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EPCR CHALLENGE





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## EPCR WELCOME MESSAGE

A warm welcome to this Round of 16 fixture in the EPCR Challenge Cup as competition for a coveted place in the 2023 Dublin final really begins to hot up.

The knockout stage generates its very own brand of compelling, high-stakes rugby, and it's win or bust now for the remaining clubs who remain in contention for the EPCR Challenge Cup Final, which will be staged at the Aviva Stadium on Friday 19 May.

Following the historic introduction of the South African clubs into EPCR's competitions, it came as no great surprise that the Emirates Lions and the Toyota Cheetahs both managed to gualify for the business end of the tournament at the first attempt.

In all, clubs with 14 EPCR titles between them reached the knockout stage including last season's winners, Lyon, Racing 92, ASM Clermont Auvergne and the Sale Sharks each of whom qualified from the Heineken Champions Cup.

In addition, as you are no doubt aware, the clubs with the highest rankings from the EPCR Challenge Cup pool stage earn home advantage for the Round of 16 and quarterfinal matches.

We are delighted to be joined on the journey to Dublin by our official partners, DHL, IHG and Tissot, by our official supporters, Gilbert and Kappa, and also by our official airline partner in South Africa, Qatar Airways.

Our long-standing broadcast partners, BT Sport, beIN SPORTS and France Télévisions, continue to provide superb coverage of the EPCR Challenge Cup in the UK, Ireland and France respectively, while SuperSport in South Africa, Viaplay and Premier Sports in the UK and Ireland, S4C in Wales and FloRugby in the USA and Canada are making valuable contributions to the growth of tournament.

On behalf of everyone at EPCR, enjoy the match and best wishes to you, the fans, as well as to your club's players and staff for what promises to be an intense knockout stage occasion.

Yours in rugby,

Dominic McKay. **EPCR** Chairman

**ENDS** 



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