

## ROUND 1 –PREVIEWS

An truly historic chapter will be written this weekend when the first-ever Guinness PRO14 season kicks off after the addition of the Toyota Cheetahs and the Southern Kings from South Africa.

As this world class Championship continues to raise the bar, the introduction of the Cheetahs and the Kings makes the Guinness PRO14 a global tournament. Round 1 also marks the first games played under the new Conference format which sees each team play home and away against clubs in their own Conference and then home OR away against the other Conference before two more rounds that ensure all derby games are played.

The Cheetahs will be the first team from South Africa to go up against 'northern' opposition when they travel to Kingspan Stadium on Friday night to face Ulster while the Kings face a daunting trip to Parc Y Scarlets where the men from Llanelli will play their first Championship game since winning the title at Aviva Stadium last May.

Once again, all roads will lead to Dublin for the 2018 Guinness PRO14 Final after Aviva Stadium won the race to host the first-ever Championship decider of the new 14-team era. It promises to be a sensational season with 21 regular rounds to decide who will reach the newly expanded Guinness PRO14 Final Series with six clubs qualifying.

## What's at Stake

There is plenty of intrigue surrounding the first fixtures of the season with Cardiff Blues and Edinburgh meeting at the Cardiff Arms Park. It will mark the PRO14 debut of Richard Cockerill as Edinburgh coach, but each team will believe that they have ground to make up for and make a challenge to finish in the Top 3 of their respective Conferences. Former Leicester boss Cockerill will have high hopes for the Scots, but Blues got off to a fast start last season and Danny Wilson will be aiming for more of the same this year.

That game is one of three inter-conference fixtures with Ulster hosting Cheetahs and Munster welcoming Benetton Rugby to Cork's Irish Independent Park. Benetton have recruited smartly during the off-season and much will be expected from coach Kieran Crowley in his second year with the Italian team.

Elsewhere, Ospreys welcome Zebre Rugby Club to Swansea in a repeat of last season's opening round fixture. Zebre's new coach Michael Bradley will be looking to his side to leave Wales with more than they had to show for last year as they Parma-based outfit kick off their first campaign under the guidance of the Italian Federation.

Not far from Liberty Stadium, Scarlets will play their first match as defending Champions against the Kings while in Newport the Bernard Jackman era begins at Dragons where they will welcome their head coach's old team Leinster. Meanwhile, in Galway the 2015 Champions will take on the 2016 title winners when Kieran Keane and Dave Rennie (former Super Rugby coaches from the Chiefs) go head-to-head as they take charge of their new teams for the first time.

## Pick of the Round

## Ulster Rugby v Toyota Cheetahs

A packed house is expected at Kingspan Stadium where Les Kiss and his Ulster side will be the first team from the northern hemisphere to take on South African opposition. The hosts are no strangers to welcoming South Africans with players like Johann Muller, Ruan Pienaar and Franco van der Merwe all becoming folk heroes at Ulster.

The game will also mark the arrival of Australian international Christian Lealiifano who has signed on a short-term deal to provide cover at out-half. For the visitors, head coach Rory Duncan has assembled a strong squad for the Cheetahs' trip to Ireland which also sees them travel to Limerick to face Munster in Round 2. The men from Bloemfontein are buoyed by their entry into the Guinness PRO14 and hope to transfer that energy into their opening performances.

## GUINNESS PRO14 CONFERENCES

### CONFERENCE A

Cardiff Blues, Toyota Cheetahs, Connacht Rugby, Glasgow Warriors, Munster Rugby, Ospreys Rugby, Zebre Rugby Club.

### CONFERENCE B

Benetton Rugby, Dragons, Edinburgh Rugby, Southern Kings, Leinster Rugby, Scarlets, Ulster Rugby.

Round 1: 1 & 2 Sept 2017

Friday 1 September

## CARDIFF BLUES v EDINBURGH RUGBY

At Cardiff Arms Park, 7.35pm

Live on



Referee: George Clancy (90<sup>th</sup> competition game)

Assistant Referees: Nigel Correll (IRFU), Adam Jones (WRU)

Citing Commissioner: John Charles (WRU)

TMO: Brian MacNeice (IRFU)

### HEAD TO HEAD - RECENT GUINNESS PRO12 MEETINGS

Date	Venue	C	E	Cardiff Blues scorers	Edinburgh Rugby scorers
Sun 23 Nov 14	BT Murrayfield	13	28	Gareth Davies(C/2P) Adam Thomas(T)	Tom Brown(T) Dougie Fife(T) Tom Heathcote(2C/3P) Andries Strauss(T)
Sun 1 Mar 15	Cardiff Arms Park	21	15	Rhys Patchell(T/3C) Ellis Jenkins(T) Lloyd Williams(T)	Tom Heathcote(C/P) Roddy Grant(T) Tim Visser(T)
Sat 30 Jan 16	Cardiff Arms Park	10	3	Rhys Patchell(C/P) Dan Fish(T)	Nathan Fowles(P)
Sat 7 May 16	BT Murrayfield	21	17	Rey Lee-Lo(T) Gareth Anscombe(3C) Cam Dolan(T) Garyn Smith(T)	Tom Brown(T) Matt Scott(T) Jason Tovey(C) Hamish Watson(T)
Sat 3 Sep 16	Cardiff Arms Park	34	16	Gareth Anscombe(2C) Tomos Williams(T) Steve Shingler(T/2C/2P) Nick Williams(T) Penalty Try(T)	Duncan Weir(C/3P) Junior Rasolea(T)
Fri 24 Feb 17	Myreside	18	17	Sion Bennett(T) Steve Shingler(C/2P) Lloyd Williams(T)	Rory Scholes(2T) Neil Cochrane(T) Sam Hidalgo-Clyne(C)

### Overall Guinness PRO14 head to head record:

Played 28, Cardiff Blues won 18, Edinburgh Rugby won 10.

### Did you know?

- Cardiff Blues finished in 7<sup>th</sup> place in the Guinness PRO12 last season and were unbeaten in the last four rounds.
- Blues only defeat in their last five encounters against Scottish opponents was 15-29 to Glasgow Warriors in round 13 last season, whilst the last Scottish side to have won at the Arms Park was also the Warriors, in November 2015.
- Blues only defeat in round 1 since 2009 came when they visited Glasgow in 2013.
- Edinburgh Rugby head coach Richard Cockerill takes charge of his first PRO14 encounter after recent spells as head coach in the English Premiership and France's Top-14.
- Edinburgh concluded the 2016/17 campaign with a pair of victories over Dragons and Glasgow – with the Dragons win being their first over a Welsh Region for six matches.
- The Welshmen have won their last five fixtures against Edinburgh whilst their only reversal in their last nine encounters came at BT Murrayfield in November 2014.
- Blues beat Edinburgh 34-16 at the Arms Park in round 1 last year.

COMPARISON	Cardiff Blues	Edinburgh
<b>Last 3 PRO12 results:</b>	15 Apr - Ospreys (H) W 35-17 28 Apr - Zebre (H) W 30-24 6 May - Dragons (A) W 26-24	15 Apr - Treviso (A) L 6-21 28 Apr - Dragons (H) W 24-20 6 May - Glasgow (A) W 29-18
<b>PRO12 2016/17</b>	7th – W11 D1 L10 - 53pts	9th – W6 D0 L16 - 31pts
<b>Last 6 PRO12 form</b>	LldWWW	LlLlWw
<b>Top try scorer</b>	6 - Tom James	6 – Damien Hoyland
<b>Top points scorer</b>	128 - Steve Shingler	116 - Duncan Weir

Round 1: 1 & 2 Sept 2017

Friday 1 September

## MUNSTER RUGBY v BENETTON RUGBY

At Irish Independent Park, Cork, 7.35pm. *Live on* **TG4**

Referee: Ian Davies (WRU, 65<sup>th</sup> competition game)

Assistant Referees: Craig Evans (WRU) Gary Conway (IRFU)

Citing Commissioner: Eddie Walsh (IRFU)

TMO: Neil Hennessy (WRU)

### HEAD TO HEAD - RECENT GUINNESS PRO12 MEETINGS

Date	Venue	M	B	Munster scorers	Benetton Rugby scorers
Fri 12 Sep 14	Stadio Monigo	21	10	CJ Stander(T) Ian Keatley(C/3P) Simon Zebo(T)	Joe Carlisle(C/P) Simone Ragusi(T)
Sat 25 Apr 15	Irish Independent Park	30	19	CJ Stander(T) Ian Keatley(2C/2P) Tommy O'Donnell(T) Penalty Try(T) Simon Zebo(T)	Jayden Hayward(2C) Mat Luamanu(T) Simone Ragusi(T) Andrea Praticchetti(T)
Sat 5 Sep 15	Irish Independent Park	18	13	CJ Stander(2T) Ian Keatley(C/2P)	Jayden Hayward(C/2P) Dean Budd(T)
Sun 28 Feb 16	Stadio Monigo	16	13	Ian Keatley(2P) Gerhard van den Heever(T) Francis Saili(T)	Robert Barbieri(T) Jayden Hayward(C/2P)
Sat 26 Nov 16	Thomond Park	46	3	Darren O'Shea(T) Andrew Conway(2T) Tyler Bleyendaal(3C/P) Ronan O'Mahony(2T) Robin Copeland(T) Ian Keatley(C) Alex Wootton(T)	Ian McKinley(P)
Sat 29 Apr 17	Stadio Monigo	34	14	Jack O'Donoghue(T) Darren Sweetnam(2T) Tyler Bleyendaal(3C/P) Alex Wootton(T) Simon Zebo(T)	David Odiete(T) Ian McKinley(C) Jean-Francois Montauriol(T) Tito Tebaldi(C)

### Overall Guinness PRO14 head to head record:

Played 14, Munster won 11, Benetton Rugby won 3.

### Did you know?

- Munster Rugby topped the Guinness PRO12 table last season but were beaten in the final in Dublin by Scarlets.
- Munster have lost just once on the opening weekend since 2009, and that by a single point to Edinburgh in Limerick in 2014.
- Munster's only defeat in their last 15 home games in all competitions was 21-30 to Scarlets in Limerick in February whilst the Munstermen have lost just twice in Cork since 2013, against Ospreys and Cardiff Blues in 2016.
- Benetton Rugby finished in 10<sup>th</sup> spot last season with wins in three of the last five rounds.
- Benetton beat Zebre 19-3 in Parma in round 22 – their first away win in the Championship since a visit to the same venue in December 2014.
- The Italians have not been victorious in their round 1 fixture since beating Ospreys in Treviso in 2012.
- Munster have won their last nine fixtures against Benetton in all tournaments with the Italians most recent victory being 29-19 in Treviso in September 2013.

COMPARISON	Munster	Benetton Rugby
<b>Last 3 PRO12 results:</b>	6 May - Connacht (H) W 50-14	15 Apr - Edinburgh (H) W 21-6
	20 May (SF) - Ospreys (H) W 23-3	29 Apr - Munster (H) L 14-34
	27 May (final) - Scarlets L 22-46	6 May - Zebre (A) W 19-3
<b>PRO12 2016/17</b>	1st - W19 D0 L3 - 86pts	10th – W5 D0 L17 - 23pts
<b>Last 6 PRO12 form</b>	WWWW - WI	IWIWLw
<b>Top try scorer</b>	9 - Ronan O'Mahony, Andrew Conway	4 - Dean Budd, Marco Fuser
<b>Top points scorer</b>	144 - Tyler Bleyendaal	66 - Tommaso Allan

Friday 1 September

## ULSTER RUGBY v TOYOTA CHEETAHS

At Kingspan Stadium, Belfast, 7.35pm.

Live on **BBC SPORT NI**

Referee: Andrew Brace (IRFU, 24<sup>th</sup> competition game)

Assistant Referees: Simon Rees (WRU), Leo Colgan (IRFU)

Citing Commissioner: Eugene Ryan (IRFU)

TMO: Jon Mason (WRU)

### Overall Guinness PRO14 head to head record:

First PRO14 meeting between the two teams.

### Did you know?

- Ulster Rugby finished last season in 5<sup>th</sup> place, their victory at home to Leinster in round 22 not being enough to make it through to the semi-finals.
- The Ulstermen have lost just once at Kingspan Stadium in the Guinness PRO12 since February 2016, and that by a single point to Munster in round 7 last season.
- Ulster have lost just once on the opening weekend of the PRO12 since 2009 when they visited Dragons in 2013.
- Toyota Cheetahs will become the first southern hemisphere side ever to take part in the Championship.
- Cheetahs recently participated in the Super Rugby competition, winning two of their last three matches, against the Sunwolves in Tokyo and fellow PRO14 newcomers, Southern Kings in Port Elizabeth. They have not won three successive away games since 2013.
- The two teams have never met before.

COMPARISON	Ulster	Cheetahs (in Super Rugby)
Last 3 PRO12 results:	15 Apr - Munster (A) L 20-22	27 May - Sunwolves (A) W 47-7
	29 Apr - Ospreys (A) L 10-24	1 Jul - Stormers (H) L 34-40
	6 May - Leinster (H) W 17-13	14 Jul - Southern Kings (A) W 21-20
PRO12 2016/17	5th - W14 D1 L7 - 68pts	3rd - W4 D0 L11 - 21pts
Last 6 PRO12 form	WwDIW	Llwlw
Top try scorer	9 - Jacob Stockdale	6 - Raymond Rhule
Top points scorer	106 - Paddy Jackson	108 - Fred Zeilinga

Round 1: 1 & 2 Sept 2017

Saturday 2 September

## CONNACHT RUGBY v GLASGOW WARRIORS

At Sportsground, Galway, 7.35pm.

Live on



Referee: Ben Whitehouse (WRU, 34<sup>th</sup> competition game)

Assistant Referees: Dan Jones (WRU), Stuart Gaffikin (IRFU)

Citing Commissioner: Tim Lowry (IRFU)

TMO: Peter Ferguson (IRFU)

### HEAD TO HEAD - RECENT GUINNESS PRO12 MEETINGS

Date	Venue	C	G	Connacht scorers	Glasgow Warriors scorers
Sat 25 Apr 15	Sportsground	13	31	Jack Carty(C/2P) Aly Muldowney(T)	Stuart Hogg(T) Finn Russell(3C) Adam Ashe(T) Nikola Matawalu(2T) Tommy Seymour(T)
Fri 11 Sep 15	Scotstoun Stadium	32	33	Danie Poolman(T) Nepia Fox-Matamua(T) John Cooney(T) Jack Carty(3C/2P) Penalty Try(T)	Glenn Bryce(T) Rob Harley(T) Rory Clegg(3C/4P) Scott Cummings(T)
Sat 7 May 16	Sportsground	14	7	Tiernan O'Halloran(T) AJ MacGinty(C) Shane O'Leary(C) Bunde Aki(T)	Gordon Reid(T) Finn Russell(C)
Sat 21 May 16	Sportsground (SF)	16"	11	AJ MacGinty(C/3P) Niyi Adeolokun(T)	Duncan Weir(2P) Leone Nakarawa(T)
Sat 3 Sep 16	Sportsground	5	41	Niyi Adeolokun(T)	Henry Pyrgos(3C/P) Stuart Hogg(T) Sila Puafisi(T) Rory Clegg(C) Tim Swinson(T) Tommy Seymour(2T) Sean Lamont(T)
Sat 25 Mar 17	Scotstoun Stadium	24	35	John Cooney(P) Niyi Adeolokun(T) John Muldoon(T) Craig Ronaldson(C/3P)	Pete Horne(P) Ali Price(T) Finn Russell(T/3C/2P) Corey Flynn(T) Sean Lamont(T)

### Overall Guinness PRO14 head to head record:

Played 31 Connacht won 9, Warriors won 19 with 3 games drawn.

### Did you know?

- Head coach, New Zealander, Kieran Keane, takes over the mantle from Pat Lam at Connacht .
- Connacht's only victory in the last six rounds last season was 22-19 in Edinburgh on 7<sup>th</sup> April.
- Connacht were defeated 5-41 at home to Glasgow Warriors in round 1 last year to end a run of three opening weekend victories.
- New Zealander Dave Rennie takes over as head coach from Gregor Townsend after being in charge at the Chiefs in Waikato since 2012.
- Glasgow Warriors finished in 6<sup>th</sup> place in the table last season but gained just one win in the last four rounds – against Zebre at Scotstoun on 14 April.
- Warriors have not won away from home since beating Leicester Tigers 43-0 in the European Champions Cup at Welford Road in January, whilst their only victory over an Irish opponent since last September was at home to Connacht in March.
- The Scotsmen have lost just once on the opening weekend since 2012 – at home to Scarlets in 2015.
- Connacht have beaten Glasgow just twice in their last 13 encounters since 2011, and both of those were in successive matches in Galway in May 2016 in round 22 and the semi-final.

COMPARISON	Connacht	Glasgow Warriors
<b>Last 3 PRO12 results:</b>	15 Apr - Leinster (H) L 24-37	14 Apr - Zebre (H) W 45-10
	29 Apr - Scarlets (H) L 8-30	28 Apr - Leinster (A) L 30-31
	6 May - Munster (A) L 14-50	6 May - Edinburgh (H) L 18-29
<b>PRO12 2016/17</b>	8th - W9 D0 L13 - 44pts	6th - W11 D0 L11 - 58pts
<b>Last 6 PRO12 form</b>	llwLLl	WWIWIL
<b>Top try scorer</b>	6 - Niyi Adeolokun	8 - Tommy Seymour
<b>Top points scorer</b>	73 – Craig Ronaldson	84 - Finn Russell

Round 1: 1 & 2 Sept 2017

Saturday 2 September

## DRAGONS v LEINSTER RUGBY

At Rodney Parade, Newport, 3.15pm.

Live on



Referee: Mike Adamson (SRU, 9<sup>th</sup> competition game)

Assistant Referees: Lloyd Linton (SRU), Stuart Kibble (WRU)

Citing Commissioner: Aurwel Morgan (WRU)

TMO: Neil Paterson (SRU)

### HEAD TO HEAD - RECENT GUINNESS PRO12 MEETINGS

Date	Venue	D	L	Dragons scorers	Leinster scorers
Sun 15 Feb 15	RDS Arena	16	14	Pat Leach(T) Tom Prydie(C/3P)	Jimmy Gopperth(3P) Dave Kearney(T)
Sun 12 Apr 15	Rodney Parade	25	22	Jack Dixon(T) James Benjamin(2T) Jason Tovey(C/P) T.Rhys Thomas(T)	Ben Te'o(2T) Jimmy Gopperth(T/2C/P)
Sat 3 Oct 15	RDS Arena	13	37	Jason Tovey(C/2P) Sarel Pretorius(T)	Cathal Marsh(T) Garry Ringrose(T) Fergus McFadden(3C/3P) Isa Nacewa(2T/C)
Fri 29 Jan 16	Rodney Parade	23	13	Jason Tovey(T/2C/D/2P) Ashton Hewitt(T)	Fergus McFadden(C/2P) Luke McGrath(T)
Sat 3 Dec 16	RDS Arena	15	28	Angus O'Brien(C/P) Pat Howard(T) Sarel Pretorius(T)	Jack Conan(T) Peter Dooley(T) Joey Carbery(T) Ross Molony(T) Isa Nacewa(4C)
Fri 24 Feb 17	Rodney Parade	22	54	Matthew Screech(T) Dorian Jones(2C/P) Adam Hughes(T) Sarel Pretorius(T)	Jack Conan(2T) Ross Byrne(7C) James Tracy(T) Jamison Gibson-Park(T) Luke McGrath(2T) Ross Molony(T) Hayden Triggs(T)

### Overall Guinness PRO14 head to head record:

Played 28, Dragons won 9, Leinster won 19.

### Did you know?

- Bernard Jackman takes charge of his first Guinness PRO14 encounter having played exactly 100 games in the tournament for Connacht and Leinster between 2003 and 2010.
- The Welshmen have not been victorious in the Championship since beating Benetton on 6 January.
- Dragons have not won on the opening weekend since they beat Ulster at Rodney Parade in 2013.
- Dragons won only one game against an Irish Province last season – at home to Connacht in round 8.
- Leinster finished off the 2016/17 Guinness PRO12 campaign with a defeat at Ulster in round 22 and a loss to eventual champions, Scarlets, at the RDS in the semi-finals.
- The Leinstermen have won on four of their last five visits to Wales, only succumbing to Scarlets at Parc y Scarlets in November.
- Leinster have only started a Championship campaign with a victory twice in the last nine years – in Llanelli in 2013 and at home to Benetton last year.
- The last six meetings between the two sides have been evenly shared with three wins each, but Leinster did win at Rodney Parade in round 16 last season.

COMPARISON	Dragons	Leinster
<b>Last 3 PRO12 results:</b>	15 Apr - Scarlets (H) L 16-21	28 Apr – Glasgow (H) W 31-30
	28 Apr – Edinburgh (A) L 20-24	6 May - Ulster (A) L 13-17
	6 May – Cardiff Blues (H) L 24-26	19 May (SF) - Scarlets (H) L 15-27
<b>PRO12 2016/17</b>	11th - W4 D0 L18 - 23pts	2nd - W18 D0 L4 - 85pts
<b>Last 6 PRO12 form</b>	ILILIL	WwwWI - L
<b>Top try scorer</b>	5 - Pat Howard	8 - Joey Carbery, Rory O'Loughlin
<b>Top points scorer</b>	131 - Angus O'Brien	90 - Isa Nacewa

Round 1: 1 & 2 Sept 2017

Saturday 2 September

## OSPREYS RUGBY v ZEBRE RUGBY

At Liberty Stadium, Swansea, 2.30pm.

Referee: Quinton Immelman (SARU, competition debut)

Assistant Referees: Stuart Berry (SARU), Robert Price (WRU)

Citing Commissioner: Gwyn Bowden (WRU)

### HEAD TO HEAD - RECENT GUINNESS PRO12 MEETINGS

Date	Venue	O	Z	Ospreys scorers	Zebre scorers
Fri 3 Oct 14	Stadio Sergio Lanfranchi	15	14	Sam Davies(5P)	Giulio Bisegni(T) Gonzalo Garcia(3P)
Sat 28 Mar 15	Liberty Stadium	53	22	Sam Davies(5C/2P) Dan Baker(2T) Scott Baldwin(T) Dan Biggar(C) Josh Matavesi(T) Hanno Dirksen(T) Penalty Try(T) Rhys Webb(T)	Alberto Chillon(T) Dion Berryman(T) Gonzalo Garcia(P) Giulio Toniolatti(T) Mirco Bergamasco(2C)
Sat 7 Nov 15	Liberty Stadium	36	3	Sam Davies(C) Dan Biggar(2C) Josh Matavesi(T) Sam Parry(T) Justin Tipuric(T) Eli Walker(2T) Jonathan Spratt(T)	Carlo Canna(P)
Sun 6 Dec 15	Stadio Sergio Lanfranchi	39	22	Sam Davies(4C/2P) Jeff Hassler(T) Justin Tipuric(2T) Eli Walker(T) Jonathan Spratt(T)	Edoardo Padovani(C) Marcello Violi(T/C) Carlo Canna(P) Kayle van Zyl(2T)
Fri 2 Sep 16	Liberty Stadium	59	5	Dafydd Howells(T) Sam Davies(8C/P) Ashley Beck(T) Ben John(2T) Sam Parry(3T) Lloyd Ashley(T)	Tommaso d'Apice(T)
Fri 10 Feb 17	Stadio Sergio Lanfranchi	40	10	Dafydd Howells(T) Luke Price(5C) Ashley Beck(T) Sam Parry(T) Dan Evans(3T)	Guglielmo Palazzani(C/P) Tommaso Boni(T)

### Overall Guinness PRO14 head to head record:

Played 10, Ospreys won 9, Zebre won 1.

### Did you know?

- Quinton Immelman becomes only the second South African referee to take charge of a Championship encounter – the other being Jonathan Kaplan with three games between 2005-2008.
- Ospreys finished in fourth place in the table last season despite gaining only one victory in the last five rounds : 24-10 at home to Ulster in round 21.
- The Welshmen lost their most recent match against an Italian opponent, 5-13 in Treviso in March, to end a run of eleven successive Championship wins against teams from Italy.
- Michael Bradley takes charge of his third PRO Rugby side having previously been at the helm at Connacht from 2003-2010 and Edinburgh from 2011-2013.
- Zebre's two most recent victories in Guinness PRO14 play both came in Parma in April, against Connacht and Dragons.
- Zebre's only away victory in the Championship last season was 19-14 against Edinburgh at BT Murrayfield on 28 October.
- Zebre's only previous victory over Ospreys was 30-27 in Parma in May 2014, whilst their solitary victory in Wales came on a trip to Cardiff in September 2013.
- Ospreys beat Zebre 59-5 at Liberty Stadium exactly 12 months ago in the opening round in 2016/17.

COMPARISON	Ospreys	Zebre
Last 3 PRO12 results:	29 Apr - Ulster (H) W 24-10	14 Apr - Glasgow (A) L 10-45
	6 May - Scarlets (A) L 17-40	28 Apr - Cardiff Blues (A) L 24-30
	20 May (SF) - Munster (A) L 3-23	6 May - Treviso (H) L 3-19
PRO12 2016/17	4th - W14 D0 L8 - 69pts	12th - W3 D0 L19 - 19pts
Last 6 PRO12 form	ILIWI - I	LWWIIL
Top try scorer	7 - Keelan Giles	5 - Dries van Schalkwyk
Top points scorer	106 - Sam Davies	93 - Carlo Canna

Saturday 2 September

## SCARLETS v SOUTHERN KINGS

At Parc y Scarlets, 5.30pm.

Live on



Referee: Frank Murphy (IRFU, 6<sup>th</sup> competition game)

Assistant Referees: Sean Gallagher (IRFU), Wayne Davies (WRU)

Citing Commissioner: Dennis Jones (WRU)

TMO: Olly Hodges (IRFU)

### Overall Guinness PRO14 head to head record:

First PRO14 meeting between the two teams.

### Did you know?

- Scarlets, the reigning Guinness PRO12 Champions, concluded last season with seven straight victories including the final against Munster at the Aviva Stadium in Dublin.
- The Welshmen have not lost at Parc y Scarlets in the Championship since the opening round last season when Munster were the visitors.
- Southern Kings make their debut in the Championship and play only the second competition game in their history in the northern hemisphere, the other was only just north of the equator in Singapore against Japanese Super Rugby franchise, the Sunwolves, winning 37-23 in March 2017.
- Southern Kings ended their recent Super Rugby campaign with two victories in the last three rounds, both away from home, with identical scorelines: 31-30 against the Jaguares in Buenos Aires and the Bulls in Pretoria.
- The two sides have never met before.

COMPARISON	Scarlets	Southern Kings (in Super Rugby)
<b>Last 3 PRO12 results:</b>	6 May - Ospreys (H) W 40-17	30 Jun - Jaguares (A) W 31-30
	19 May (SF) - Leinster (A) W 27-15	8 Jul - Bulls (A) W 31-30
	27 May (final) - Munster W 46-22	14 Jul - Cheetahs (H) L 20-21
<b>PRO12 2016/17</b>	3rd - W17 D0 L5 - 77pts	4th - W6 D0 L9 - 28pts
<b>Last 6 PRO12 form</b>	WwwW - ww	WLLwwL
<b>Top try scorer</b>	13 - Steffan Evans	11 - Makazole Mapimpi
<b>Top points scorer</b>	145 - Rhys Patchell	136 - Lionel Cronje