

Edinburgh/Zebre

FRIDAY 17 APRIL, 7.45PM
HIVE STADIUM

MARSHALL SYKES #4



BKT UNITED RUGBY
CHAMPIONSHIP 25/26



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REPRESENT



DOUGLAS STRUTH

MANAGING DIRECTOR'S WELCOME



Good evening, and welcome to Hive Stadium for tonight's BKT United Rugby Championship clash against Zebre Parma.

It has been a while since we've been at home after trips to South Africa and Ireland, and we're all buzzing to be back playing in-front of our home crowd.

It has been a challenging season, but we're desperate to finish on a high and give everyone that has backed all season us something to cheer about in these last few games, and build momentum going into the new campaign at Hive Stadium.

It has been a busy time off the pitch for the club, with a number of signings and re-signings being finalised as we prepare for next season. There's plenty more to news to come in the next few weeks, and you may have seen some of the signing news come out already so far this week.

Firstly we were able to announce Stevie Lawrie's new contract with the club, continuing as our Forward's Coach. Stevie is Edinburgh through and through, and has done a brilliant job bringing through a number of talented players in our pack. He's a huge part of the culture of the

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



club, and i'm thrilled that he's signed to stay with his hometown club.

We've also been able to announce further additions to our coaching staff, with Brad Davis (Defence) and Tim Sampson (Attack) joining from the Queensland Reds and the Fijian Drua respectively. Both coaches will bring a wealth of experience to the capital, and we can't wait to welcome them both to Scotland in the summer.

On the playing side, it was great to announce that Marshall Sykes has re-signed with the club. Marshall is often tasked with the unseen work, with his relentless engine becoming a vital part of our pack.

There was some number crunching done in the week that revealed he has hit nearly 2000 rucks in his 94 matches, made over 750 tackles, and keeps our maul success rate at roughly 95%. They're brilliant numbers, and are just as important, if maybe slightly less glamorous, than the stats a winger might make! Off the field Marshall has also made this city his home, and i'm delighted to have someone with his character and work-rate in our club.

Tonight we have a number of younger players getting a shot, including Hector Patterson making his Edinburgh Rugby debut at scrum-half. With Hector, Findlay Thomson, Freddy Douglas, Liam McConnell, Ollie Blyth-Lafferty, and Malelili Satala all starting, it's a great chance to see the future of our club starting now.

Enjoy the night, and make some noise!

Douglas Struth
Managing Director, Edinburgh Rugby

DOUGLAS STRUTH
MANAGING DIRECTOR

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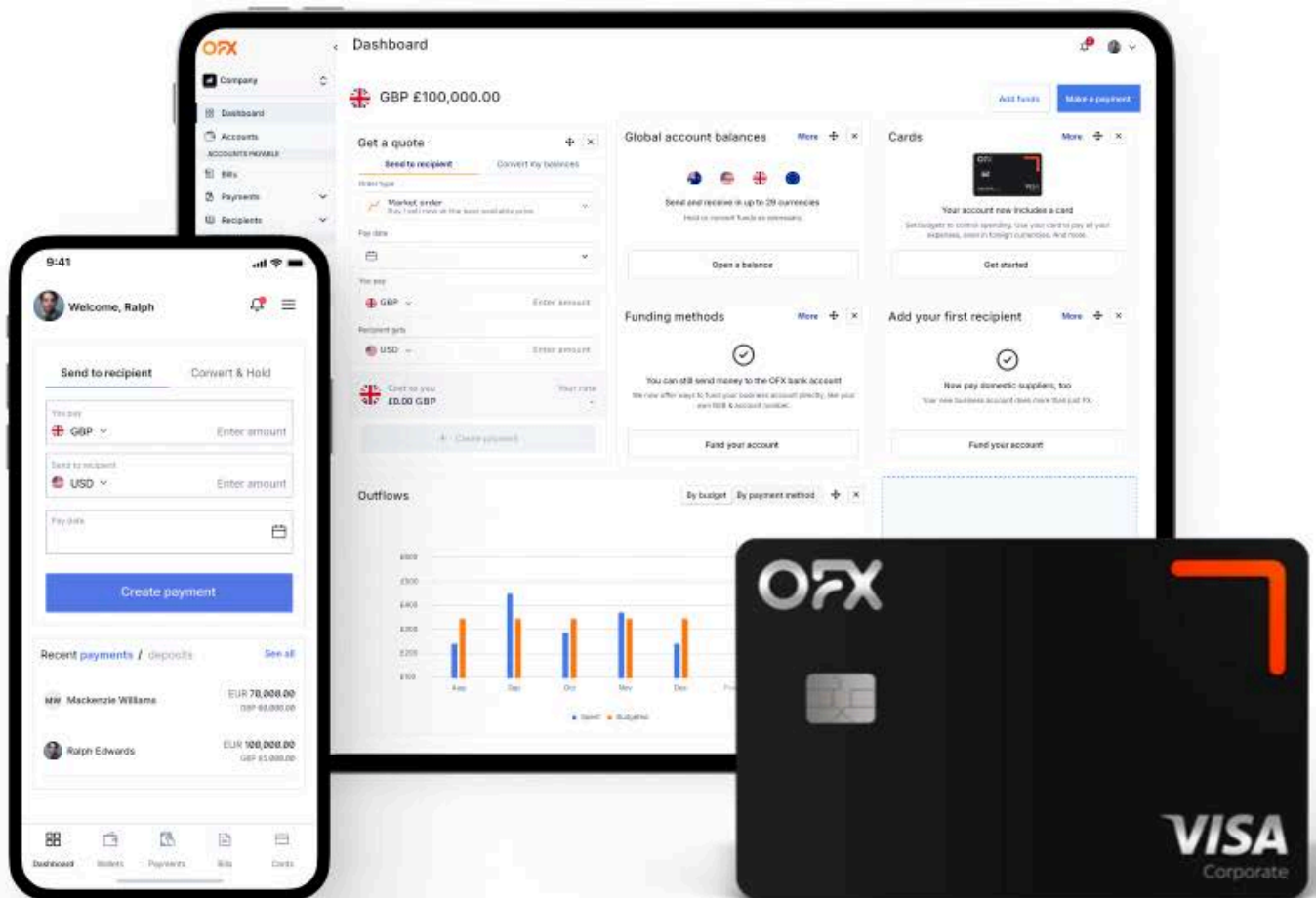
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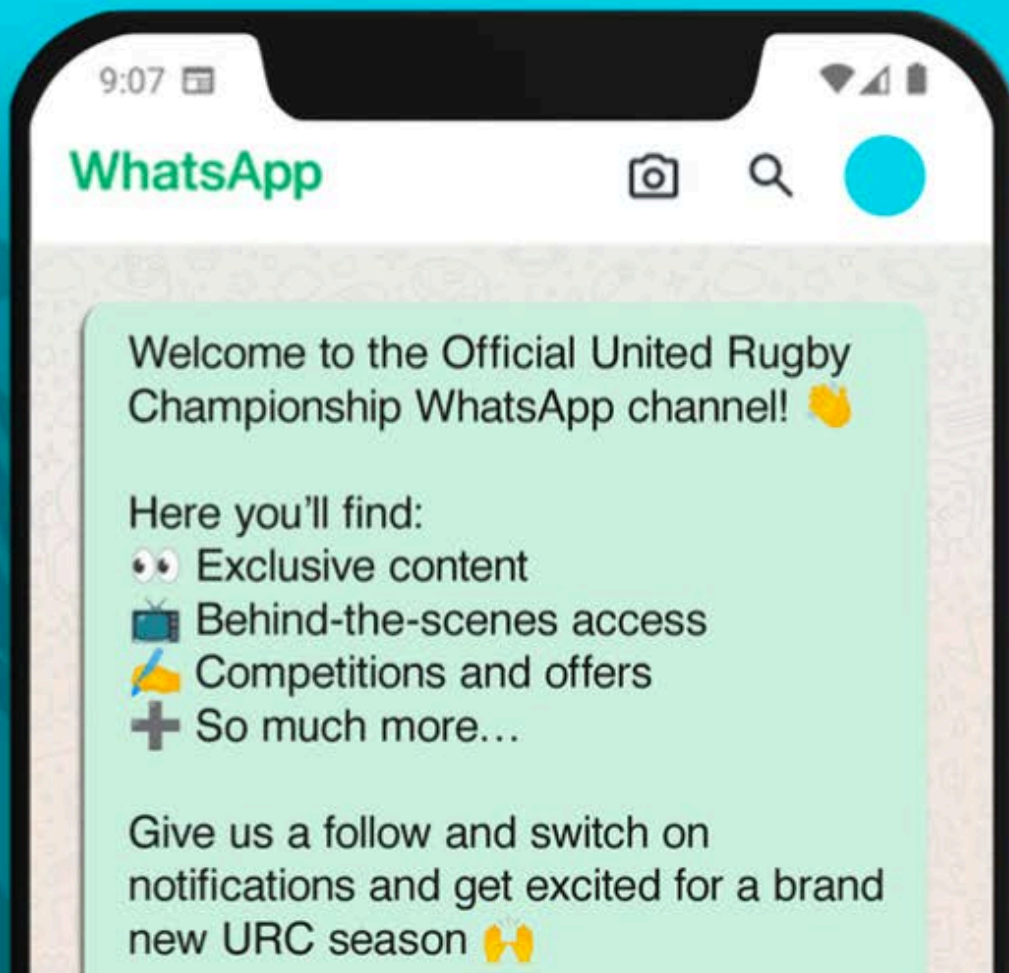


**A DECADE
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CHAMPIONSHIP

WHATSAPP CHANNEL



TEAM LINEUPS



EDINBURGH

- 15 PIERS O'CONOR
- 14 DARCY GRAHAM
- 13 MOSESE TUIPULOTU
- 12 FINDLAY THOMSON
- 11 MALELILI SATALA
- 10 ROSS THOMPSON
- 9 HECTOR PATTERSON

- 1 PIERRE SCHOEMAN
- 2 EWAN ASHMAN
- 3 OLLIE BLYTH-LAFFERTY
- 4 MARSHALL SYKES
- 5 GRANT GILCHRIST (C)
- 6 LIAM MCCONNELL
- 7 FREDDY DOUGLAS
- 8 CONNOR BOYLE

ZEBRE PARMA

- 15 JACOPO TRULLA
- 14 MALIK FAISSAL
- 13 LUCA MORISI
- 12 DAMIANO MAZZA
- 11 SIMONE GESI
- 10 GIOVANNI MONTEMAURI
- 9 ALESSANDRO FUSCO

- 1 PAOLO BUONFIGLIO
- 2 GIOVANNI QUATTRINI
- 3 ION NECULAI
- 4 MATTEO CANALI
- 5 ALESSANDRO ORTOMBINA
- 6 GIACOMO FERRARI
- 7 SAMUELE LOCATELLI
- 8 GIOVANNI LICATA

REPLACEMENTS

- 16 DYLAN RICHARDSON
- 17 BOAN VENTER
- 18 PAUL HILL
- 19 GLEN YOUNG
- 20 TOM CURRIE
- 21 BEN VELLACOTT
- 22 CAMMY SCOTT
- 23 JACK BROWN

REPLACEMENTS

- 16 SHILO KLEIN
- 17 MUHAMED HASA
- 18 MATTEO NOCERA
- 19 LEONARDO KRUMOV
- 20 JACOPO BIANCHI
- 21 THOMAS DOMINGUEZ
- 22 MARTIN ROGER FARIAS
- 23 ENRICO LUCCHIN



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MARSHALL SYKES

**'ALWAYS HERE, ALWAYS
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Scotland international lock Marshall Sykes has committed his future to the capital club, signing a new two-year deal that will keep him in Edinburgh until at least the summer of 2028.

Sykes, 26, starts in the second row for this Friday night's clash against Zebre Parma – a match that will mark his 95th appearance for the club, with the lock fast approaching becoming Edinburgh Rugby's 47th centurion.

A powerful, tireless presence in the engine room, Sykes has become one of the club's most dependable performers since making his first Edinburgh start against Dragons at the Principality Stadium in March 2021.

His all-time numbers tell their own story – and they are the numbers of a player who thrives in the unglamorous corners of the game.

786 tackles, 1,809 ruck hits, a 95.71% maul success rate and 91% of scrums won on own ball; statistics that rarely make the highlights reel but every teammate depends on.

MS



“The Scotland international – who made his Test debut against Tonga at Scottish Gas Murrayfield in October 2021 and has since earned eight caps, including his Six Nations bow away to France in March 2025 – has long been one of Edinburgh’s most influential figures in the capital pack.

On putting pen to paper, Sykes said: "Signing this deal was one of the easiest decisions I've ever had to make. Edinburgh is home, simple as that.

“My wife and I are so settled here, so happy in this city, and I can't imagine being anywhere else. This club means everything to me and I want to be the kind of player that Edinburgh fans look back on and say, 'He was always here, he always put his body on the line for us.'



"I've been here in the good times and I've been here in the harder times, and if anything that's made me more determined than ever to help turn things around. Playing under Sean [Everitt] has been great – his ambition for this club is clear and I'm excited about the direction he's taking us as a squad.



"I want to repay the faith the club has shown in me and I genuinely believe the best is still ahead of us."

Head Coach Sean Everitt added: "Marshall is one of the most important players in our squad and, honestly, one of the most underrated. Week in, week out, he puts in the kind of shift that wins matches – the tackles, the ruck hits, the set-piece contribution – and he does it with a consistency that is incredibly hard to find.

"At 26 he is just entering his prime as a lock forward, and by committing to Edinburgh for another two years he is putting himself in a real position to push for the international recognition his performances deserve.

"He gives everything every time he pulls on that jersey, and we are absolutely delighted to have him tied down for another two years."



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PATERSON VOTED SCOTTISH BUILDING SOCIETY PLAYER OF THE MONTH FOR MARCH



Edinburgh Rugby is delighted to announce that full-back Harry Paterson has been voted the Scottish Building Society Player of the Month for March.

Paterson takes home the award after picking up the most votes from supporters, having been in exceptional form throughout the month and providing a consistent attacking threat from the number 15 jersey.

The full-back was at his best in Edinburgh's comeback win over Scarlets, producing a moment of individual brilliance to clinch the bonus point victory. Spotting his opportunity, Paterson chased his own kick downfield before charging down the Scarlets full-back's clearance and pouncing on the ball to score a decisive try.

He backed that up the following week against Ulster, finishing with composure after gathering a perfectly-weighted dinked pass from Wes Goosen to hit the line and help Edinburgh into a first-half lead. Two tries in two games, and a bright spark throughout a demanding month.

Paterson has since picked up a quad injury while on tour in South Africa and is now working his way back to full fitness.

As part of the Scottish Building Society Player of the Month initiative, the club's Main Club Partner will donate £500 to each winner's chosen grassroots cause. Paterson has chosen for the donation to go to the youth set-up at Edinburgh Accies – the club where it all began for the Edinburgh full-back.

Paterson said: "First of all, a huge thank you to all the fans who took the time to vote for me – it genuinely means a lot. I'm really enjoying my rugby right now and feel like I'm in a good place with my game, so it's great to get that recognition from the supporters.

“It’s been frustrating to pick up an injury because I was feeling good and wanted to keep that momentum going. But I’m focused on getting back to full fitness as quickly as possible and contributing for the team again.

“I’m also really grateful to Scottish Building Society for the donation to Edinburgh Accies. That club means the world to me – it’s where I started out, where I developed my love for the game, and so many great people gave up their time to help me along the way. Giving something back to the youth set-up there means so much.”

Head Coach Sean Everitt said: “Harry has been outstanding for us this season and March was another example of just how important he is to the way we play. He’s a player who can change a game in an instant – as he showed against Scarlets, that try was a moment of real quality that only a player with his instinct and work rate would have produced.

“What people don’t always see is how much Harry puts into his game away from the headlines. His kicking has been exceptional – he gives us huge territory and tactical control – and his work rate throughout every game is relentless.

“It’s obviously disappointing to lose him to injury at the moment, but we know he’ll work incredibly hard to get back, and he’ll continue to be an player for us when he returns.”





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"WE OWE THE FANS – THESE FOUR GAMES MEAN EVERYTHING."



STEVIE LAWRIE

Forwards coach Stevie Lawrie has signed a new deal at Edinburgh Rugby – and with four URC fixtures remaining, he says the club's focus is simple: show up for the people who never stopped believing.

Stevie Lawrie has committed his future to Edinburgh Rugby, putting pen to paper on a new deal this week. But for the forwards coach, the contract announcement is secondary to what happens this Friday night against Zebre Parma – and across the three games that follow it.

"Everyone says we've got nothing to play for," Lawrie said. "No – we've got everything to play for. Because guess what? You've got people that have paid their money, paid their season tickets. They want to do well." It is a message he is delivering with conviction, and one that sets the tone for how Edinburgh will approach the final stretch of the season.

For Lawrie, the decision to stay was never really in doubt. "For me, the opportunity at Edinburgh is massive," he said. "It's my own club, I see a huge amount of potential. As much as we've been disappointed with how we've performed this season, there's no getting away from that – I see a lot of talent coming through in that pack in particular.

"It was an easy choice and an easy decision to extend. It's a challenge that I'm excited to go forth with."

PREVIEW

Lawrie's extension makes him the last remaining member of head coach Sean Everitt's original coaching staff, with both Brad Davis (Defence Coach) and Tim Sampson (Attack Coach) announced as joining the coaching team for 2026/27.

He is relishing the continuity – and the challenge of building something meaningful over the coming two seasons.

"I'm looking forward to the challenge over the next two years," he said. "In that pack we've got a number of guys that you've seen already come through this year – OBL, Liam, Freddy. I'm excited about the guys that we're bleeding and the guys that we've got moving forward. There's a lot of quality in that pack to work with."

If there was any doubt about Lawrie's loyalty to Edinburgh – and to the city itself – a trip to Tynecastle last weekend should settle the matter. With Edinburgh having no European Quarter-Final fixture to prepare for, Lawrie seized the opportunity to introduce Head Coach Sean Everitt to his other great love: Heart of Midlothian.

"I was at the Motherwell game at the weekend, it was epic," Lawrie grinned. "We were so bad but we made it, it was cool." The result, a nervy Hearts win, may not have been a classic – but it was enough to convert at least one new fan. "I took Sean and the other coaches as well," Lawrie confirmed. "He wants to go to the Rangers game now."

Whether Everitt's conversion to the maroon cause is complete remains to be seen, but for Lawrie it offered a rare moment of lightness in what has been a challenging season. A two-year extension signed. A Hearts win secured. Not a bad week.

here will be little time for sentimentality, however. This Friday, Edinburgh host Zebre Parma at Hive Stadium in what Lawrie is framing as far more than a dead-rubber end-of-season fixture.





With four URC games remaining, he is insistent that these matches carry enormous weight – not just for the standings, but for the character and identity of the club.

He is clear-eyed about what these final games represent beyond the table. With a clutch of young forwards pushing for prominence, the remaining fixtures offer a genuine proving ground – not just to show what Edinburgh's next generation can do, but to begin shaping the identity the club will carry into next season.

"The last four games are definitely an opportunity," Lawrie said. "Let's see our fight. Let's see our care for the club and see what growth we can show. What we've produced hasn't been good enough. If you keep doing the same stuff, you get the same results. I think it's quite an exciting challenge over the next four weeks to show that growth in our game model."

He revealed the coaching staff are also using this period to experiment, with changes being trialled in training around style and game model. "We're trying a few different things at training around style potentially as well," he said. "It gives us an opportunity to do that too."

Part of Lawrie's obvious enthusiasm for the road ahead is rooted in what he sees coming through the ranks. Asked to name the young forwards catching his eye, he rattled off a list with barely a pause – Jamie Stewart, Ewan McVie, Ollie Duncan, Tom Currie, Sam Byrd – before catching himself with a laugh, concerned he might leave someone out.

"There's a lot coming through," he said. "Part of the excitement for me is seeing these guys develop, seeing them move on to national honours – but also just playing bloody well for Edinburgh and winning for Edinburgh. That's what we're after."

Development, though, is not a free pass. Lawrie is unambiguous: the environment must demand excellence, not merely nurture potential. "You need both," he said. "At the end of the day, it's not a development team. You've got to get that balance right – and that's the focus for us moving forward."

For a coach who has seen Edinburgh through multiple eras – Richard Cockerill, Mike Blair, Steve Diamond, and now Sean Everitt – Lawrie knows better than most what this club is capable of, and what it still needs to find. He speaks candidly about the need for a clearer, more consistent identity: a relentless edge that opponents feel and supporters can believe in.

"The perception out there at the minute isn't as positive as we need to make it," he acknowledged. "It's because of how we're playing. We need to find that edge and call a spade a spade."

The next four games start here. Edinburgh vs Zebre Parma, Hive Stadium, this Friday night.



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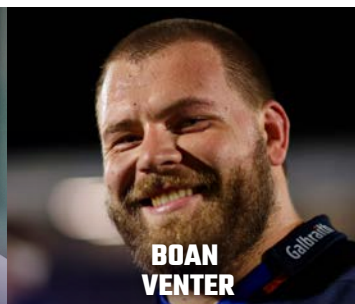


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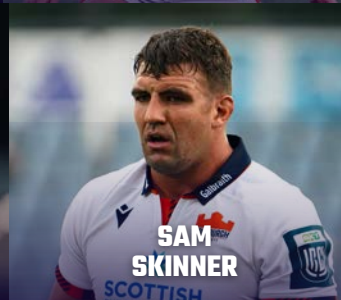
TIGHTHEAD



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LOCK



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BACK ROW



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BACK ROW



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WATSON

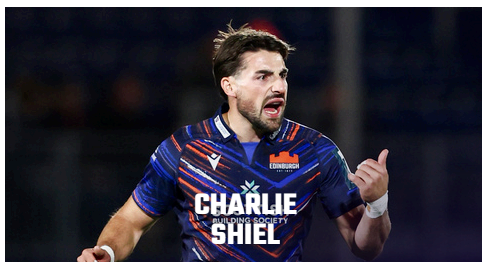


LIAM
MCCONNELL

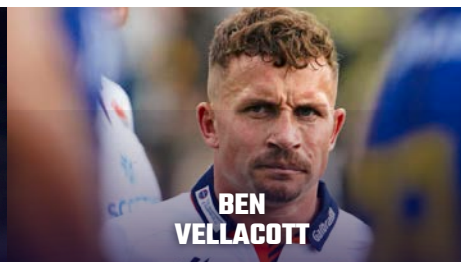


TOM
CURRIE

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'CONNOR



JAMES
LANG

BACK THREE



WES
GOOSEN



ROSS
MCCANN



HARRY
PATERSON



DARCY
GRAHAM



DUHAN
VAN DER MERWE



MALELILI
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

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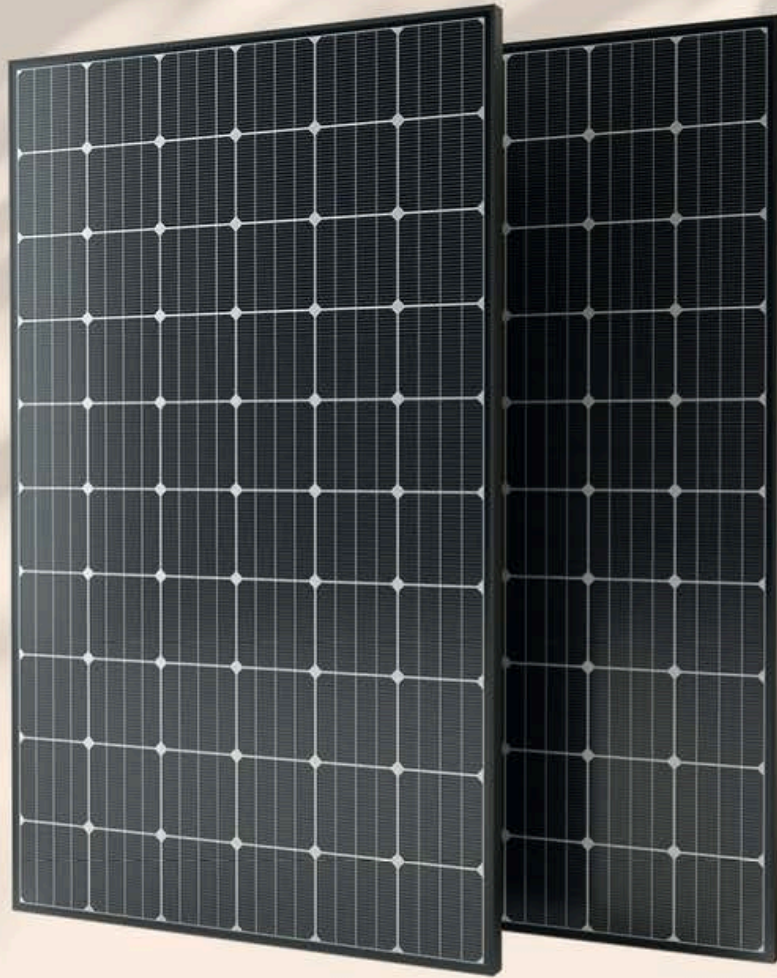
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Connor Boyle **Blind Korn**
Magnus Bradbury **No broke boys** Disco lines, tinashe
Jack Brown **That's the way I like it** KC and the sunshine band
Rob Carmichael **Funkytown** Lipps Inc.
Luke Crosbie **The Spark** Kabin Crew, Lisdoonvarna Crew
Matt 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
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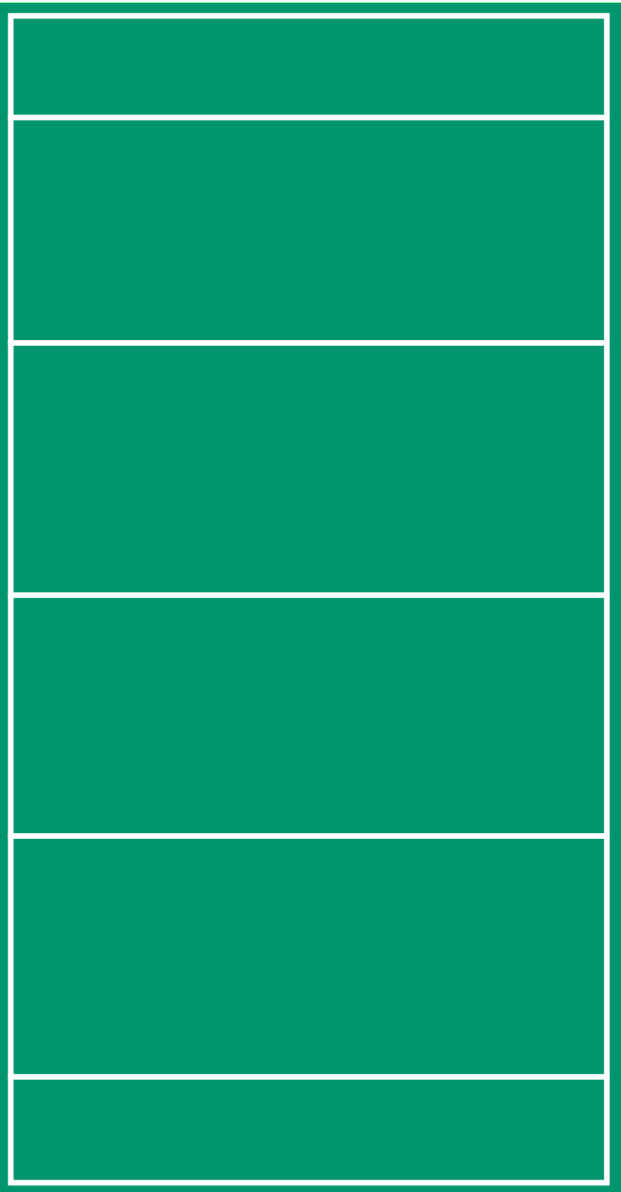
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TERRACE B

MURRAYFIELD STAND

STAIR 10-12
STAIR 14-16



STAIR 24-26

LOTHIAN STAND

TERRACE E
TERRACE D
TERRACE C



TERRACE C
TERRACE D
TERRACE E

STAIR 17-19

STAIR 20-23



STAIR 1-4

MAIN STAND

STAIR 5
STAIR 6-9



WHEELCHAIR TERRACE

STAIR 10-12

STAIR 14-16



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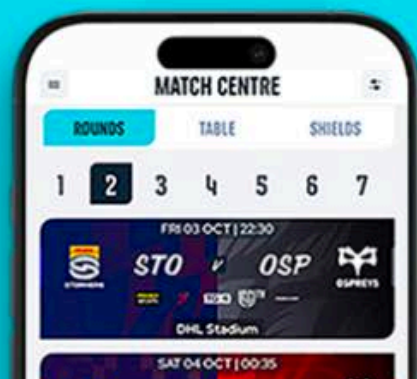
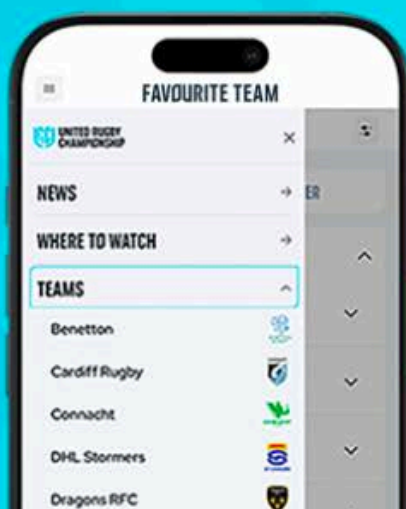
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YOUNG PLAYERS GET ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME LIONS EXPERIENCE AT HIVE STADIUM



Four grassroots clubs from across Scotland enjoyed an unforgettable day at Hive Stadium this week, as Edinburgh Rugby's annual Win a Training Session competition - sponsored by Main Club Partner Scottish Building Society - returned with its most exciting line-up yet.

Portobello Youth Rugby, Peebles Riots (girls section), SLM Reds (girls section) and Garioch RFC were the lucky winners this year, each earning their place at the home of Edinburgh Rugby.

The clubs were met by British & Irish Lions stars Darcy Graham and Ewan Ashman, alongside Edinburgh Rugby women's player and Scotland international Adelle Ferrie and senior men's player Rob Carmichael: four of the club's brightest names giving up their time to inspire the next generation.

The session got straight into the action, with each Edinburgh star leading their own skills-specific drill.

The young players were put through their paces by some of the game's best, soaking up knowledge and techniques they'll be able to take straight back to their clubs.

After working up a sweat, the groups gathered for a Q&A – a chance for the young players to put their questions directly to their heroes.

From Lions Test memories to training tips, the Edinburgh stars gave their time generously and brought real energy to every answer. The day rounded off with a selfie and signing session, giving each young player the chance to connect personally with the stars they look up to.

The occasion clearly left a lasting impression on the clubs that took part.



Melanie Doobie of SLM Reds said: “The Madras girls had such a brilliant experience training at The Hive.

“To be able to learn from Edinburgh and Scotland rugby players has given the girls a massive boost. They will remember this day for a long time. Thank you for the experience.”

Fiona Forsyth of Peebles Riots added: “Peebles girls had an absolute Riot at the Hive. To train on the same ground as Edinburgh games and Scotland Women’s games are played was so special for them. All the players were so engaging with the girls too. Something they will truly never forget.”

A huge thank you to our Main Club Partner Scottish Building Society for making Win a Training Session possible, and to Darcy, Ewan Adelle and Rob for giving the young players a day they’ll be talking about for years to come. Days like these are what grassroots rugby is all about.



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LAST TIME OUT

LEINSTER RUGBY 49 - 31 EDINBURGH RUGBY



Edinburgh exited the Investec Champions Cup despite a strong showing against Leinster at Aviva Stadium, ultimately losing out 49-31 in a 13-try blockbuster in Dublin.

When Tommy O'Brien scored two tries inside the opening ten minutes to propel the hosts into a 14-0 lead, it looked like it could be a long afternoon for Sean Everitt's side.

However, back they roared with two clinically taken tries. First, Charlie Shiel anticipated Tadhg Furlong's short ball to intercept and sear clear for the line.

Merely five minutes later, Ross Thompson manoeuvred his way to a quite incredible solo try, sending Jamison Gibson-Park to the floor before putting the burners on to evade the pacy Hugo Keenan.

The game continued to ebb and flow, with the sides trading two more tries each before the half ended. Grant Gilchrist was penalised somewhat harshly for not rolling away, and from the resultant lineout Jimmy O'Brien peeled off the maul for the whitewash.

Two-try Tommy O'Brien was the next to give Edinburgh a gift when his flat ball landed in the hands of Ross Thompson- who gleefully claimed his brace.

15. Piers O'Connor
14. Darcy Graham
13. Matt Currie
12. James Lang
11. Malelili Satala
10. Ross Thompson
9. Charlie Shiel

1. Pierre Schoeman
2. Ewan Ashman
3. D'arcy Rae
4. Marshall Sykes
5. Grant Gilchrist (C)
6. Liam McConnell
7. Dylan Richardson
8. Ben Muncaster

Replacements

16. Jerry Blyth-Lafferty
17. Boan Venter
18. Paul Hill
19. Glen Young
20. Freddy Douglas
21. Ben Vellacott
22. Mosese Tuipulotu
23. Jack Brown

As the game moved towards the break, Leinster thought they'd given themselves a seven-point interval lead when Hugo Keenan reaped the rewards of quick ruck ball by Gibson-Park.

The full back evaded Charlie Shiel and Malelili Satala with some slick footwork to the eruption of the Aviva. Their jubilation was silenced with the last play of the half when loane went beyond Byrne's attempted pass. Matt Currie wasn't complaining and galloped clear to make it a two-point game at the break [28-26].

Josh Van Der Flier thought he'd provided the dream start to the second half for the Irish side. A break by Sheehan gave Leinster the platform to attack, and although Edinburgh attempted to hold off the openside flanker with a maul, he broke out the other side to hit the turf. Upon review however, Luke Pearce and his TMO ruled out the score as Van Der Flier lost control of the ball in the grounding.



Instead it was Edinburgh who took the lead for the first time in the game just ten minutes later. The always dangerous Darcy Graham spotted space in the back-field, kicking and chasing expertly to burn away from Gibson-Park and dot down. A moment of brilliance from a man who is always capable of providing one.

The lead didn't last long. Four minutes later some ill-discipline cost Edinburgh territory with two infringements on the five-metre line in as many minutes. A tap and go from Sheehan was clean, and the second phase was deadly.

Denied just after the interval, Josh Van Der Flier was not to be denied on this occasion, and a topsy-turvy game swung once more.

Into the last quarter the game went, with just four points in it. Daylight on the board arrived in the 63rd minute for Leinster through substitute Thomas Clarkson after they created an overload in the left channel.

The influential loane offloaded to the prop, who bounced several tackles away en route to the line. loane himself compounded that blow two minutes later, selling Darcy Graham a theatrical dummy to buy a walk-in for 49-31.

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