottish Gas Murrayfield is expected to be electric—a factor Bradbury believes can tip the scales.

“Home games are always special over Christmas. Last time I checked it was about 30,000 to 40,000 tickets sold. Who wouldn’t get excited about that?”

The banter on the pitch at Hampden was as sharp as the tackles, with “chirping” and mental games playing their part.

Bradbury is happy to “stow away” those moments to fuel the fire for the return leg.

“The backbone of what we’ll look at this week is the same defensive performance, that same dog and fight that we had. We’ve got to right some wrongs pretty quickly.”



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Charlotte

School / Club: Currie Chieftains

Favourite Players: Paddy Harrison

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

Watching Scotland women vs Italy at the hive

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

Magnus Bradbury – What's the best part of being a Captain for Edinburgh Rugby



Mascot experience sponsored by John Penny Joinery



Lianne

School / Club: Currie Chieftains

Favourite Players: Glen Young

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

Scotland vs Argentina Autumn test.

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

Wes Goosen – What's the best try you've ever scored



Mascot experience sponsored by John Penny Joinery



Niamh

School / Club: Kirriemuir, Strathmore RFC

Favourite Players: Darcy Graham

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

Getting a big hug from Jamie Ritchie after his last Edinburgh game.

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

Darcy Graham - how do you prepare for a big match and what music do you listen to on the bus?



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Riley

School / Club: Prestonlodge Rugby Club

Favourite Players: Pierre Schoeman

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

Playing match with PL against Penicuik and winning by a lot and assisting with the try. Also going to watch the rugby with family and seeing Darcy Graham running the length of the pitch

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

Pierre Schoeman - If you weren't a famous rugby player what would you do?



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PYRGOS JOINS ACADEMY COACHING TEAM



HENRY
PYRGOS

Edinburgh Rugby is delighted to announce the club's academy coaching team for the 2024/25 season, with former scrum-half and Scotland international Henry Pyrgos returning to the capital to join the coaching set-up

Pyrgos joins an experienced leadership team spearheaded by Academy Manager Kris Burney and Academy Coach Fergus Pringle, who also continues in his role as Scotland U20 Head Coach.

Since retiring from professional rugby in 2023, Pyrgos has built an impressive coaching CV in the local game. After a successful spell at Boroughmuir, he most recently served as Head Coach at the University of Edinburgh, where he oversaw the development of the city's top student talent.

NEWS

Kris Burney, who joined Edinburgh Rugby in November 2023, stepped into the role of Academy Manager this September. He will lead the coaching team, providing a stable and ambitious environment for the next generation of professional players.

Former Edinburgh lock and Watsonians Head Coach Fergus Pringle completes the trio. Having been with the club since September, Pringle has already made a significant impact on the development of the club's forward pack.

His dual role ensures a direct and seamless link between the Edinburgh academy and the national age-grade pathway.

Edinburgh Rugby Managing Director Douglas Struth said:

“We are thrilled to confirm our academy coaching set-up and to welcome Henry [Pyrgos] back to the club. As a former player, he knows exactly what it takes to succeed here, and his recent work at The

FERGUS PRINGLE



University of Edinburgh and Boroughmuir proves he is one of the brightest young coaches in the country.

“Kris Burney has done a fantastic job since joining us in 2023. His promotion to Academy Manager is a testament to his leadership and his vision for how we develop young talent.

“Alongside him, Fergus Pringle has been outstanding with our forward pack. His combined role with the Scotland U20s ensures our players are receiving elite-level guidance that aligns with the national pathway.

“The primary goal for Kris, Fergus and Henry is to upskill the individuals within our system to ensure they are ‘pro-ready.’

“We are already seeing the fruits of this labour; players like Liam McConnell and Freddy Douglas have transitioned seamlessly from the academy to represent both Edinburgh and Scotland. With guys like Ollie Blyth-Lafferty, Lewis Wells, Tom Currie and Conor McAlpine all impressing in the current environment, the future of the club is in very safe hands.”



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SENIOR SQUAD



LOOSEHEAD



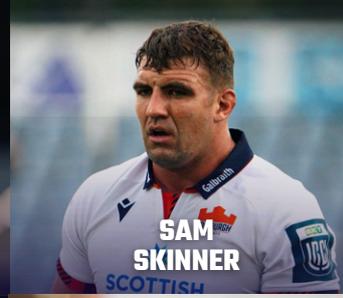
TIGHTHEAD



HOOKER



LOCK



LOCK + BACKROW



BACK ROW



SENIOR SQUAD



BACK ROW



SCRUM-HALF



FLY HALF



CENTRE



BACK THREE



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

FINDLAY THOMSON

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LEWIS WELLS

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HENRY WIDDOWSON



OLLIE DUNCAN



BEN HEALY



ROSS MCCANN



PIERS O'CONNOR



CAMMY SCOTT



MAGNUS BRADBURY



DARCY GRAHAM



LIAM MCCONNELL



SAM BYRD



EWAN ASHMAN



JAMES WHITCOMBE



HAMISH WATSON



ROSS THOMPSON



JAMES LANG



HARRI MORRIS



BEN MUNCASTER



FREDDY DOUGLAS



ROB CARMICHAEL



HARRY PATERSON



PADDY HARRISON



PIERRE SCHOEMAN



CHRISTIAN LINDSAY



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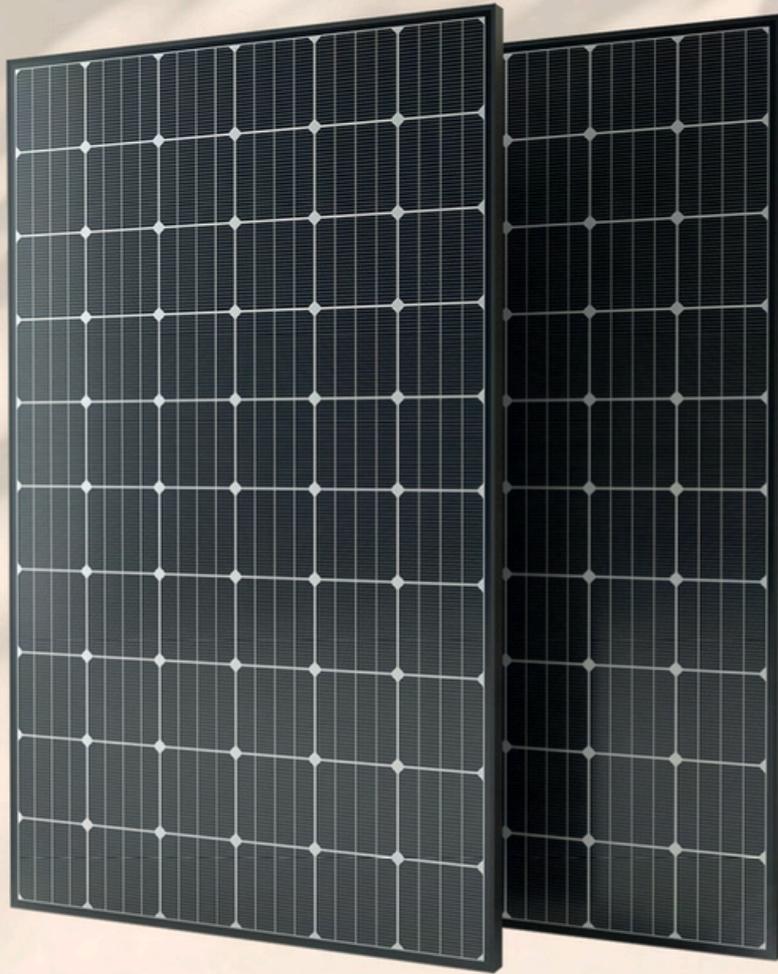
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TRY TRACKS



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 **I like it, I love it** Tim McGraw
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
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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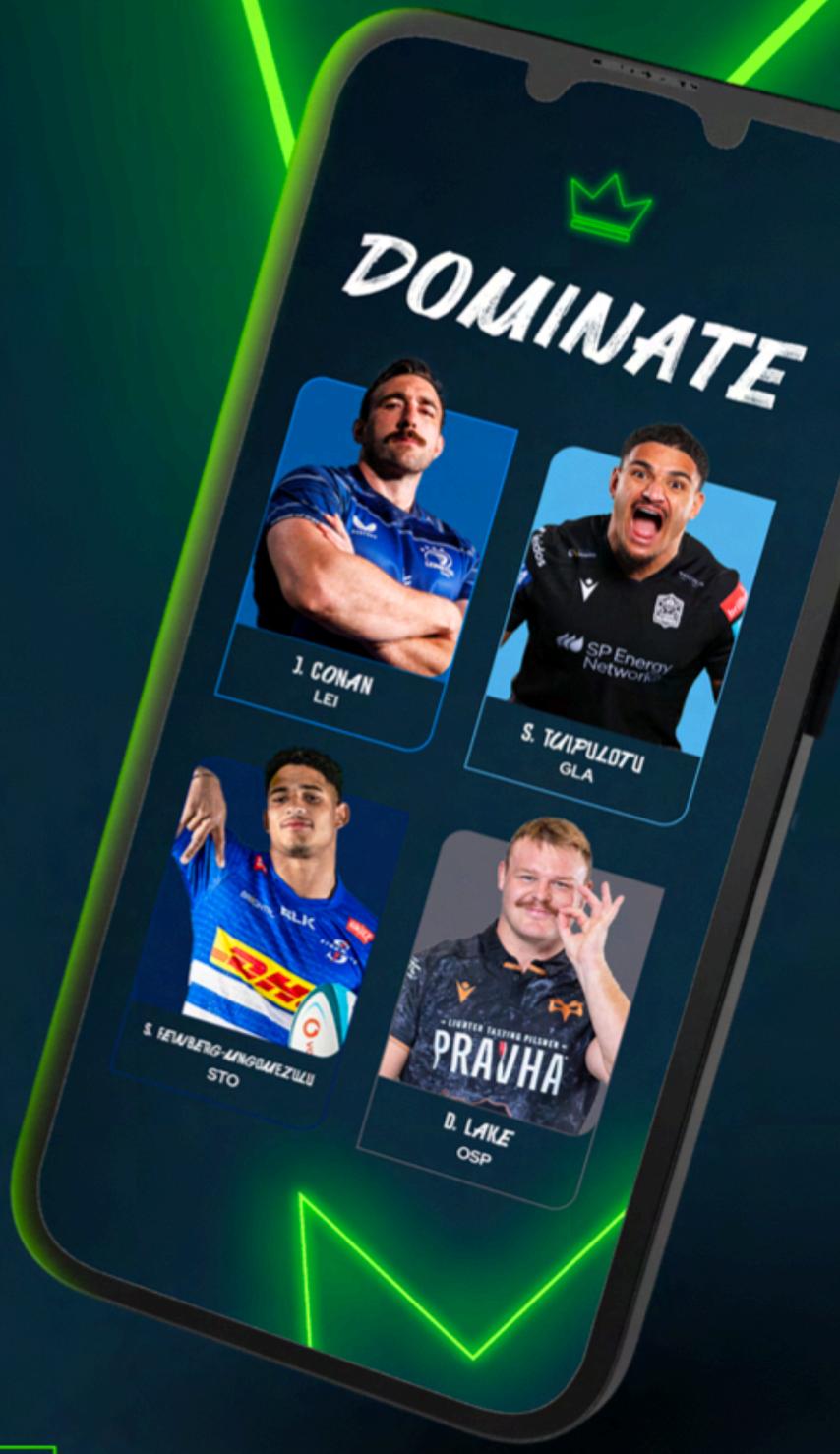


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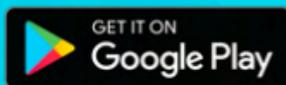




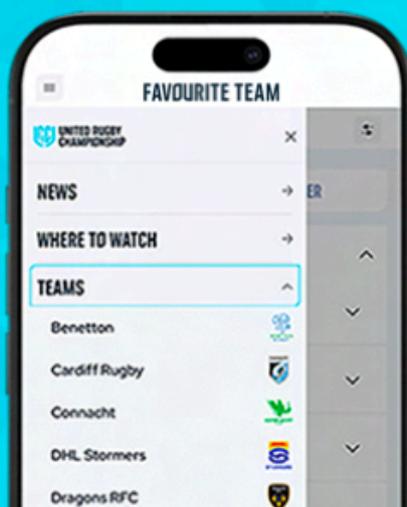
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POOLMAN RETURNS FOR INTERCITY DERBY



Edinburgh welcome the return of Scotland tighthead Molly Poolman for tomorrow's Celtic Challenge clash against Glasgow Warriors at Hive Stadium (Saturday 27 December, 12pm) – live on BBC Scotland.

The prop completes her injury comeback as one of three changes to the side that faced the Wolfhounds last time out, with centre Lisa Brown and flanker Charlotte Russell also coming into the starting line-up for their first starts of the season.

Cruikshank names an unchanged back three, with captain Hannah Walker and Cieron Bell on the wings, with Scarlett Haddow once again at full-back. Brown starts at outside-centre, with Rachel Philipps shifting in one position to start at inside-centre. The half-back pairing is unchanged, with Scotland fly-half Hannah Ramsay partnering Watsonians teammate Emily Love.

Poolman is the sole change in the capital tight-five, starting alongside loosehead Talei Tawake and hooker Aila Ronald, with Adelle Ferrie and Natasha Logan forming a familiar partnership at lock.

Russell starts at blindside flanker for her first home start, joining the back-row with openside Alex Stewart and number-eight Merryn Gunderson.

15. Scarlett Haddow 14. Cieron Bell 13. Lisa Brown
12. Rachel Philipps 11. Hannah Walker CAPTAIN
10. Hannah Ramsay 9. Emily Love
1. Talei Tawake 2. Aila Ronald 3. Molly Poolman
4. Adelle Ferrie 5. Natasha Logan 6. Charlotte Russell
7. Alex Stewart 8. Merryn Gunderson

Replacements

16. Millie Whitehouse 17. Alison Wilson
18. Faye Sutherland 19. Nicola Howat* 20. Cat Moody
21. Tamzin Rosie* 22. Nicole Marlow 23. Lucy MacRae
*Edinburgh Rugby debut

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THE 1872 CUP



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GLASGOW WARRIORS 24 - 12 EDINBURGH RUGBY



Edinburgh Rugby return to the capital knowing they let an opportunity slip at Hampden Park, with a frustrating 24-12 defeat leaving work to be done in the second leg of the 1872 Cup.

While the performance was marred by a lack of clinical edge at key moments, the silver lining remains in the defensive grit shown throughout, and the 12-point deficit heading into the return fixture.

With the 1872 Cup still very much in the balance, the focus shifts immediately to a massive recovery at Scottish Gas Murrayfield this Saturday, where a record-breaking crowd will be needed to help the team bridge the gap.

All roads now lead back to the capital where the club is pushing for another historic 40,000-strong crowd to roar them to victory.

The match began in the furnace of a typical derby atmosphere. While Glasgow Warriors broke the deadlock through Matt Fagerson after an ill-disciplined start saw the back-row wrestle over from close range [7-0], Edinburgh fought back almost immediately.

15. Wes Goosen
14. Darcy Graham
13. Matt Currie
12. Piers O'Connor
11. Duhan VDM
10. Cammy Scott
9. Ben Vellacott

1. Pierre Schoeman
2. Ewan Ashman
3. Ollie Blyth-Lafferty
4. Glen Young
5. Grant Gilchrist
6. Liam McConnell
7. Dylan Richardson
8. Magnus Bradbury (C)

Replacements

16. Harri Morris
17. Boan Venter
18. Paul Hill
19. Callum Hunter-Hill
20. Freddy Douglas
21. Conor McAlpine
22. Ross Thompson
23. Jack Brown

Utilising a number of kicks to pin the hosts back, Edinburgh forced a series of penalties that gave them a platform in the 22. From there, the set-piece took over; a slick and powerful lineout drive allowed Dylan Richardson to touch down on his first-ever 1872 Cup appearance, pulling the score back to 7-5.

The remainder of the first half was a testament to Edinburgh's defensive wall. Glasgow enjoyed the lion's share of territory and looked certain to extend their lead on two separate occasions, but the capital club's pack showed incredible resilience to hold the Warriors up over the line. Those goal-line stands ensured that, despite the pressure, there were just two points in it at the interval.

The hosts shot out of the blocks in the second half, with a five-minute period of dominance proving to be the story of the game.



Rory Darge barged under the sticks before hooker Gregor Hiddlestone added a second in quick succession from a lineout drive, stretching the lead to 19-5.

However, Edinburgh refused to fade. Ben Vellacott provided a vital spark in the loose, with the scrum-half's sharp breaks turning the tide of momentum and putting the Glasgow defence on the back foot.

As penalties began to mount against the Warriors, Edinburgh's pack went to work once more. A series of thunderous carries eventually saw Grant Gilchrist stretch over to cut the deficit to 19-12 with less than ten minutes remaining.

The drama continued until the final whistle; Jamie Dobie thought he had secured a late score for the hosts, only to be denied by a cover tackle from Wes Goosen. While Seb Stephen was eventually able to wrestle over from a late advantage to make it 24-12, the spirit shown by Edinburgh suggests the contest is far from over.

The stage is now perfectly set for a blockbuster finale. Edinburgh Rugby know exactly what is required. It all comes down to next week's deciding leg in the capital, where the city will rally to bring the cup back to the East.

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