

## ROUND 1 – PREVIEWS

The Guinness PRO14 returns to action as a new broadcast era begins for the Championship with Premier Sports, eir sport and DAZN joining SuperSport, S4C and TG4 in bringing fans right to the heart of the action. The Guinness PRO14 is proud to deliver some of the most exciting rugby in the club game thanks to the Championship's naturally fast play, incredible breakdown battles and the sharp wits of the men in the coaches' boxes.

For the opening weekend of action games will take place in across three countries – Italy, Ireland and Wales – with plenty of eye-catching match-ups for fans to feast on now that every game will be broadcast live in the UK by Premier Sports and Free Sports.

The season may only be beginning but all sides will have their hopes on reaching the Guinness PRO14 Final on May 25 which will take place at Celtic Park in Glasgow – the first time the showpiece decider will be played outside of a rugby venue. However, fans can book their places now by visiting [bitly.com/Glasgow2019](http://bitly.com/Glasgow2019) to get their hands on the best seats available.

## What's at Stake

On Friday night Richard Cockerill takes his **Edinburgh** team to Liberty Stadium to face **Ospreys** (live on Premier Sports 2, 19:35). Edinburgh reached the Guinness PRO14 Final Series for the first time last season and have lost just once on the opening weekend since 2013, however, they have not beaten the four-time champions in Swansea since 2009.

The first game of the season in Italy takes place in Parma where **Zebre Rugby Club** play host to the newly christened **Isuzu Southern Kings** at the Stadio Sergio Lanfranchi (live on DAZN, SuperSport 1 20:35 & Free Sports 19:35). Coached by Michael Bradley, the hosts claimed their highest total of wins last season (7) but face a reinvigorated Kings team eager to set new standards.

Saturday's first game of the day takes place at The Sportsground in Galway where Andy Friend takes charge of **Connacht** for the first time against **Glasgow Warriors** (live on TG4, eir sport 2 & Premier Sports 1, 15:00). It's a meeting of the 2015 and 2016 champions and the third season in a row that they have met on the opening weekend with Warriors twice leaving as victors.

Following the action in Galway, the **Toyota Cheetahs** first game of the season comes against **Munster** at Thomond Park (live on eir sport 1, Premier Sports 2, 17:15 & SuperSport 1, 18:15). Munster are coached by South African Johann van Graan and were one of the few teams to beat the Cheetahs in Bloemfontein last season, however, the visitors will be eager to avoid a repeat of their heavy loss here in Round 2 in 2017.

At Kingspan Stadium **Ulster** face **Scarlets** with their new head coach Dan McFarland in charge for the first time (live on Premier Sports 1, eir sport 2 & S4C, 17:15). Scarlets, who lost six times to Irish opposition last season, face an Ulster team who have only ever lost once in the opening round of the Championship, but with title aspirations on their minds the Welsh region will want to buck the trend in Belfast.

**Dragons** open up their campaign at Rodney Parade against **Benetton Rugby** with the Italians fresh from record number of wins (11) last season (live on Premier Sports 1, eir sport 2 & DAZN). Head coach Bernard Jackman has brought in a number of new signings while Kieran Crowley has consolidated at Benetton and should have aspirations to challenge for the Guinness PRO14 Final Series this season.

## Pick of the Round

## Cardiff Blues v Leinster

It is the clash of European champions as the Challenge Cup winners host the Champions Cup holders in the heart of the Welsh capital. **Cardiff Blues** enter the season buoyed with optimism as they face a **Leinster** team that arrives off the back of a Guinness PRO14 and European Cup double (live on Premier Sports 1, eir sport 1 & 2, TG4). The Blues begin the season with Australian John Mulvihill in charge and he will immediately aim to record his side's first win over Leinster since 2011 while the visitors are also without a road win in four games.

There will be fresh talent on the pitch, too, with Cardiff Blues having signed the powerful USA international Samu Manoa during the summer while Leinster replaced retired captain Isa Nacewa with Australian international Joe Tommane.

## Friday 31 August

### CARDIFF BLUES v LEINSTER RUGBY

At Cardiff Arms Park, 7.35pm

Referee: Nigel Owens (WRU, 167<sup>th</sup> competition game)

Assistant Referees: Ben Whitehouse, Gwyn Morris (both WRU)

Citing Commissioner: Paul Thomas (WRU)

TMO: Jon Mason (WRU)

Live on

**PREMIER SPORTS**



#### HEAD TO HEAD - RECENT CHAMPIONSHIP MEETINGS

Date	Venue	C	L	Cardiff Blues scorers	Leinster scorers
Sat 10 Jan 15	Cardiff Arms Park	13	22	Gareth Anscombe(C/2P) Manoa Vosawai(T)	Noel Reid(T) Tadhg Furlong(T) Jimmy Gopperth(T/C) Luke McGrath(T)
Sat 12 Sep 15	RDS Arena	15	23	Rhys Patchell(5P)	Jack Conan(T) Penalty Try(T) Isa Nacewa(2C/3P)
Sat 20 Feb 16	Cardiff Arms Park	13	14	Gareth Anscombe(2P) Rhys Patchell(C) Josh Navidi(T)	Ian Madigan(3P) Isa Nacewa(T)
Sat 1 Oct 16	Cardiff Arms Park	13	16	Gareth Anscombe(T/C/2P)	Rhys Ruddock(T) Johnny Sexton(C/3P)
Sat 25 Mar 17	RDS Arena	21	22	Sion Bennett(T) Tomos Williams(2T) Steve Shingler(3C)	Ross Byrne(2C/P) Dan Leavy(T) Luke McGrath(T) Ross Molony(T)
Fri 8 Sep 17	RDS Arena	9	37	Steve Shingler(3P)	Ross Byrne(4C/3P) Barry Daly(T) James Tracy(T) Sean Cronin(T) Nick McCarthy(T)

#### Overall Guinness PRO14 head to head record:

Played 29, Blues won 5, Leinster won 22 with 2 games drawn.

#### Did you know?

- Cardiff Blues home defeat to Edinburgh in round 1 last season was their only opening weekend defeat in the Championship since 2013.
- The Blues, who were European Challenge Cup winners last season, finished their Guinness PRO14 campaign with two defeats in the last three games.
- The Welshmen have won their last three fixtures against Irish opponents.
- Defending Guinness PRO14 champions, Leinster, won their final three matches of the 2017/18 campaign, including two finals - the European Champions Cup and the PRO14.
- The Leinstermen were winless in their last four away Championship fixtures since beating Munster at Thomond Park on St Stephen's Day.
- The Blues only win over Leinster since 2007 was at the Cardiff City Stadium in February 2011.

COMPARISON	Cardiff Blues	Leinster
<b>Last 3 PRO14 results:</b>	7 Apr -Toyota Cheetahs (A) L 27-29 14 Apr -Southern Kings (A) W 45-12 28 Apr -Ospreys (H) L 23-26	28 Apr -Connacht (A) L 10-47 19 May (SF) -Munster (H) W 16-15 26 May (Final) -Scarlets W 40-32
<b>PRO14 2017/18</b>	Conf A: 4th – W11 D0 L10 - 54pts	Conf B: 1st – W14 D1 L6 - 70pts
<b>PRO14 form</b>	wWWlWl (21pts)	WdWLI (13pts) - WW
<b>Top try scorer</b>	6 – Owen Lane, Willis Halaholo	12 – Barry Daly
<b>Top points scorer</b>	127 – Jarrod Evans	116 – Ross Byrne

## Friday 31 August

### OSPREYS RUGBY v EDINBURGH RUGBY

At Liberty Stadium, Swansea, 7.35pm.

Live on

PREMIER SPORTS



Referee: John Lacey (IRFU, 71<sup>st</sup> competition game)

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

Citing Commissioner: Ray Wilton (WRU)

TMO: Tim Hayes (WRU)

#### HEAD TO HEAD - RECENT CHAMPIONSHIP MEETINGS

Date	Venue	O	E	Ospreys scorers	Edinburgh Rugby scorers
Fri 13 Feb 15	Myreside	16	24	Sam Davies(C/3P) Dan Evans(T)	Grayson Hart(T) Tom Brown(T) Jade Te Rure(T/C/P) Tom Heathcote(2C)
Fri 2 Oct 15	BT Murrayfield	9	20	Sam Davies(3P)	Phil Burleigh(T) Jack Cuthbert(C) Greig Tonks(C/2P) John Address(T)
Fri 19 Feb 16	Liberty Stadium	27	13	Scott Otten(T) Sam Davies(C/5P) Sam Underhill(T)	Greig Tonks(C/2P) Allan Dell(T)
Fri 2 Dec 16	Liberty Stadium	31	22	Dafydd Howells(T) Sam Davies(4C/P) Keelan Giles(T) Ma'afu Fia(T) Dan Baker(T)	Will Helu(T) Duncan Weir(2C/P) Viliame Mata(T) Blair Kinghorn(T)
Fri 3 Mar 17	Myreside	13	9	Sam Davies(C/2P) Josh Matavesi(T)	Duncan Weir(3P)
Sat 4 Nov 17	Myreside	10	37	Sam Davies(C/P) Dimitri Arhip(T)	Nathan Fowles(T) Jason Tovey(T/4C/3P) Magnus Bradbury(T) Blair Kinghorn(T)

#### Overall Guinness PRO14 head to head record:

Played 29, Ospreys won 17, Edinburgh won 11 with 1 game drawn.

#### Did you know?

- Ospreys Rugby's only round 1 defeat since 2012 was on a trip to Ulster in 2015.
- The Welshmen concluded last season with just one win in their last four matches – against The Blues at Principality Stadium on Judgement Day.
- Ospreys have won their last five matches at Liberty Stadium in the Guinness PRO14.
- The Welshmen lost all three matches they played against Scottish opponents last season.
- Edinburgh Rugby have lost only once on the opening weekend since 2013, on a visit to The Blues in 2016.
- The Scotsmen were defeated by Munster in the Guinness PRO14 Play-Offs last season, but in the regular season their only reversal in the last nine rounds was at home to Ulster in early April.
- Edinburgh won on two of their three visits to Wales last season.
- Edinburgh's 37-10 victory at Myreside in round 8 last season ended an Ospreys three game winning streak in this fixture.
- Edinburgh have not been victorious at Liberty Stadium since April 2009.

COMPARISON	Ospreys	Edinburgh
<b>Last 3 PRO14 results:</b>	21 Apr -Zebre (A) L 14-37	14 Apr -Scarlets (H) W 52-14
	28 Apr -Cardiff Blues (A) W 26-23	28 Apr -Glasgow Warriors (H) W 24-19
	20 May (EPO) -Ulster (A) L 17-35	5 May (Q) -Munster (A) L 16-20
<b>PRO14 2017/18</b>	Conf A: 5th - W9 D0 L12 - 44pts	Conf B: 3rd - W15 D0 L6 - 68pts
<b>PRO14 form</b>	WWWllw (18pts)	wWwLWW (22pts) - I
<b>Top try scorer</b>	5 – Dan Evans, Jeff Hassler	8 – Duhan van der Merwe
<b>Top points scorer</b>	114 – Dan Biggar	91- Sam Hildago-Clyne

Friday 31 August

## ZEBRE RUGBY v ISUZU SOUTHERN KINGS

At Stadio Sergio Lanfranchi, Parma, 8.35pm.

Live on

FREE SPORTS

Referee: Mike Adamson (SRU, 22<sup>nd</sup> competition game)

Assistant Referees: Keith Allen (SRU), Manuel Bottini (FIR)

Citing Commissioner: Roberto Carra (FIR)

TMO: Stefano Penne (FIR)



### HEAD TO HEAD - RECENT CHAMPIONSHIP MEETINGS

Date	Venue	Z	S	Zebre scorers	Southern Kings scorers
Sat 23 Sep 17	Nelson Mandela Bay	43	17	Jacopo Sarto(T) Mattia Bellini(T) Serafin Bordoli(C) Tommaso Boni(T) Carlo Canna(4C/P) Giulio Bisegni(T) Tommaso Castello(T) Renato Giammarioli(T)	Luvuyo Pupuma(T) Pieter-Steyn de Wet(2C/P) Godlen Masimla(T)

### Overall Guinness PRO14 head to head record:

Played 1, Benetton won 1.

### Did you know?

- All Zebre's six previous round 1 fixtures in PRO14 history have ended in defeat.
- Zebre finished off last season with three straight victories, their best ever winning sequence, whilst their tally of seven wins in the campaign being their best seasonal total ever.
- Isuzu Southern Kings won just one game last season: 45-13 at home to Dragons in round 17.
- The South Africans were defeated on their only previous visit to Italy – in Treviso in round 6.
- Zebre won the only previous fixture between the two: 43-17 in Port Elizabeth in September 2017.

COMPARISON	Zebre	Southern Kings
<b>Last 3 PRO14 results:</b>	14 Apr -Dragons (H) W 34-32 21 Apr -Ospreys (H) W 37-14 28 Apr -Benetton Rugby (A) W 22-17	7 Apr -Munster (H) L 22-39 14 Apr -Cardiff Blues (H) L 12-45 28 Apr -Toyota Cheetahs (H) L 20-29
<b>PRO14 2017/18</b>	Conf A: 7th - W7 D0 L14 - 36pts	Conf B: 7th – W1 D0 L20 - 11pts
<b>PRO14 form</b>	LIWWw (15pts)	IWL LLL (7pts)
<b>Top try scorer</b>	8 – Mattia Bellini	5 – Yaw Penxe
<b>Top points scorer</b>	132 – Carlo Canna	40 – Masixole Banda

Round 1: 31 Aug & 1 Sept 2018

Saturday 1 September

## CONNACHT RUGBY v GLASGOW WARRIORS

At The Sportsground, Galway, 3pm.

Live on

Referee: Ian Davies (WRU, 73<sup>rd</sup> competition game)

Assistant Referees: Adam Jones (WRU), Eddie Hogan-O'Connell (IRFU)

Citing Commissioner: Tim Lowry (IRFU)

TMO: Olly Hodges (IRFU)



PREMIER SPORTS

### HEAD TO HEAD - RECENT CHAMPIONSHIP MEETINGS

Date	Venue	C	G	Connacht scorers	Glasgow Warriors scorers
Sat 7 May 16	Sportsground	14	7	Tiernan O'Halloran(T) AJ MacGinty(C) Shane O'Leary(C) Bundee 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)
Sat 2 Sep 17	Sportsground	12	18	Jack Carty(4P)	Pete Horne(C/2P) Ali Price(T) Lee Jones(T)
Fri 13 Apr 18	Scotstoun Stadium	22	35	Caolin Blade(T) Jack Carty(C/P) Finlay Bealham(T) Penalty Try(T)	Henry Pyrgos(T) Pete Horne(3C/3P) Stuart Hogg(T) Alex Dunbar(T) Fraser Brown(T)

### Overall Guinness PRO14 head to head record:

Played 33, Connacht won 9, Warriors won 21 with 3 games drawn.

### Did you know?

- This is the third successive season that Connacht Rugby have begun their Guinness PRO14 campaign with a home game against Glasgow – losing the previous two 5-41 and 12-18.
- Connacht beat Leinster 47-10 in the concluding round last season to snap a four game losing run in the Championship.
- The Irishmen lost all three matches they played against Scottish opponents last season.
- Glasgow Warriors have lost only once on the opening weekend since 2012: 10-16 at home to Scarlets in 2015.
- The Warriors were knocked out last season at the semi-final stage by Scarlets, whilst their only win in their last five encounters was at home to Connacht in April.
- Glasgow have won their last four matches against Connacht since the Irishmen's 16-11 victory at The Sportsground in the 2016 semi-final.

COMPARISON	Connacht	Glasgow Warriors
<b>Last 3 PRO14 results:</b>	6 Apr -Ospreys (A) L 10-39	21 Apr -Ulster (A) L 15-36
	13 Apr -Glasgow Warriors (A) L 22-35	28 Apr -Edinburgh Rugby (A) L 19-24
	28 Apr -Leinster (H) W 47-10	18 May (SF) -Scarlets (H) L 13-28
<b>PRO14 2017/18</b>	Conf A: 6th – W7 D0 L14 - 39pts	Conf A: 1st – W15 D1 L5 - 76pts
<b>PRO14 form</b>	wLLIW (11pts)	IWIWII (11pts) - I
<b>Top try scorer</b>	6 – Tiernan O'Halloran	9 – George Horne
<b>Top points scorer</b>	131 – Jack Carty	81 – Finn Russell

## Saturday 1 September

### ULSTER RUGBY v SCARLETS

At Kingspan Stadium, Belfast, 5.15pm.

Live on

PREMIER SPORTS

Referee: Marius Mitrea (FIR, 79<sup>th</sup> competition game)

Assistant Referees: Andrea Piardi (FIR), John Carvill (IRFU)

Citing Commissioner: Eddie Wigglesworth (IRFU)

TMO: Leo Colgan (IRFU)



#### HEAD TO HEAD - RECENT CHAMPIONSHIP MEETINGS

Date	Venue	U	S	Ulster scorers	Scarlets scorers
Sat 12 Sep 15	Parc y Scarlets	12	22	Rory Scholes(T) Stuart McCloskey(C) Penalty Try(T)	Dan Jones(C/4P) Hadleigh Parkes(T) Aled Thomas(P)
Sun 21 Feb 16	Kingspan Stadium	20	21	Craig Gilroy(T) Paddy Jackson(2C/D/P) Luke Marshall(T)	Mike Collins(2T) Aled Thomas(C/3P)
Fri 16 Sep 16	Kingspan Stadium	19	8	Paddy Jackson(3P) Iain Henderson(T) Louis Ludik(T)	Rhys Patchell(P) Will Boyde(T)
Fri 6 Jan 17	Parc y Scarlets	13	16	Paddy Jackson(C/2P) Jacob Stockdale(T)	Dan Jones(C/3P) Penalty Try(T)
Fri 15 Sep 17	Kingspan Stadium	27	20	Jacob Stockdale(T) John Cooney(4P) John Andrew(T) Christian Leali'ifano(C/P)	Johnny McNicholl(T) Jonathan Davies(T) Leigh Halfpenny(2C/2P)
Sat 24 Feb 18	Parc y Scarlets	10	34	Stuart McCloskey(T) John Cooney(C/P)	Tadhg Beirne(T) Paul Asquith(T) Dan Jones(4C/2P) Ioan Nicholas(T) Ryan Conbeer(T)

#### Overall Guinness PRO14 head to head record:

Played 31 Ulster won 16, Scarlets won 13 with 2 games drawn.

#### Did you know?

- Ulster Rugby have begun their Guinness PRO14 season with a defeat only once since 2009: 8-15 at Dragons in 2013, although for seven of the last nine years they have been at home in round 1.
- The Ulstermen were unbeaten in their last five matches last season whilst their only two defeats at Kingspan Stadium last season were to Leinster in round 7 and Edinburgh in round 15.
- Scarlets were last season's Guinness PRO14 runners-up, their defeat to Leinster in the final ending a three game winning run in the Championship.
- Scarlets won only two of their eight fixtures against Irish provinces in all competitions last season, both at home in the PRO14, to Connacht in round 5 and Ulster in round 16.
- Scarlets are the only Welsh Region to emerge victorious at Kingspan Stadium since February 2013, doing so with a single point victory in February 2016.
- The last four fixtures between the two sides have all been won by the home side on the day, whilst Scarlets only victory in Belfast since 2008 came in 2016.

COMPARISON	Ulster	Scarlets
<b>Last 3 PRO14 results:</b>	21 Apr -Glasgow Warriors (H) W 36-15 28 Apr -Munster (A) D 24-24 20 May (EPO) -Ospreys (H) W 35-17	5 May (Q) -Toyota Cheetahs (H) W 43-8 18 May (SF)-Glasgow Warriors (A) W 28-13 26 May (Final) -Leinster L 32-40
<b>PRO14 2017/18</b>	Conf B: 4th – W12 D2 L7 - 62pts	Conf B: 2nd - W14 D1 L6 - 70pts
<b>PRO14 form</b>	llwWWd (16pts) – W	WDlWlw (16pts) - WwL
<b>Top try scorer</b>	10 – Craig Gilroy	9 – Johnny McNicholl
<b>Top points scorer</b>	175 – John Cooney	101 – Leigh Halfpenny

## Saturday 1 September

### MUNSTER RUGBY v TOYOTA CHEETAHS

At Thomond Park, Limerick, 5.15pm.

Live on

PREMIER SPORTS

Referee: Dan Jones (WRU, 15<sup>th</sup> competition game)

Assistant Referees: Craig Evans (WRU), Mark Patton (IRFU)

Citing Commissioner: Peter Ferguson (IRFU)

TMO: Simon McDowell (IRFU)



#### HEAD TO HEAD - RECENT CHAMPIONSHIP MEETINGS

Date	Venue	M	T	Munster scorers	Toyota Cheetahs scorers
Sat 9 Sep 17	Thomond Park	51	18	Chris Farrell(T) Ian Keatley(4C/P) Jean Kleyn(T) Tommy O'Donnell(T) Alex Wootton(4T) Simon Zebo(T)	William Small-Smith(T) Henco Venter(T) Robbie Petzer(C/2P)
Fri 13 Apr 18	Toyota Stadium	19	17	Conor Murray(T/P) JJ Hanrahan(C/3P)	Tian Meyer(T) Johan Goosen(2C/P) Clayton Blommetjies(T)

#### Overall Guinness PRO14 head to head record:

Played 2, Munster won 2.

#### Did you know?

- The only time since 2009 that Munster Rugby have begun a new Guinness PRO14 campaign with an opening weekend defeat was when they slipped up by a single point to Edinburgh in Limerick in 2014.
- The Munstermen have lost only once at home in any tournament since February 2017: 24-34 to Leinster on 26 December 2017.
- Munster won all three games they played against South African opponents last season.
- Cheetahs were defeated at Scarlets in the Guinness PRO14 Play-offs last season, but in the regular season their only loss in the last five rounds was at home to Munster on 13 April.
- Cheetahs won just two of their six fixtures against Irish provinces last season, both at home, to Leinster in round 4 and Connacht in round 17.
- The two sides have met twice before with Munster winning both encounters.

COMPARISON	Munster	Toyota Cheetahs
<b>Last 3 PRO14 results:</b>	28 Apr -Ulster (H) D 24-24	13 Apr (Q) -Munster (H) L 17-19
	5 May (Q) -Edinburgh Rugby (H) W 20-16	28 Apr -Southern Kings (A) W 29-20
	19 May (SF) -Leinster (A) L 15-16	5 May -Scarlets (A) L 8-43
<b>PRO14 2017/18</b>	Conf A: 2nd – W13 D1 L7 - 69pts	Conf A: 3rd - W12 D0 L9 - 63pts
<b>PRO14 form</b>	WIWwwD (20pts) – WI	IWwWLw (22pts) - I
<b>Top try scorer</b>	8 – Alex Wootton	10 – Makazole Mapimpi
<b>Top points scorer</b>	100 – Ian Keatley	86 – Fred Zeilonga

Round 1: 31 Aug & 1 Sept 2018

Saturday 1 September

## DRAGONS v BENETTON RUGBY

At Rodney Parade, Newport, 7.35pm. *Live on*  
 Referee: George Clancy (IRFU, 103<sup>rd</sup> competition game)  
 Assistant Referees: Frank Murphy (IRFU), Simon Rees (WRU)  
 Citing Commissioner: Dennis Jones (WRU)  
 TMO: Sean Brickell (WRU)



### HEAD TO HEAD - RECENT CHAMPIONSHIP MEETINGS

Date	Venue	D	B	Dragons scorers	Benetton Rugby scorers
Fri 23 Oct 15	Rodney Parade	19	12	Jason Tovey(C/4P) Nic Cudd(T)	Jayden Hayward(4P)
Fri 19 Feb 16	Stadio Monigo	17	19	Hallam Amos(T) Angus O'Brien(2C/P) Cory Hill(T)	Jayden Hayward(2C) Angelo Esposito(T) Ludovico Nitoglia(T) Filo Paulo(T)
Fri 23 Sep 16	Stadio Monigo	11	27	Angus O'Brien(2P) Rynard Landman(T)	Tommaso Allan(3C/2P) Tommaso Benvenuti(T) Marco Fuser(T) Filo Paulo(T)
Fri 6 Jan 17	Rodney Parade	26	8	Angus O'Brien(C/D/3P) Dorian Jones(C) Lewis Evans(T) Sarel Pretorius(T)	Tommaso Allan(P) Tito Tebaldi(T)
Sun 18 Feb 18	Rodney Parade	15	18	Liam Belcher(2T) Jared Rosser(T)	Marty Banks(2P) Monty loane(T) Ian McKinley(C) Alberto Sgarbi(T)
Sat 7 Apr 18	Stadio Monigo	27	29	Arwel Robson(3C/2P) Connor Edwards(T) Jared Rosser(T) Cory Hill(T)	Tommaso Allan(T/3C) Monty loane(T) Federico Ruzza(T) Tito Tebaldi(T/P)

### Overall Guinness PRO14 head to head record:

Played 16, Dragons won 7, Benetton won 9.

### Did you know?

- Dragons have not been victorious on the opening weekend since beating Ulster at Rodney Parade in 2013.
- Dragons' most recent victory in the Guinness PRO14 was at home to Southern Kings in round 5 last season.
- Dragons lost all three games they played against Italian opponents last season.
- Benetton have not begun their season with a victory since beating Ospreys at Stadio Monigo in 2012.
- The Italians were defeated by local rivals Zebre in round 21 last season but still ended up with a record 11 wins during the campaign.
- Benetton won four of their last five away games in the PRO14 last season, but their only victory in Wales since 2013 was on a trip to Dragons in February.
- Benetton's only loss in their last five matches against Dragons was 8-26 at Rodney Parade in January 2017.

COMPARISON	Dragons	Benetton Rugby
<b>Last 3 PRO14 results:</b>	7 Apr -Benetton Rugby (A) L 27-29	7 Apr -Dragons (H) W 29-27
	14 Apr -Zebre (A) L 32-34	14 Apr -Leinster (A) W 17-15
	28 Apr -Scarlets (H) L 8-33	28 Apr -Zebre (H) L 17-22
<b>PRO14 2017/18</b>	Conf B: 6th – W2 D2 L17 - 20pts	Conf B: 5th – W11 D0 L10 - 55pts
<b>PRO14 form</b>	LILIL (3pts)	LlWwL (17pts)
<b>Top try scorer</b>	7 – Jared Rosser	8 – Monyu loane
<b>Top points scorer</b>	77 – Gavin Henson	83 – Marty Banks