

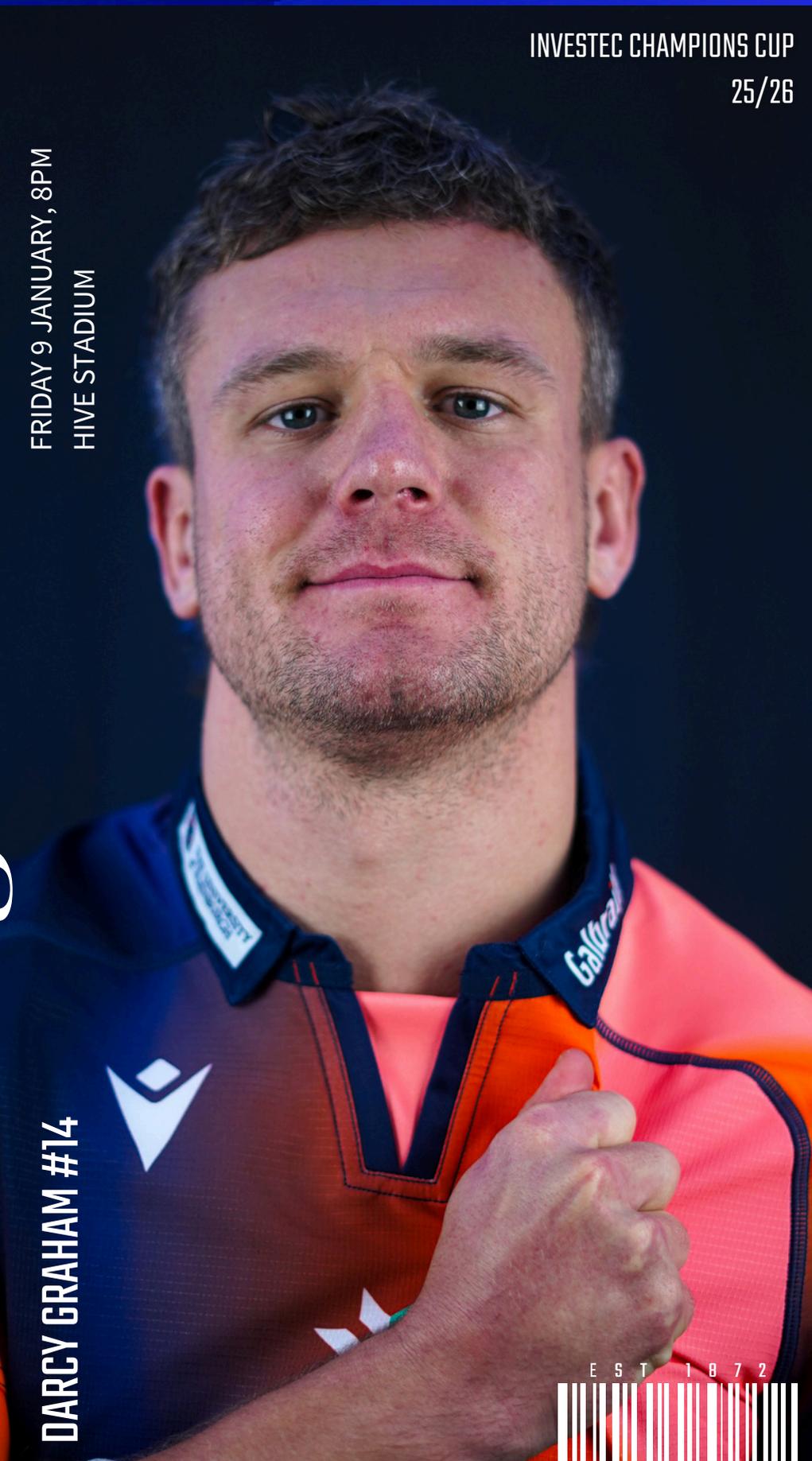
Edinburgh/Gloucester

FRIDAY 9 JANUARY, 8PM
HIVE STADIUM

DARCY GRAHAM #14

INVESTEC CHAMPIONS CUP

25/26



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As we celebrate world-class rugby, we also recognise its power beyond the pitch. That's why we support School of Hard Knocks (SOHK), a charity using rugby, mentoring, and community to help young people at risk of exclusion to re-engage with school and learning for a brighter future.

[LEARN MORE](#)

— OUT OF THE ORDINARY

DOUGLAS STRUTH

MANAGING DIRECTOR'S WELCOME



Good evening, and welcome to Hive Stadium for tonight's Investec Champions Cup clash against Gloucester Rugby!

It's felt like a while since we've had a match in our home stadium, and you can feel it in the buzz around the place. As I've said before, these European Nights hold a special place for everyone around the club, and to be facing a familiar foe in Gloucester brings a new level of excitement to it all!

We've face Gloucester in the Challenge Cup for the last couple of seasons, in two narrow and competitive matches, and I expect the same tonight when we face at Europe's top table.

After last week's brilliant win out in Treviso - our first time since 2017 - there's a buoyant mood in the performance squad, and we're looking to get stuck into tonight's match!

Tonight isn't the only rugby that will be happening at Hive Stadium this weekend, with our women's side taking on the Irish Wolfhounds tomorrow afternoon at 3pm. I'd encourage any of our fans that enjoy tonight to make the journey back to the stadium tomorrow, so support the side and enjoy some electric rugby.

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



Claire Cruikshank's side have garnered a reputation as being great entertainers over the last couple of years, and the current side is no different. Some of the rugby they played against Glasgow was breathtaking, running in tries from their own 22 in a fearless display. I hope to see you there tomorrow when they take on the back-to-back reigning champions tomorrow!

Away from the pitch it has been another busy week of announcements at the club, with the biggest being Liam McConnell winning Scottish Building Society Player of the Month for December.

As part of the award Liam is able to donate £500 to Boroghmuir Rugby - where his journey all began - courtesy of Scottish Building Society. This is a brilliant nod to Liam's grassroots, without which he wouldn't be here now.

I've been so proud of how our young guns have been fighting for the capital this season, with Liam being chief to that so far this season. Guys like Liam, Harri Morris, and Freddy Douglas have all taken their chances with open arms, and i'm looking forward to seeing them in action on the biggest stage again tonight.

This March, Rob Wainwright is back along with a crew of rugby stalwarts and former internationals and they are embarking on another epic bike ride: Doddie's Triple Crown 2026. Covering 800 miles in just four days, they will start in Melrose, before charging through Leeds and Gloucester, cross the Irish Sea from Pembroke, and finish in Dublin on the eve of the Scotland-Ireland clash at the Aviva. We'll be hearing from two of the riders - Rob Wainwright and Iwan Tukalo - at half-time, where you'll have the chance to donate to a great cause!

It should be another cracking evening at our home, wrap up warm and enjoy the rugby!

DOUGLAS STRUTH
MANAGING DIRECTOR

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to Round 3 of the Investec Champions Cup 2025/26, the greatest club rugby competition in the world.

As we move deeper into the pool stage, the competition enters a defining phase. Every match now carries added weight. Every point matters. The road ahead begins to take shape and the intensity rises as clubs push for position and momentum.

This 31st edition is already building on the remarkable standards set last season. Packed stadiums, global audiences and unforgettable performances once again underline why this competition remains the benchmark of international club rugby. From established forces to emerging contenders, the unpredictability and quality on display continue to set this tournament apart.

Rounds 3 and 4 are always pivotal. They sharpen ambitions, test depth and demand consistency at the highest level. For the players, this is where seasons are defined. For supporters, this is where belief grows. And for clubs, this is where the margins become decisive.



The journey towards the 2026 Final in Bilbao is well underway and these rounds represent a crucial step on that path. Ticket demand continues to reflect the global appeal of the competition and for those planning their Finals Weekend experience, Destination Champions Club is available to take care of accommodation and hospitality, so supporters can focus purely on the rugby. Full details are available at destinationchampionsclub.com. Across Europe, South Africa and beyond, the Investec Champions Cup continues to deliver intensity, drama and moments that stay with us long after the final whistle.

EPCR remains committed to driving international club rugby forward. Our impACT strategy continues to guide our work towards carbon-neutral Finals, stronger community engagement and long-term sustainability. Recognition such as our EcoVadis Silver Medal reflects real progress and strengthens our determination to keep raising standards on and off the field.

We are proud to work alongside our broadcast partners who connect fans around the world with the competition. Live coverage is available on Premier Sports in the UK and Ireland, beIN SPORTS in France, SuperSport in South Africa, S4C in the UK and FloRugby in the USA and Canada, with some free-to-air matches available on France Télévisions. Supporters can also follow the action via EPCRugby.TV, our OTT platform. Our sincere thanks also go to our partners whose support is vital to the success of the competition. We warmly thank Investec, Heineken, Emirates, DHL, Georgia Tourism, JAECOO, Gilbert and Macron for their continued commitment and trust.

Whether you are in the stadium or following from afar, thank you for being part of this journey. Your passion and energy are at the heart of everything we do.

Enjoy the action as the season reaches another decisive moment.

**Yours in rugby,
Dominic McKay - EPCR Chairman**

Cheers to all fans.



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BALL DELIVERY



Edinburgh Rugby is delighted to announce that club legend and centurion Matt Scott will take part in the DHL Ball Delivery at Friday night's Investec Champions Cup showdown against Gloucester at Hive Stadium.

The former Scotland international, who called time on his illustrious playing career at the end of last season, returns to the capital to take centre stage ahead of a massive European night under the lights.

Scott's story is synonymous with Edinburgh Rugby. An 'Edinburgh man through and through,' he began his rugby journey at Currie RFC before progressing through the club's academy.

He quickly became a mainstay in the midfield, playing a pivotal role in the side that famously reached the semi-finals of the then-Heineken Cup in the 2011/12 season.

After successful spells away from the capital – including winning the English Premiership with Leicester Tigers in 2022 and a standout period with Friday's opponents, Gloucester – Scott returned to his hometown club in 2024 for a third and final stint.



It was during this final chapter that he reached the historic milestone of 100 appearances for the club in a clash against Ospreys.

Reflecting on his return to Hive Stadium, Scott said: “Being an Edinburgh man is something I’ve carried with pride throughout my entire career. This club raised me – from my days at Currie and coming through the academy, to some of the biggest nights of my life in an Edinburgh jersey.

“To be asked to deliver the match ball for a Champions Cup game is a huge honour, especially with Gloucester being the opposition. I had a fantastic time at Kingsholm and have a lot of respect for that club and its supporters.

“The connection with the fans here is something I’ve never taken for granted. They’ve supported me through three different spells at the club, and I can’t wait to see them all again and soak up the atmosphere at Hive Stadium one more time.”

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- 14 DARCY GRAHAM
- 13 MATT CURRIE
- 12 JAMES LANG
- 11 DUHAN VAN DER MERWE
- 10 ROSS THOMPSON
- 9 BEN VELLACOTT

- 1 JAMES WHITCOMBE
- 2 HARRI MORRIS
- 3 OLLIE BLYTH-LAFFERTY
- 4 CALLUM HUNTER-HILL
- 5 GLEN YOUNG
- 6 LIAM MCCONNELL
- 7 FREDDY DOUGLAS
- 8 MAGNUS BRADBURY (C)

GLOUCESTER

- 15 GEORGE BARTON
- 14 JACK COTGREAVE
- 13 WILL BUTLER
- 12 SEB ATKINSON (C)
- 11 JOSH HATHAWAY
- 10 CHARLIE ATKINSON
- 9 MIKEY AUSTIN

- 1 VAL RAPAVA RUSKIN
- 2 WILL CRANE
- 3 NEPO LAULALA
- 4 FREDDIE THOMAS
- 5 MATIAS ALEMANNIO
- 6 DEIAN GWYNNE
- 7 LEWIS LUDLOW
- 8 JACK CLEMENT

REPLACEMENTS

- 16 EWAN ASHMAN
- 17 PIERRE SCHOEMAN
- 18 PAUL HILL
- 19 EUAN MCVIE
- 20 TOM DODD
- 21 BEN MUNCASTER
- 22 CHARLIE SHIEL
- 23 PIERS O'CONOR

REPLACEMENTS

- 16 GEORGE KNOWLES
- 17 CIARAN KNIGHT
- 18 AFO FASOGBON
- 19 CAM JORDAN
- 20 JAMES VENTER
- 21 RHYS PRICE
- 22 ROSS BYRNE
- 23 JAKE MORRIS

GLEN YOUNG

“JUST CHILL OUT, PLAY AND ENJOY IT” – YOUNG FINDING HIS FLOW AHEAD OF GLOUCESTER

It's a big European night at Hive Stadium this Friday as Edinburgh Rugby welcome Gloucester in the Investec Champions Cup.

For second-row Glen Young, it's an opportunity to continue a resurgent run of form that has seen him become a vital cog in the engine room once again.

After a frustrating 18-month period hampered by injury, Young is finally finding his rhythm. With four consecutive starts under his belt, the Borderer is playing with a level of composure and confidence that suggests he is back to his very best.

“Before I got injured in the summer, I was in a similar position where I was playing lots,” Young reflects.

“But then coming back from those injuries, I was kind of over-trying to get back to previous form. Now I've just had a look at it and thought, ‘just chill out, just play and enjoy it’ to take that pressure off. It has been good to just get some game time and once you get into the flow of it again, it's been really enjoyable.”

That enjoyment is translating into performance. Young's presence has been a calming influence in the tight, something his teammates have certainly noticed – even if they show their appreciation in slightly unusual ways. Teammate Harri Morris recently joked about Young's veteran status in the squad:



GY



“I think it’s because he’s from the Borders and he looks after the Borders lads! I’m a bit like his dad – he always calls me dad because I’m a bit older than him.”

Last weekend’s gritty victory over Benetton was a testament to Young’s adaptability. When Grant Gilchrist was a late withdrawal, Young had to shift roles and responsibilities on the fly.

“Gilcho had been a bit touch and go,” Young explains. “He hadn’t trained on the Thursday so Callum [Hunter-Hill] and I had done quite a lot of the reps and had that training session together, so that took the pressure off a little bit.

“But it’s one thing we’ve talked about. You have to be ready to come in and fill in positions. I was meant to be starting as the four lock and started as the five instead.

“It’s just the lineout calling side really. Obviously Gilcho was calling and then I then got to do the calling, but it’s not too much difference. You have to be prepared and know the positions you’re likely to play – four and five – and I always learn six as well, just in case.”



Focus now shifts to the Investec Champions Cup and the arrival of Gloucester. After a mixed bag in Europe so far, Young knows the importance of making Hive Stadium a fortress on a Friday night.

“The boys are buzzing to be back at the Hive this weekend. It’s been a while since we played here. Obviously we had the 1872 Cup at Scottish Gas Murrayfield, but it’s always special playing here on a Friday night.

“We’ve played Gloucester in the past and it’s always a good atmosphere. These big European games are always really good fun to play in. It’s important that we really target the win in these home games if we want to kick on.”



Having spent years in the English Premiership, Young is well-acquainted with the Cherry and Whites and their vocal traveling support.

“I’ve played at Kingsholm a few times. They’re good fans, the Gloucester fans, they give it to you, but I like a bit of hostility. You lift your performance when you’re getting egged on, so hopefully they bring up some loud fans this week and our fans react to that and it makes for a good atmosphere.”

While Young’s immediate focus is firmly on the pitch, he has recently been proactive about his future, spending time with a renewable energy firm. Ironically, planning for life after rugby has helped him perform better in the present.

“It’s about coming up with that plan for when you finish. You want to keep playing and my body feels good enough to keep playing, but it’s just being as prepared as I can. The more stuff like that I do, the more pressure it takes off having to perform, it just means you can enjoy it.

"I targeted renewable energy as an area I wanted to get into. It was enjoyable. Most of the time off I get from here, I'll continue to try to do more stuff like that and just try to develop myself personally."

As for a potential Scotland recall? Young is keeping his feet on the ground.

“All I’m focused on at the minute is just playing here and playing well. Anything that comes on top of that is a bonus. I’m just going to enjoy every game I play as it comes.”

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Jack

School / Club: Portobello Rugby Club

Favourite Players: Darcy Graham

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

Scoring tries at half time at the Hive during our match day takeover.

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

Darcy Graham – What's your go to try celebration?



Josh

School / Club: Portobello Rugby Club

Favourite Players: Luke Crosbie

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

Scoring tries at half time at the Hive



Koen

School / Club: Balgreen Primary

Favourite Players: Darcy Graham

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

Every game that involves Edinburgh Rugby is a great memory!

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

Darcy Graham - What was my uncle Ruairidh like at school?



EDINBURGH BOOSTED BY RETURNING STARS FOR GLOUCESTER



EDINBURGH HEAD COACH
SEAN EVERITT

Edinburgh Rugby welcome back a host of international talent just in time for tonight's European showdown against Gloucester at Hive Stadium.

After navigating a challenging period of injuries and narrow margins, Head Coach Sean Everitt believes the squad is entering its strongest phase of the season so far.

“It’s the best position we’ve been in for some time,” Everitt noted, reflecting on the timing of the reinforcements.

“When we resume at block three, we’ll hopefully be at full strength then.” The headline news for the capital side is the return of several key figures who provide both depth and world-class finishing ability.

“We’re getting some troops back,” Everitt confirmed. “We’re getting Duhan [van der Merwe]. He’ll be back and ready to play. Ben Muncaster finished his full week of training last week, so he’ll be up for selection. It helps us in certain positions where we’re thin.”

Alongside the return of the talismanic Van der Merwe, the pack receives a boost with Ewan Ashman available and young flanker Liam McConnell cleared for selection after passing his HIA protocols. Edinburgh arrive at the European break on the back of a gritty, character-building victory against Benetton.

**HEAD
COACH
PREVIEW**

While Everitt admitted it “wasn’t pretty,” the result served as a vital psychological reset after a string of frustrating URC results.

“It’s very important, especially when you come off two losses in the URC, to try and build some momentum going forward,” said Everitt. “Only three away teams won on the weekend in the three biggest rugby leagues... we’re proud of the fact that we won.”

The victory in Italy has set a baseline for the team’s ambitions. With the race for the top eight intensifying, Everitt is keeping a close eye on the points tally, suggesting that 50 points should be the magic number for post-season qualification.

“Every point we pick up from now on is better for us,” he added.

A primary focus for the Gloucester clash will be the refinement of Edinburgh’s offensive game.

EVERITT: “WE’RE GETTING SOME TROOPS BACK.”



Despite the win in Treviso, Everitt identified a lack of “composure” near the try line as a lingering issue, citing Freddy Douglas’ narrow knock-on as an example of over-eagerness.

Central to this improvement is getting the ball into the hands of Duhan van der Merwe and the rest of the back three.

“We want to get the ball in the outside backs’ hands,” Everitt explained. “For attack to function, you need numbers on your feet. It is work off the ball, and you’ve got to be able to get off the floor and connect. Whether it means you’ve got to race to the open side, that is up to the individual to do that.”

Everitt stressed that while individual work rate is key, the system must provide the platform:

“You’ve got to get your set-piece right. I thought the guys worked hard off the ball to connect well attack-wise [against Benetton], but we just weren’t efficient enough close to the goal line.”

As Gloucester arrives with a defensive system designed to stifle wide channels, Edinburgh’s ability to marry set-piece precision with Van der Merwe’s raw power may well define their European fortunes on Friday night.



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BACK ROW



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BACK ROW



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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

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LIAM MCCONNELL



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EWAN ASHMAN



JAMES WHITCOMBE



HAMISH WATSON



ROSS THOMPSON



JAMES LANG



HARRI MORRIS



BEN MUNCASTER



FREDDY DOUGLAS



ROB CARMICHAEL



HARRY PATERSON



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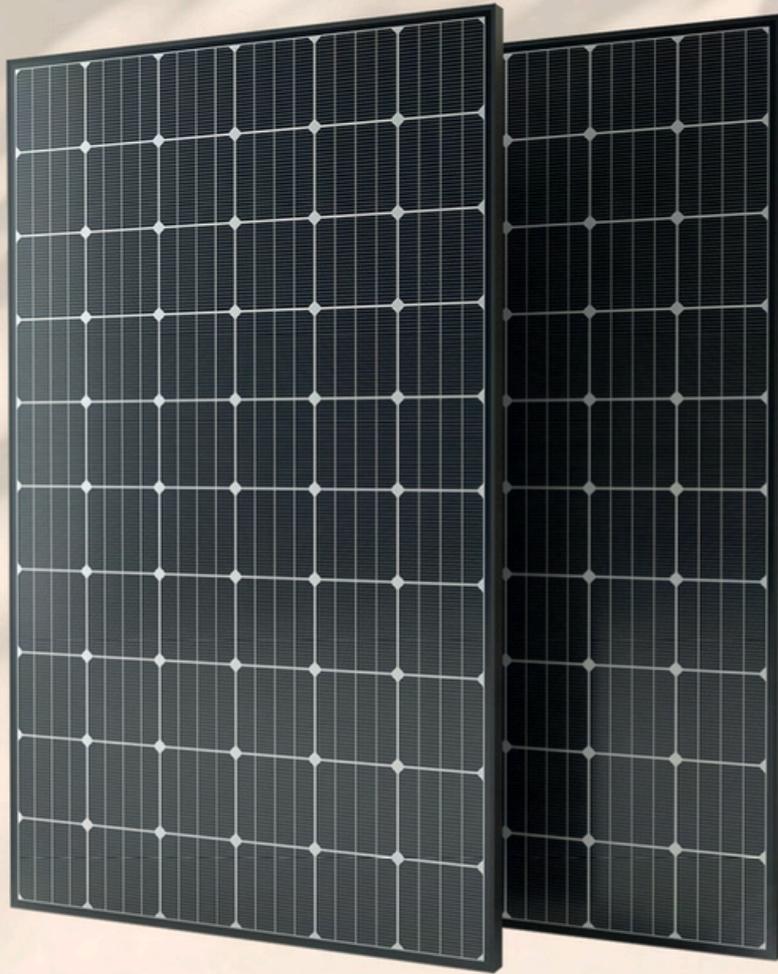
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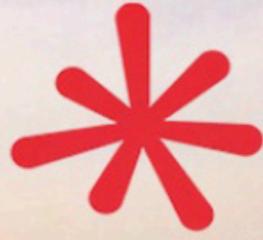
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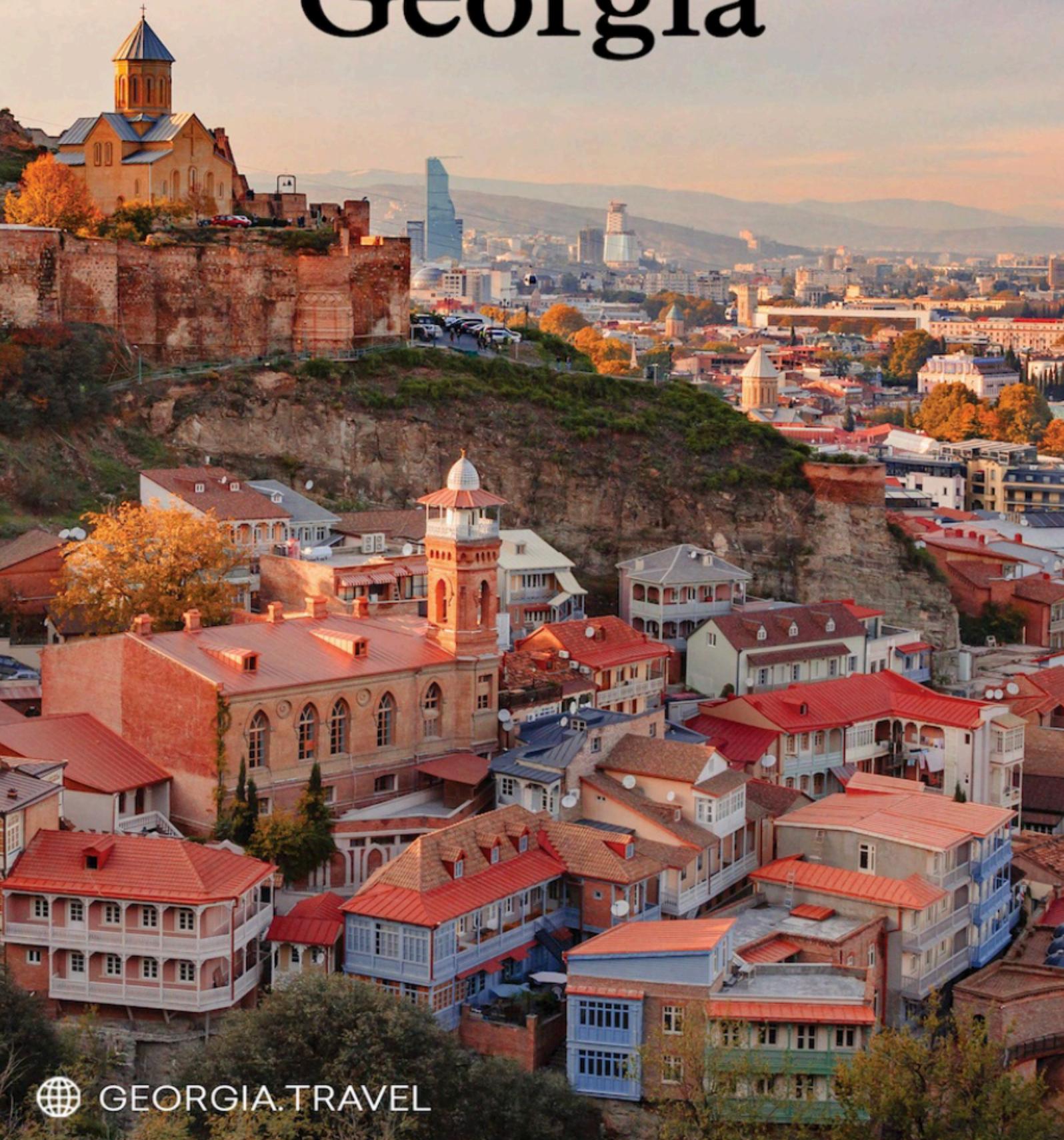
TRY TRACKS



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



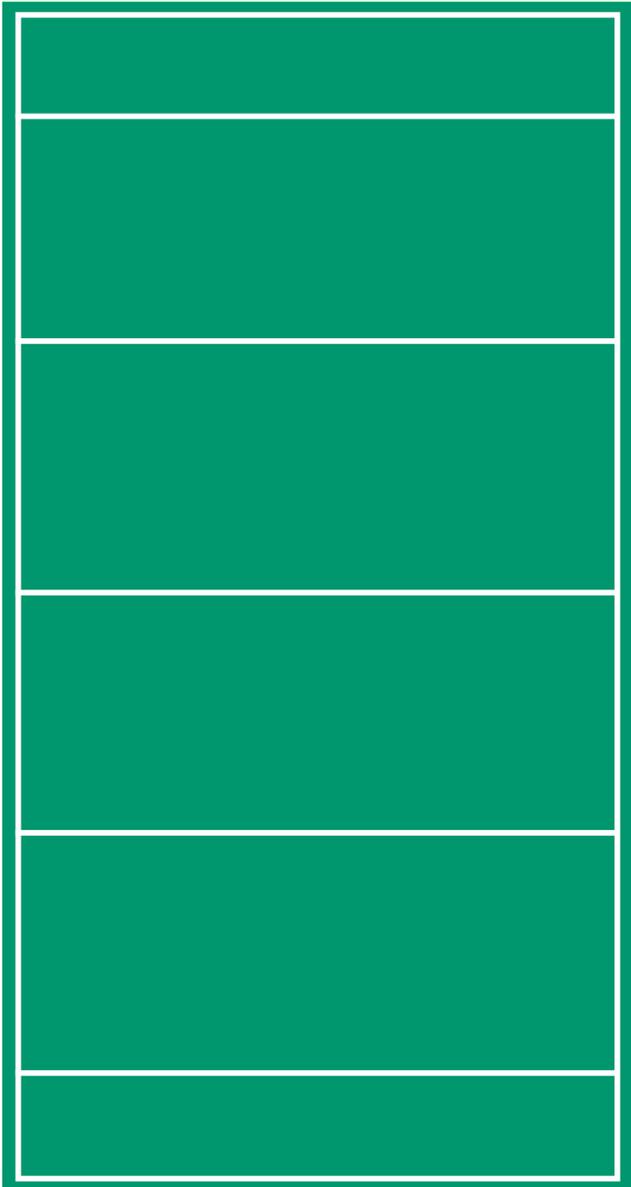
Georgia



STAIR 27-32

RIVERSIDE STAND

TERRACE F / G / H



TERRACE A
TERRACE B

MURRAYFIELD STAND

STAIR 10-12
STAIR 14-16



SCOTTISH GAS MURRAYFIELD



STAIR 1-4

STAIR 5

MAIN STAND

STAIR 6-9

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TERRACE E

TERRACE D

TERRACE C

STAIR 24-26



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STAIR 20-23

STAIR 17-19



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WHAT'S ON GUIDE

HIVE STADIUM FAN ZONE

There's plenty on the go in the Hive Stadium fan zone to keep fans of all ages entertained – check out some of our sponsor activations, including Dropkick Murphy's Trailor Swift Karaoke Truck, as well as Generation Kitchen & Bathrooms all-new showroom truck.

With amazing food and drink options and our usual fun zone games, there's no shortage of activity to get you in the mood for match night.

LIVE MUSIC ON THE UNSIGNED STAGE

Scott McGill is your pre-match soundtrack in the Hive Stadium Fan Zone as he performs on the unsigned stage from 6.45pm to 7.30pm.

THE PUBLIC BAR

Open to all supporters from general turnstiles, The Public Bar – located in The Thistle Suite – is the perfect spot to catch-up with friends ahead of kick-off.

Watch live rugby on our big screens, while we have plenty of fantastic hot food options to get you fuelled for kick-off.

PENICUIK AND DISTRICT PIPE BAND

The Penicuik and District Pipe band are back at Hive Stadium! Get in your seats early for a pre-match performance from 7.20pm as the pipe band get us going ahead of kick-off.

PRE-MATCH MUSIC AND LIGHT SHOW

Our pre-match mobile phone music and light show is back this Sunday! Simply follow the instructions on our social channels or scan our in-stadium QR codes to make sure don't miss on being part of the show!

Download the Stadium FX app [HERE](#).

WHAT'S ON GUIDE

GET ON THE BIG SCREEN AT HALF-TIME TO WIN VODACOM BULLS TICKETS!

Our all new half-time fan cam is back on Friday night! We want to see you Champions Cup celebrations. Whether it's kissing the badge, or fist-pumping the air, you could be featured on the big screens in Hive Stadium! Head to our social channels for more info on matchday, or scan the QR code on the big screens, click through, and let our amazing technology take care of the rest – it really is as simple as that! Don't miss out on being part of our half-time big screen competition to win tickets to Vodacom Bulls

SCOTTISH RUGBY STORE

Head to the Scottish Rugby Store – located on the South/West corner of Scottish Gas Murrayfield – to make sure you're kitted out in the newest Edinburgh Rugby merch!

DHL BALL DELIVERY

We're delighted to welcome club centurion and Scotland international Matt Scott back to Hive Stadium as he takes part in the DHL match ball delivery ahead of kick-off.

SCOTTISH BUILDING SOCIETY HALF-TIME

Melrose RFC are our Community Club of the Week – the minis will form our pre-match guard of honour and take part in our Scottish Building Society half-time games.

SCOTTISH BUILDING SOCIETY HALF-TIME

This March, Rob Wainwright is back along with a crew of rugby stalwarts and former internationals and they are embarking on another epic bike ride: Doddie's Triple Crown 2026. Covering 800 miles in just four days, they will start in Melrose, before charging through Leeds and Gloucester, cross the Irish Sea from Pembroke, and finish in Dublin on the eve of the Scotland-Ireland clash at the Aviva.

We'll be hearing from two of the riders – Rob Wainwright and Iwan Tukalo – at half-time, where you'll have the chance to donate to a great cause!



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LAST TIME OUT

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EDINBURGH RUGBY 15-14 BENETTON RUGBY



Edinburgh Rugby secured a monumental result on Italian soil last night, weathering a late storm at Stadio Monigo to claim a 14-15 victory over Benetton.

The result marks the capital side's first away win of the season and their first triumph in Treviso since 2017, ending a long-standing hoodoo in one of the BKT United Rugby Championship's toughest environments.

The visitors started with intent, asserting their dominance from the opening whistle. For much of the first half, Edinburgh were the superior side, moving the ball with a slickness that frequently pierced the Benetton line.

The pressure eventually told when scrum-half Ben Vellacott sniped over from close range for the opening try. Ross Thompson added the extras and later slotted a penalty to stretch the lead to 10-0.

While the halftime scoreline favoured Edinburgh, it arguably did not reflect the extent of their control. Several promising incursions into the Benetton 22 went unrewarded due to minor inaccuracies at the clinical moment, leaving the door ajar for the hosts.

The second half began with a moment of pure individual brilliance from Darcy Graham. Deep inside his own 22, the winger reacted quickest to a loose ball.

15. Jack Brown
14. Darcy Graham
13. Matt Currie
12. James Lang
11. Wes Goosen
10. Ross Thompson
9. Ben Vellacott

1. Pierre Schoeman
2. Harri Morris
3. Ollie Blyth-Lafferty
4. Callum Hunter-Hill
5. Glen Young
6. Tom Dodd
7. Freddy Douglas
8. Magnus Bradbury (C)

Replacements

16. Jerry Blyth-Lafferty
17. James Whitcombe
18. Paul Hill
19. Connor Boyle
20. Liam McConnell
21. Charlie Shiel
22. Cammy Scott
23. Piers O'Connor

Sensing an opportunity, he launched a speculative kick downfield, outpaced the covering defense, and dived on the ball once more to score a sensational solo effort.

The score moved Edinburgh into a 0-15 lead and seemingly put them in the driver's seat. However, the Italian outfit refused to crumble.

Spurred on by a vocal home crowd, Benetton ignited. In a frantic ten-minute window, the hosts crossed the whitewash twice, converting both to bring the score to 14-15.

With the momentum firmly behind the Italians, Stadio Monigo was on its feet, and Edinburgh found themselves in a defensive dogfight.

The shift in the trenches was led by Freddy Douglas, who produced a masterclass at the breakdown to earn the BKT Player of the Match award.



Alongside him, the defensive shift was relentless; Glen Young, Harri Morris, Tom Dodd, James Lang, and Matt Currie put in a massive shift to halt the green-and-white waves of attack.

The final ten minutes were a test of pure resolve. Harri Morris came up with a vital turnover penalty to relieve pressure, a feat mirrored moments later by Darcy Graham, who proved as effective in defence as he was in attack.

Drama peaked in the 80th minute when Edinburgh had the chance to seal the game with a penalty. In a heart-stopping moment, the strike hit the upright and bounced back into play.

Benetton gathered and launched one final, desperate assault down the short side. However, the Edinburgh line held firm, and a spilled Italian pass finally brought the gruelling contest to an end.

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