



SEMI-FINAL FIXTURES

Saturday 24 April 2010

Munster v Ulster Ravens (Thomond Park, 3.30pm)

Sunday 25 April 2010

Cornish Pirates v Doncaster Knights (Camborne Recreation Ground, 3pm)

BRITISH & IRISH CUP FINAL

Sunday 16 May 2010 (6pm Live on Sky Sports)

At either Camborne Recreation Ground or Castle Park, Doncaster

SEMI-FINAL PREVIEWS

Munster v Ulster Ravens

Referee: Dudley Phillips (IRFU).

Munster reach the semi-finals of the inaugural British & Irish Cup with a perfect played five, won five record from their Pool B matches, beating Bristol (18-6), Nottingham (18-3) and Heriot's (34-7) at home, and being victorious on the road at Coventry (20-13) and at Neath (21-12). The Munstermen concluded the Pool phase with the best defensive record, having conceded just three tries in 400 minutes playing time.

Ulster Ravens topped Pool C of the British & Irish Cup with an unbeaten won 4, drawn 1 record. The Ravens attained victories at Ravenhill against Bedford (29-3), London Welsh (21-17) and Aberavon (62-0), and also won at Moseley (32-21) and drawing at Llanelli (21-all). Ulster (along with Doncaster) finished the Pools with the best attacking record, having scored 22 tries in their five matches.

Munster have already beaten Ulster Ravens twice this season: 28-11 at Shaw's Bridge in Belfast on 24 September and 30-8 in the return at Musgrave Park, Cork on 6 November.

Cornish Pirates v Doncaster Knights

Referee: Llyr Apgeraint Roberts (RFU).

Cornish Pirates qualified for the semi-finals of the British & Irish Cup by topping Pool A with a won four, lost one record – the loss being 10-12 to Leinster at Donnybrook in round two. Pirates may yet qualify for the semi-finals of the RFU Championship but need to obtain a bonus point win at home to Bristol next week and then hope that Bedford do not pick up a point at home to Plymouth. Cornish Pirates' only defeat at the Camborne Recreation Ground in their last six encounters was 24-28 to London Welsh on 13 March.

Doncaster Knights made it to the last four courtesy of winning Pool D of the British & Irish Cup with an unblemished played five, won five record. The Knights still have work to do if they are to also to reach the semi-finals of the RFU Championship, needing to beat London Welsh at Castle Park next week and hope that Nottingham don't also defeat table topping Exeter. Amazingly, the last three meetings between the two teams have all been won by the away side on the day, whilst the Pirates have not actually beaten the Knights in Camborne since March 2008. The two clubs' only previous encounter in a knockout cup tie was in the quarter-finals of the National Trophy in March 2007 when Pirates won 13-10 at Castle Park.

BRITISH & IRISH CUP BULLETIN



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HOW THE POOLS FINISHED

POOL A		Record				Points			Attack					Defence							
Pos	Team	P	W	D	L	TB	LB	Tot	T	C	PG	DG	For	T	C	PG	DG	Agst	TB	LB	PD
1	Cornish Pirates	5	4	0	1	2	1	19	13	10	10	0	115	5	1	11	1	63	0	2	52
2	Leinster	5	4	0	1	1	1	18	9	7	9	1	89	9	4	4	0	65	1	2	24
3	Newport	5	3	1	1	1	1	16	10	5	7	0	81	6	3	6	0	54	0	2	27
4	Exeter Chiefs	5	2	0	3	1	1	10	11	6	4	0	79	10	7	6	1	85	1	0	-6
5	Plymouth Albion	5	1	1	3	0	2	8	5	3	7	1	55	6	5	6	0	58	1	0	-3
6	Gael Force	5	0	0	5	1	0	1	6	1	1	0	35	18	12	5	0	129	3	0	-94

Results: Newport 21 Exeter 14; Plymouth 13 Leinster 16; Pirates 29 Gael Force 8; Leinster 12 Pirates 8; Newport 3 Plymouth 3; Exeter 15 Gael Force 0; Newport 27 Gael Force 5; Exeter 10 Leinster 22; Plymouth 9 Pirates 13; Leinster 6 Newport 10; Gael Force 0 Plymouth 25; Pirates 37 Exeter 14; Plymouth 5 Exeter 26; Pirates 26 Newport 20; Gael Force 22 Leinster 33

POOL B		Record				Points			Attack					Defence							
Pos	Team	P	W	D	L	TB	LB	Tot	T	C	PG	DG	For	T	C	PG	DG	Agst	TB	LB	PD
1	Munster	5	5	0	0	2	0	22	14	4	11	0	111	3	1	8	0	41	0	1	70
2	Bristol Rugby	5	4	0	1	2	0	18	16	9	7	0	119	10	3	7	0	77	0	2	42
3	Nottingham Rugby	5	3	0	2	1	1	14	11	7	4	0	81	4	3	11	0	59	0	1	22
4	Neath	5	2	0	3	2	1	11	12	6	7	0	93	13	9	5	0	98	1	1	-5
5	Coventry	5	1	0	4	2	2	8	20	10	2	0	126	24	12	0	0	144	4	0	-18
6	Heriot's	5	0	0	5	0	1	1	8	7	1	0	57	27	15	1	0	168	4	0	-111

Results: Coventry 13 Munster 20; Neath 11 Bristol 18; Heriots 0 Nottingham 5; Coventry 57 Heriots 12; Munster 18 Bristol 6; Nottingham 14 Neath 3; Munster 18 Nottingham 3; Bristol 40 Coventry 15; Heriots 21 Neath 38; Neath 12 Munster 21; Bristol 34 Heriots 17; Nottingham 43 Coventry 17; Neath 29 Coventry 24; Nottingham 16 Bristol 21; Munster 34 Heriots 7

POOL C		Record				Points			Attack					Defence							
Pos	Team	P	W	D	L	TB	LB	Tot	T	C	PG	DG	For	T	C	PG	DG	Agst	TB	LB	PD
1	Ulster Ravens	5	4	1	0	3	0	21	22	14	9	0	165	6	4	8	0	62	0	1	103
2	London Welsh	5	4	0	1	3	1	20	18	13	7	0	137	9	6	7	0	78	1	0	59
3	Bedford Blues	5	3	0	2	1	0	13	11	8	7	0	92	11	9	7	0	94	2	1	-2
4	Aberavon	5	2	0	3	0	1	9	4	2	9	0	51	19	12	4	0	131	2	1	-80
5	Llanelli	5	1	1	3	1	1	8	11	9	11	0	106	14	10	9	0	117	1	0	-11
6	Moseley	5	0	0	5	1	0	1	10	8	1	0	69	17	13	9	0	138	3	0	-69

Results: Llanelli 16 Aberavon 19; Moseley 27 Welsh 38; Ulster 29 Bedford 3; Aberavon 7 Welsh 36; Moseley 21 Ulster 32; Bedford 36 Llanelli 24; Llanelli 21 Ulster 21; Welsh 26 Bedford 13; Aberavon 10 Moseley 0; Ulster 21 Welsh 17; Bedford 17 Aberavon 15; Llanelli 35 Moseley 21; Moseley 0 Bedford 23; Welsh 20 Llanelli 10; Ulster 62 Aberavon 0

POOL D		Record				Points			Attack					Defence							
Pos	Team	P	W	D	L	TB	LB	Tot	T	C	PG	DG	For	T	C	PG	DG	Agst	TB	LB	PD
1	Doncaster Knights	5	5	0	0	5	0	25	22	16	7	0	163	7	4	5	0	58	0	0	105
2	Cardiff	5	4	0	1	3	0	19	20	13	7	0	147	14	12	9	1	124	2	3	23
3	Rotherham Titans	5	2	0	3	3	1	12	19	11	9	1	147	14	9	13	0	127	2	0	20
4	Ayr	5	2	0	3	1	2	11	14	10	14	0	132	14	10	7	0	111	2	0	21
5	Pontypridd	5	2	0	3	1	1	10	12	6	9	0	99	16	10	8	0	124	2	2	-25
6	Birmingham & Solihull Bees	5	0	0	5	0	1	1	9	8	5	0	76	31	19	9	0	220	5	0	-144

Results: Pontypridd 16 Cardiff 22; Rotherham 52 Birmingham 10; Doncaster 32 Ayr 7; Ayr 28 Rotherham 13; Birmingham 20 Cardiff 51; Ayr 49 Birmingham 14; Rotherham 33 Pontypridd 23; Doncaster 34 Cardiff 10; Ayr 21 Pontypridd 22; Cardiff 34 Rotherham 27; Doncaster 41 Birmingham 8; Pontypridd 11 Doncaster 24; Cardiff 30 Ayr 27; Birmingham 24 Pontypridd 27

* See pages 11 and 12 for league table regulations

BEST ACCUMULATORS

TOP BRITISH & IRISH CUP POINTS GETTERS						
Name	Team	Try	Conv	PG	DG	PTS
Frazier Climo	Ayr	1	9	14	0	65
Rob Cook	Cornish Pirates	1	10	10	0	55
Ali Warnock	Doncaster Knights	1	14	7	0	54
Niall O'Connor	Ulster Ravens	0	13	8	0	50
Declan Cusack	Munster	0	3	11	0	39
Gareth Davies	Cardiff	0	9	6	0	36
Jonny West	Rotherham Titans	0	6	7	1	36
Ed Lewis-Pratt	London Welsh	1	8	4	0	33
Daniel Newton	Llanelli	0	5	7	0	31
Shaun Berne	Leinster	0	3	7	1	30
James Loxton	Cardiff	5	0	0	0	25
Chris Ashwin	Bristol Rugby	0	5	4	0	22
Chris Wannell	Newport	0	2	6	0	22
Arwel Thomas	Neath	0	0	7	0	21
Dean Gunter	Pontypridd	0	3	5	0	21

BEST KICKERS

BEST BRITISH & IRISH CUP KICKERS				
Name	Team	Good	Att	Kick%
Ed Lewis-Pratt	London Welsh	12	14	85.71%
Daniel Newton	Llanelli	12	14	85.71%
Ali Warnock	Doncaster Knights	21	27	77.78%
Rob Cook	Cornish Pirates	20	26	76.92%
Frazier Climo	Ayr	23	30	76.67%
Niall O'Connor	Ulster Ravens	21	28	75.00%
David Jackson	Nottingham Rugby	8	11	72.73%
Jonny West	Rotherham Titans	13	19	68.42%
Shaun Berne	Leinster	10	15	66.67%
Gareth Davies	Cardiff	15	23	65.22%
Declan Cusack	Munster	14	22	63.64%
Alex Davies	Plymouth Albion	7	11	63.64%
Graham Wilson	Heriot's	7	11	63.64%
Dean Gunter	Pontypridd	8	13	61.54%
Chris Wannell	Newport	8	15	53.33%
Chris Ashwin	Bristol Rugby	9	17	52.94%
Ben Russell	Coventry	5	10	50.00%
Gareth McCarthy	Neath	6	13	46.15%
Jamie Murphy	Aberavon	5	11	45.45%
Danny Gray	Exeter Chiefs	7	19	36.84%

Qual: 10 place kicks at goal

TOP TRYERS

TOP BRITISH & IRISH CUP TRY SCORERS		
Name	Team	TOT
James Loxton	Cardiff	5
Tom Brown	London Welsh	4
Paul Sampson	London Welsh	4
James Merriman	Bristol Rugby	4
Tommy Seymour	Ulster Ravens	4
Paul Burke	Ayr	4
Ryan Howells	Cardiff	3
Scott Roberts	Coventry	3
Matt D'Arcy	Doncaster Knights	3
Andy Wright	Doncaster Knights	3
Errie Claassens	London Welsh	3
Gordon Reid	Ayr	3
Gareth Wyatt	Newport	3
Nicky Griffiths	Doncaster Knights	3
Luke Fielden	Bedford Blues	3
Tom Foden	Birmingham & Solihull Bees	3
Duncan Taylor	Bedford Blues	3
Adam Kleeberger	Rotherham Titans	3
Gavin Cattle	Cornish Pirates	3

ABBREVIATED REGULATIONS

The Knock-Out Stage shall be divided into two semi-final Matches and a final Match. Each semi-final Match will be a single knock-out Match at a venue designated by the Committee.

A draw will be organised by the Committee which will decide which of the pool winners will play each other in each semi final, which winners will be deemed to be 'Home teams' and in which order the semi finals will be played.

The winners of the two semi-final Matches will proceed to the Cup Final. The Cup Final will be played at a venue determined by the Committee.

In the event of a tie at full-time at either semi-final or the final the winner of that shall be determined by reference to the following:

(i) Extra time will be played in accordance with the protocol set out at Appendix Two to these Regulations and the Team that scores the most points in such extra time shall be deemed the winner of that Match.

(ii) If the scores are tied after extra time, then the Team that has scored the most tries in that Match (including extra time) shall be deemed the winner of that Match.

If the Teams have scored the same number of tries in that Match (including extra time), then the winner of the Match will in

(i) the semi-final, other than at a neutral venue be the Away Team; or

(ii) the semi final at a neutral venue or the final be determined by a place-kick competition conducted as set out in Appendix Three to these Regulations.

Full regulations are available from the RFU