



UPDATE
ERC RUGBY.COM



2012/13 Heineken Cup Final preview

ASM Clermont Auvergne v Toulon

Saturday 18 May, Aviva Stadium (17.00)



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Heineken Cup final

Date	Time			Venue
18/05/2013	17:00	ASM Clermont Auvergne	Toulon	Aviva Stadium

Match officials

ASM Clermont Auvergne v Toulon

Referee: Alain Rolland (Ire) Assistant Ref: Wayne Barnes (Eng) Assistant Ref: George Clancy (Ire) TMO: Marshall Kilgore (Ire) Citing Commissioner: Murray Whyte (Ire)

Notes

- The 2013 all-French final will be the fourth in the history of the tournament: **2003** Toulouse 22 Perpignan 17, Lansdowne Road; **2005** Toulouse 18 Stade Francais Paris 12 (aet), Murrayfield; **2010** Toulouse 21 Biarritz Olympique PB 19, Stade de France.
- With ASM Clermont Auvergne and Toulon appearing in their first tournament final, a new name will be added to the list of champions on 18 May.
- Clermont are bidding to become the first club in history to win all nine matches in the same season on their way to lifting the trophy.
- Either Clermont or Toulon will become the third French winner of the Heineken Cup after Brive (1997) and Toulouse (1996, 2003, 2005, 2010).
- With two clubs in the final, France are guaranteed seven places in the 2013/14 Heineken Cup.
- After the contest, 16 clubs will have contested a Heineken Cup final. The other finalists are: Toulouse (6), Leicester Tigers (5), Munster Rugby (4), Leinster Rugby (3), London Wasps, Stade Francais Paris, Brive, Biarritz Olympique Northampton Saints, Ulster Rugby (2), Cardiff, Bath, Colomiers, Perpignan, Clermont, Toulon (1 each).
- The most points scored by an individual in a final is the 30 scored by Diego Dominguez (nine penalties and a drop goal) of Stade Francais Paris in the 2001 defeat by Leicester Tigers.
- The final will be third to be staged in Dublin and the first at the 51,783-capacity Aviva Stadium. The previous two matches in 1999 and 2003 were played at the old Lansdowne Road.



ASM Clermont Auvergne v Toulon

Saturday, 18 May Kick-off: 18:00, Aviva Stadium

Referee: Alain Rolland (Ire) Assistant Ref: Wayne Barnes (Eng) Assistant Ref: George Clancy (Ire) TMO: Marshall Kilgore (Ire) Citing Commissioner: Murray Whyte (Ire)

Match facts

- Napolioni Nalaga is the top metre-maker in the Heineken Cup, covering 667 metres from 94 carries (also a tournament high). He is also the top try-scorer (7) and has beaten the most defenders (26) this season.
- Jonny Wilkinson has made 70 kicks in play in this tournament, more than any other player.
- Clermont, collectively, are the most potent metre-makers in the tournament covering an average of 521 metres per game. Toulon's average of 472 is the second highest.
- Toulon make more clean breaks than any other side in the competition, on average they cover make 9.6 per match.
- The two clubs will be meeting for the first time in European competition.

Team comparison (Heineken Cup record)

	ASM Clermont Auvergne	Toulon
Played	67	15
Wins	39	11
Draws	1	0
Losses	27	4
Total Points For	1847	399
Total Points Against	1237	274
Total Tries For	206	39
Total Tries Against	105	23
Most Appearances	46 (Elvis Vermeulen)	14 (Jonny Wilkinson)
Top Points Scorer	281 (Brock James)	167 (Jonny Wilkinson)
Top Try Scorer	17 (Napolioni Nalaga)	4 (Joe van Niekerk)
Biggest Win	82-0 (v Aironi Rugby 2012)	62 - 0 (v Sale Sharks 2012)
Heaviest Defeat	23-57 (v Leicester Tigers 2005)	18 - 45 (v Munster Rugby 2010)

2012/13 Points Scorers

ASM Clermont Auvergne:

Player	Points
Morgan Parra	108
Napolioni Nalaga	35
Wesley Fofana	25

Toulon:

Player	Points
Jonny Wilkinson	97
Frederic Michalak	20
Delon Armitage	15

Head to Head record

First meeting in the Heineken Cup

Amlin Opta Index Team of the Semi-Finals

The Amlin Opta Index uses unique mathematical formulae and modelling to objectively compare player performance in both European club competitions.

Position	Name	Team	Competition*	Score	Av. Pos. Score
15.	Jérôme Porical	Stade Francais Paris	ACC	399	192
14.	Sitiveni Sivivatu	ASM Clermont Auvergne	HC	259	156
13.	Brian O'Driscoll	Leinster Rugby	ACC	327	155
12.	Ian Madigan	Leinster Rugby	ACC	258	165
11.	Isa Nacewa	Leinster Rugby	ACC	326	165
10.	Jonny Wilkinson	Toulon	HC	394	196
9.	Conor Murray	Munster Rugby	HC	242	195
1.	Cian Healy	Leinster Rugby	ACC	273	163
2.	Arnaud Heguy	Biarritz Olympique Pays Basque	ACC	430	212
3.	Carl Hayman	Toulon	HC	212	146
4.	Steve Borthwick	Saracens	HC	277	150
5.	Devin Toner	Leinster Rugby	ACC	318	164
6.	Julien Bonnaire	ASM Clermont Auvergne	HC	269	191
7.	Juan Martin Fernandez Lobbe	Toulon	HC	307	193
8.	Jamie Heaslip	Leinster Rugby	ACC	561	231

*ACC = Amlin Challenge Cup HC = Heineken Cup

Amlin Opta Index Player watch: Napolioni Nalaga (Clermont)

Clermont Auvergne's backs line-up is brimming full with talent this season with Napolioni Nalaga at the forefront of the action. He has accrued the most Amlin Opta Index points in the attacking facet of the game and overall is the sixth ranked back in European club rugby this season. The 27-year-old Fijian has made the most carries (94) and metres (667) in this Heineken Cup campaign, as well as beating the most defenders (26). He is also the leading try scorer (7) and will no doubt be crucial to Clermont's chances of lifting the trophy.

Points Breakdown	
Defence.....	265
Attack.....	1997
Kicking	9
Total.....	2271

Amlin Opta Index top 10 forwards of the season:

Player	Team	Score*	Av. Score**
S. Vunisa	CAL	382	231
G. Gibouin	BOR	335	191
J. Heaslip	LNR	333	231
A. Aмосa	BIZ	301	231
S. Kalamafoni	GLO	288	231
L. Picamoles	TLS	287	231
J. Bonnaire	CLE	276	191
B. Kayser	CLE	275	212
J-F. Montauriol	ROV	271	164
N. Easter	HAR	261	231

Amlin Rugby Ambassador Lawrence Dallaglio said...

Another scintillating season of European club rugby is coming to a climax with this year's edition of action developing a distinctly French flavour.

Three of the four surviving clubs are from France and despite the national team suffering a miserable Six Nations tournament the club scene across the Channel is clearly as strong as ever.

In my opinion Clermont have been the stand out team in Europe this season however Leinster have also made a trademark late charge for silverware with six of the top performing players from the 'team of the semi-finals' coming from the Irish side. With a final at their home ground to look forward to, Stade Francais will be up against it to prevent Leinster from claiming a third consecutive European title.

A number of players have stood out from the crowd this season and looking at those still in the competition Benjamin Kayser and Julien Bonnaire

deserve a special mention.

Kayser is still yet to miss a tackle in the competition, completing all 56 he has attempted so far, as well as maintaining an impressive 93% throw success rate at

the lineout. Bonnaire has made the second most tackles (84) of any player in the competition and won the third most lineouts (34).

In the backs Clermont trio of Wesley Fofana, Napolioni Nalaga and Sitiveni Sivivatu have all shone this season. All three feature in the top five metre makers in the competition this season and between them they have scored an amazing 15 tries. My picks for the finals are Clermont and Leinster but don't write off a determined Jonny Wilkinson leading Toulon to an upset in Dublin!



Amlin Opta Index top 10 backs of the season:

Player	Team	Score*	Av. Score**
T. Flood	LEI	299	196
E. Walker	OSP	298	165
A. Cuthbert	CAR	296	156
K. Fotuali'i	OSP	293	195
W. Fofana	CLE	292	165
N. Nalaga	CLE	284	165
S. Sivivatu	CLE	274	156
C. Wade	WAS	271	156
T. Nagusa	MON	269	156
F. Burns	GLO	263	196

*Average score per game (minimum 4 games)

**Average score based on position



Heineken Cup going global

- A total of 12 nationalities are represented in the squads of finalists, ASM Clermont Auvergne and Toulon.

Clermont: Australia, Canada, Fiji, France, Georgia, New Zealand, Portugal, Scotland, South Africa, Wales

Toulon: Argentina, Australia, England, France, Georgia, New Zealand, South Africa, Wales

- Toulon have three World Cup winners in their squad: Jonny Wilkinson (England 2003), Bakkies Botha (South Africa 2007) and Danie Rossouw (South Africa 2007)
- Toulon have three candidates who could add a Heineken Cup to a Super Rugby title: Bakkies Botha (2007/2009 Bulls), Danie Rossouw (2007/2009/2010 Bulls) and Matt Giteau (2004 Brumbies). ASM Clermont Auvergne have one, Ti'i Paulo (2008 Crusaders).
- Brad Thorn became only the third player to add a Heineken Cup winners' medal to a Super Rugby title last year when he helped Leinster Rugby beat Ulster Rugby at Twickenham Stadium. Thorn joined Rod Kafer (2001 Brumbies / 2002 Leicester Tigers) and Doug Howlett (2003 Blues / 2008 Munster Rugby) as 'double' winners.
- The final on 18 May will be broadcast in 156 countries

Heineken Cup's Golden Oldies

Who said professional rugby is a young man's game? A year on from New Zealand World Cup winner, Brad Thorn, entering the record books as the oldest player to win a Heineken Cup winners medal at 37 years, 3 months and 16 days, there are two candidates who could eclipse his record in Dublin.

Thorn re-wrote the record books when he helped Leinster Rugby beat Ulster Rugby at Twickenham Stadium on 19 May, 2012. That made him the oldest player to appear in a Heineken Cup final, overtaking Perpignan's replacement hooker Marc dal Maso, who was 36 yrs, 3 months and 10 days old when he played against Toulouse in the 2003 final in Dublin.

Thorn also replaced Leicester Tigers prop, Darren Garforth, as the oldest Heineken Cup winner. Garforth was 36 years, 1 month and 19 days old when the Tigers won the 2002 final. But his records could be overtaken by two Toulon players – lock Simon Shaw and hooker Sebastien Bruno. Two-time Heineken Cup-winner Shaw played in all six pool matches to help steer Toulon into the knockout stage.

If he makes the matchday 23 for Dublin, he will be 39 years, 8 months, 17 days old, while former France hooker Bruno will be 38 years, 8 months and 23 days. Bruno has figured in four pool matches and in the quarter and semi-finals.

ASM Clermont Auvergne's, Nathan Hines, is another candidate for the 'golden oldies' club as he bids for a place in his second Heineken Cup final. The former Scotland international will be 36 years, 5 months and 19 days old on the day of the 18th final.



Heineken Cup final records

INDIVIDUAL (MATCH)

Most points

30 – Diego Dominguez (STADE FRANÇAIS PARIS v Leicester Tigers 2001)

Most tries

2 – Sebastien Carrat (BRIVE v Bath Rugby 1998), Leon Lloyd (LEICESTER TIGERS v Stade Français Paris 2001), Jonny Sexton (LEINSTER RUGBY v Northampton Saints (2011))

Most pens

9 – Diego Dominguez (STADE FRANÇAIS PARIS v Leicester Tigers 2001)

Most cons

3 – Mark van Gisbergen (LONDON WASPS v Toulouse 2004), Jonny Sexton (LEINSTER RUGBY v Northampton Saints 2011 and v Ulster Rugby 2012)

Most DGs

2 – David Skrela (TOULOUSE v Biarritz Olympique 2010)

Most matchday squad selections

6 – Cedric Heymans (Brive 96/97, Toulouse 02/03, 03/04, 04/05, 07/08, 09/10)

5 – Yannick Jauzion, William Servat, Jean-Baptiste Poux, Jean Bouilhou
(Toulouse 02/03, 03/04, 04/05, 07/08, 09/10)

4 – Ronan O’Gara, John Hayes, David Wallace (Munster 99/00, 01/02, 05/06, 07/08)
Geordan Murphy, Ben Kay (Leicester Tigers 00/01, 01/02, 06/07, 08/09), Fabien Pelous (Toulouse 02/03, 03/04, 04/05, 07/08), Leo Cullen (Leicester Tigers 06/07, Leinster Rugby 08/09, 10/11, 11/12), Shane Jennings (Leicester Tigers 06/07, Leinster Rugby 08/09, 10/11, 11/12)

Oldest finalist / Oldest winner

37 years, 3 months, 16 days - Brad Thorn (Leinster Rugby 2012)

CLUB (Match)

Most points

42 – LEINSTER RUGBY (v Ulster Rugby 2012)

Most tries

5 – LEINSTER RUGBY (v Ulster Rugby 2012)

Most cons

4 – LEINSTER RUGBY (v Ulster Rugby 2012)

**Most pens**

9 – STADE FRANÇAIS PARIS (v Leicester Tigers 2001)

Most DGs

3 – TOULOUSE (v Biarritz Olympique 2010)

Biggest winning margin

28 – LEINSTER RUGBY (v Ulster Rugby 2012)

Most final appearances

6 – TOULOUSE (1996, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2008, 2010)

5 – LEICESTER TIGERS (1997, 2001, 2002, 2007, 2009)

4 – MUNSTER RUGBY (2000, 2002, 2006, 2008)

OVERALL FINAL RECORDS**Most points**

64 – 2001 (Leicester Tigers 34, Stade Francais Paris 30, Parc de Princes)

Most tries

6 – 2011 (Leinster Rugby 3, Northampton Saints 3, Millennium Stadium)

2012 (Leinster Rugby 5, Ulster Rugby 1, Twickenham)

Most cons

5 – 2011 (Leinster Rugby 3, Northampton Saints 2, Millennium Stadium)

Most pens

14 – 2001 (Leicester Tigers 5, Stade Francais Paris 9, Parc des Princes)

Most DGs

3 – 2010 (Toulouse 3, Biarritz Olympique 0, Stade de France)

ATTENDANCE

81,774 – Leinster Rugby v Ulster Rugby – Twickenham Stadium – 2012



Media opportunities

Please see below the schedule of media opportunities ahead of the 2013 Heineken Cup final. This schedule will be updated as soon as possible.

(All timings are LOCAL)

ASM CLERMONT AUVERGNE

Tuesday, 14 May

Timings for vision access and media conference to be confirmed.

Friday, 17 May

3.45 Aviva Stadium - 'Captain's Run' (pitch walk on). Vision access for photographers and TV crews for first 15 minutes.

4.10 Aviva Stadium, Press Conference room – Media conference with Vern Cotter and captain.

4.30 Aviva Stadium, pitchside – Joint captain's photo opportunity.

TOULON

Tuesday, 14 May

4.00 Stade Mayol – Media conference with Bernard Laporte and six players.

5.30 Stade Mayol – Training open to media.

Friday, 17 May

4.30 Aviva Stadium, pitchside – Joint captain's photo opportunity.

4.40 Aviva Stadium, Press Conference room – Media conference with Bernard Laporte and captain.

5.15 Aviva Stadium – Captain's Run. Vision access for photographers and TV crews for first 15 minutes only.



Dublin 2013 media accommodation

ERC Rugby Travel is making a number of rooms available to media for the European club rugby finals weekend in Dublin (Friday, 17 and Saturday, 18 May) with one and two-night packages for both finals on offer.

On the basis of a two-night booking for the Friday and Saturday night, with either single or double occupancy, the most convenient hotels for the RDS and Aviva Stadium are the Clyde Court Hotel (€425) and Bewley's Hotel Ballsbridge (€400). The prices include VAT and breakfast and are competitively priced compared to the same hotels sourced through leading travel portals. There is no requirement to assign names to rooms at the point of booking; names can be changed right up to check-in.

Media organisations are advised to consider booking accommodation early due to the already high demand for that weekend. To book rooms or to discuss any specific requirements, please contact enquiries@ercrugbytravel.com or telephone **+44 (0) 161 4921935**

Heineken Cup Digital Tournament Guide

The information in the digital tournament guide is now updated to reflect all the action, past and present, in the Heineken Cup.

The guide can be accessed on the link below and can be saved as a shortcut, favourite or bookmark to allow access offline on most browsers and mobiles.

www.ercrugby.com/guide

Please contact mediaguidesupport@sotic.net if you have any difficulties in setting up the tournament guide for offline use.



2013/14 Heineken Cup qualification

With the build-up to the Dublin 2013 European club rugby finals intensifying by the day, the four elite clubs of ASM Clermont Auvergne, Toulon, Leinster Rugby and Stade Francais Paris, who are focused on their quest for Heineken Cup and Amlin Challenge Cup silverware respectively, won't be the only clubs with Europe on their mind over the weekend of 17 and 18 May.

Events at the Aviva Stadium and the RDS Arena will be watched closely by Perpignan, London Wasps and Connacht Rugby who all still harbour hopes of qualification for the 2013/14 Heineken Cup.

With Clermont and Toulon in the Heineken Cup final, France are already assured of seven places in next season's tournament, however, that seventh place is very much up for grabs.

If Stade Francais win the Amlin Challenge Cup, they will qualify as the seventh French club, and the 24th place in the tournament will go to London Wasps who are the highest-ranked, non-French club in the ERC European rankings which has not already qualified.

If Leinster win a first Amlin Challenge Cup, then the additional spot for France will go to Perpignan who are in seventh place in the final Top 14 championship standings. A Leinster victory will also bring a fourth Irish club into the equation with Connacht securing Heineken Cup rugby for a third season in a row.

Since the 2009/10 season, both the Heineken Cup and Amlin Challenge Cup winners qualify automatically for the following season's Heineken Cup and each winner earns an extra place for their countries over and above the guaranteed allocations of six clubs for France and England, three for Ireland and Wales, and two for Scotland and Italy.

Regarding automatic qualification for the 2013/14 Heineken Cup, France are represented by the same six clubs who secured their places from the Top 14 standings as last season, while in England, Gloucester Rugby return after a one-year absence, and Exeter Chiefs have qualified for a second successive season.

While the four European club rugby finalists still have the opportunity to earn additional ERC European ranking points, both Clermont and Toulon have already secured Tier 1 status in the rankings for the first time along with Toulouse and three Irish clubs, Leinster, Munster and Ulster in advance of next month's Pool Draw for the 2013/14 tournament.

[ERC European rankings](#)

FRANCE

(Six automatic places, maximum of seven)

ASM Clermont Auvergne

Toulon

Toulouse

Castres Olympique

Montpellier

Racing Metro 92

- With two French clubs in the Heineken Cup final, France are guaranteed seven places in the 2013/14 tournament.



- If Stade Français Paris win the Amlin Challenge Cup final, they qualify for the 2013/14 Heineken Cup. As France can have a maximum of seven clubs in the tournament, the highest ranked club in the ERC European rankings which is not French and not already qualified – London Wasps - will occupy the 24th place in the 2013/14 tournament.
- If Leinster Rugby win the Amlin Challenge Cup final, then Perpignan qualify as the seventh French club. A Leinster victory will also secure Ireland a fourth place in the 2013/14 tournament with that place going to Connacht Rugby.

ENGLAND

(Six automatic places, maximum of seven)

Saracens

Leicester Tigers

Harlequins

Northampton Saints

Gloucester Rugby

Exeter Chiefs

- If Stade Français Paris win the Amlin Challenge Cup final, they qualify for the 2013/14 Heineken Cup. As France can have a maximum of seven clubs in the tournament, the highest ranked club in the ERC European rankings which is not French and not already qualified – London Wasps - will occupy the 24th place in the 2013/14 tournament.

IRELAND

(Three automatic places, maximum of four)

Ulster Rugby

Leinster Rugby

Munster Rugby

- If Leinster Rugby win the Amlin Challenge Cup final, Connacht Rugby will qualify for the 2013/14 Heineken Cup.

WALES

(Three automatic places, maximum of four)

Scarlets

Ospreys

Cardiff Blues

SCOTLAND

(Two places)

Glasgow Warriors

Edinburgh Rugby

ITALY

(Two places)

Benetton Treviso

Zebre



The Heineken Cup final – Did You Know?

* First time finalists ASM Clermont Auvergne and Toulon will make it 16 clubs who have contested the 18 Heineken Cup finals. The other Heineken Cup finalists have been Toulouse (6), Leicester Tigers (5), Munster Rugby (4), Leinster Rugby (3), London Wasps, Stade Francais Paris, Brive, Biarritz Olympique, Northampton Saints, Ulster Rugby (2), Cardiff, Bath Rugby, Colomiers, Perpignan (1 each).

*** Clermont and Toulon are each bidding to become the 10th club to lift the trophy. The roll of honour is headed by Toulouse with four wins followed by Leinster Rugby on three, Leicester Tigers, Munster Rugby and London Wasps on two each and Brive, Bath Rugby, Ulster Rugby and Northampton Saints on one apiece.**

* Clermont's Nathan Hines and David Skrela are bidding to join an exclusive club. So far only four winners have collected medals with different clubs. Skrela was a winner with Toulouse in 2010, and second row Hines with Leinster in 2011. Cedric Heymans completed the double with Brive in 1997 and Toulouse in 2003, 2005 and 2010; Philippe Carbonneau (Toulouse, 1996/Brive, 1997); Federico Mendez (Bath Rugby, 1998/ Northampton Saints, 2000) and Eoin Reddan (London Wasps, 2007/Leinster Rugby, 2011 and 2012).

*** It will be the sixth one-nation final, and the fourth all-French affair. Toulouse won all three previous all-French contests while there have also been finals between English and Irish clubs.**

* The most tries scored in a final are the five by Leinster when they beat Ulster Rugby 42-14 at Twickenham Stadium 12 months ago. The 28 points winning margin is the biggest in the 17 finals.

*** Clermont are bidding to become the first French club to win both the Heineken Cup and the Amlin Challenge Cup. They won the Amlin CC in 1999 and 2007. Other clubs to win both European trophies are: Bath Rugby (HC 1997 / ACC 2008), Northampton Saints (HC 2000 / ACC 2009), London Wasps (ACC 2003 / HC 2004, 2007). Leinster Rugby could join the list if they beat Stade Francais Paris in the Amlin Challenge Cup Final on Friday, 17 May.**

There are a number of European winners in the two squads:

Toulon: Sebastien Bruno (ACC 2005), Rocky Elsom (HC 2009), Gethin Jenkins (ACC 2010), Frederic Michalak (HC 2003, 2005), Simon Shaw (ACC 2003, HC 2004, 2007), Andrew Sheridan (ACC 2005).

ASM Clermont Auvergne: Jamie Cudmore (ACC 2007), Anthony Floch (ACC 2007), Nathan Hines (HC 2009), Loic Jacquet (ACC 2007), Brock James (ACC 2007), Julien Malzieu (ACC 2007), Aurelien Rougerie (ACC 2007), David Skrela (ACC 1998, HC 2010), Elvis Vermuelen (ACC 2007)

*** As well as their two former Heineken Cup winners, Nathan Hines and David Skrela, Clermont have two other players who have played in a final. Regan King was a replacement for Stade Francais Paris in the 2005 final at Murrayfield when they lost to Toulouse after extra-time, and Benjamin**



Kayser, who came on for Leicester Tigers in their 2009 defeat to Leinster Rugby in Edinburgh.

* David Skrela is bidding to play a part in a fourth Heineken Cup and a third all-French affair. He was a replacement for Colomiers in the 1999 Heineken Cup final in Dublin, when the French side lost to Ulster Rugby. He was then at No 10 for Stade Francais Paris against Toulouse in Edinburgh in 2005 and at outside half for Toulouse when they beat Biarritz Olympique in 2010.

**** Welsh referee Nigel Owens (2008, 2009 and 2012) and England's Chris White (2003, 2005 and 2006) as the only officials to referee three Heineken Cup finals.***

* Austin Healey is the only player to have won two Heineken Cup final man-of-the-match awards, doing it in the Tigers' back-to-back triumphs in 2001 and 2002.

**** Two of the 17 finals have failed to produce a try – when Ulster Rugby beat Colomiers 21-6 in 1999 and when Toulouse needed extra time in the 2005 final to beat Stade Francais Paris 18-12. But the 17 finals have produced 38 tries – an average of just over two per match.***

* The all-Ireland semi-final between Munster Rugby and Leinster Rugby at Croke Park in 2009 was watched by a world record crowd for a club rugby match of 82,208.

**** The most points scored by an individual in a final is the 30 kicked by Stade Français Paris' Diego Dominguez (nine penalty goals and a drop goal) in the 2001 defeat by Leicester Tigers.***

* The most overall points scored in a Heineken Cup final are the 64 rattled up by Leicester Tigers and Stade Francais Paris at the Parc des Princes in 2001. The 30 scored by Stade is the most scored by a losing team.

**** Two of the finals have required extra time to determine the winner and Toulouse won on both occasions, against Cardiff in 1996 and Stade Français Paris in 2005.***

* There has never been a try hat-trick scored in a final. Three players have scores braces - Sebastien Carrat for Brive against Bath Rugby in 1998, Leon Lloyd for Leicester Tigers against Stade Français Paris in 2001 and Jonny Sexton for Leinster against Northampton Saints in 2011.



ERC European Player of the Year 2013

It's down to the wire now for the five contenders who have been shortlisted for the ultimate individual accolade in northern hemisphere rugby, the ERC European Player of the Year 2013 award.

Following the decision of the judges to nominate the in-form quintet of Julien Bonnaire, Wesley Fofana and Sitiveni Sivivatu (all ASM Clermont Auvergne) as well as Jamie Heaslip (Leinster Rugby) and Jonny Wilkinson (Toulon), the winner will be announced shortly after the conclusion of the Dublin 2013 finals.

The successful player will follow in the illustrious footsteps of the Leinster Rugby pair of Rob Kearney and Sean O'Brien – winners in 2012 and 2011 respectively – while Ronan O'Gara was the inaugural recipient of the honour as the leading player over the first 15 years of both tournaments.

The start of the search to select Kearney's successor was based on player performances during the pool stages of the Heineken Cup and Amlin Challenge Cup and a longlist of 15 players which was announced in January. The judges then had the option to consider players who made major contributions during the quarter-finals and semi-finals of both tournaments and on that basis, Heaslip, Sivivatu and Wilkinson forced their way into the shortlist.

Heaslip has been a key figure in Leinster's storming run to a first Amlin Challenge Cup final, while Sivivatu has been in irresistible form for Clermont particularly in the quarter-final win over Montpellier. As for the incredibly durable Wilkinson, he has been the undoubted inspiration behind Toulon's push for a first European title both with the legendary accuracy of his goalkicking and his tactical acumen.

In addition to the decision of the panel, the 44 clubs in the Heineken Cup and the Amlin Challenge Cup have had the opportunity to vote for contenders nominated on the shortlist while supporters have been having their say on Twitter using #ERCPlayer2013, as well as on the Heineken Cup and Amlin Challenge Cup Facebook pages.

Shortlisted player profiles

Julien Bonnaire

Club: ASM Clermont Auvergne

Age: 34

Position: Back row

Country: France (75 tests)

Heineken Cup apps: 57

Amlin CC apps: 5

2012/13 P 8 Pts 10 (2T)

Inspirational leader during Clermont's drive to a first Heineken Cup final. Superb all-round forward who has been consistency personified this season with a string of outstanding performances.



Wesley Fofana

Club: ASM Clermont Auvergne

Age: 25

Position: Centre

Country: France (15 tests)

Heineken Cup apps: 22

2012/13 P 7 Pts 25 (5 tries)

If Bonnaire has been the stabilising influence, Fofana has once again proved to be Clermont's razor-sharp cutting edge. Moved to the wing by France but a constant threat in his best position of centre for Clermont with five tries to his name in the current campaign.

Jamie Heaslip

Club: Leinster Rugby

Age: 29

Position: No 8

Country: Ireland (57 tests)

Heineken Cup apps: 59

Amlin CC apps: 2

2012/13 P 8 Pts 15 (3T)

Extremely solid, if unspectacular, in the early stage of Leinster's European campaign, Heaslip has exploded into peak form in the knockout phase of the Amlin Challenge Cup with stand-out displays against both London Wasps and Biarritz.

Sitiveni Sivivatu

Club: ASM Clermont Auvergne

Position: Wing

Country: New Zealand (45 tests)

Age: 31

European games: 13

2012/13 P 7 Pts 15 (3T)

An inspired signing by Clermont, Sivivatu might have been overshadowed by the brilliance of Fofana in the pool stage, but he has been devastating in the knockout games producing moments of breathtaking class particularly in the quarter-final win over Montpellier.

Jonny Wilkinson

Club: Toulon

Age: 33

Position: Out half

Country: England (91 tests)

Heineken Cup apps: 20

Amlin CC apps: 37

2012/13 P 8 Pts 97 (25P, 2DG, 8C)

Toulon are more than a one-man band but Wilkinson undoubtedly wields the conductor's baton. Approaching 100 points for the Heineken Cup season, he was responsible for all of his team's 45 points in the knockout games to date. Playing some of the best rugby of his career.

ERC Judging Panel

Stuart Barnes (Sky Sports), **Will Greenwood** (Daily Telegraph, World Cup winner and two-time Challenge Cup winner), **Stephen Jones** (Rugby Correspondent, Sunday Times), **Jacques Verdier** (Director, Midi Olympique), **Gerry Thornley** (Rugby Correspondent, Irish Times)



2012/13 Heineken Cup - Leading scorers

Tries

Rank	Player	Club	Matches	Tries
1	Napolioni Nalaga	ASM Clermont Auvergne	8	7
2	Wesley Fofana	ASM Clermont Auvergne	7	5
2	Alex Cuthbert	Cardiff Blues	6	5
4	Chris Ashton	Saracens	8	4
4	Danny Care	Harlequins	7	4
4	Simon Zebo	Munster Rugby	8	4
4	Timoci Nagusa	Montpellier	7	4
4	George Pisi	Northampton Saints	6	4
4	Juan Imhoff	Racing Metro	4	4
10	Leigh Halfpenny	Cardiff Blues	4	3
10	Ben Botica	Harlequins	5	3
10	Yoann Huget	Toulouse	6	3
10	Delon Armitage	Toulon	8	3
10	Vincent Clerc	Toulouse	6	3
10	Sitiveni Sivivatu	ASM Clermont Auvergne	7	3
10	Sam Smith	Harlequins	3	3
10	Conor Murray	Munster Rugby	8	3
10	Manu Tuilagi	Leicester Tigers	6	3
10	Chris Wyles	Saracens	8	3

Points

Rank	Player	Club	Matches	Points
1	Morgan Parra	ASM Clermont Auvergne	8	108
2	Owen Farrell	Saracens	8	104
3	Jonny Wilkinson	Toulon	8	97
4	Nick Evans	Harlequins	6	73
5	Dan Parks	Connacht Rugby	5	68
6	Ronan O'Gara	Munster Rugby	6	67
7	Dan Biggar	Ospreys	6	63
7	Gareth Steenson	Exeter Chiefs	6	63
7	Leigh Halfpenny	Cardiff Blues	4	63
10	Jonathan Sexton	Leinster Rugby	6	62
10	Toby Flood	Leicester Tigers	5	62



Top Performers

Most carries

Rank	Player	Team	Games	Carries
1	Napolioni Nalaga	ASM Clermont Auvergne	8	94
2	Chris Masoe	Toulon	7	89
3	Delon Armitage	Toulon	8	84
4	Peter O'Mahony	Munster Rugby	8	81
4	Jamie Heaslip	Leinster Rugby	6	81
6	Simon Zebo	Munster Rugby	8	79
7	Mike Brown	Harlequins	7	76
8	Sitiveni Sivivatu	ASM Clermont Auvergne	7	74
9	Steffon Armitage	Toulon	8	73
10	Wesley Fofana	ASM Clermont Auvergne	7	71
10	Nick Easter	Harlequins	6	71

Most metres gained

Rank	Player	Team	Games	Metres
1	Napolioni Nalaga	ASM Clermont Auvergne	8	667
2	Timoci Nagusa	Montpellier	7	635
3	Delon Armitage	Toulon	8	564
4	Wesley Fofana	ASM Clermont Auvergne	7	503
5	Sitiveni Sivivatu	ASM Clermont Auvergne	7	458
6	Eli Walker	Ospreys	5	452
7	David Smith	Toulon	5	444
8	Simon Zebo	Munster Rugby	8	424
9	Mike Brown	Harlequins	7	421
10	Robbie Henshaw	Connacht Rugby	6	409

Most tackles

Rank	Player	Team	Games	Tackles	Missed Tackles
1	Kelly Brown	Saracens	8	92	4
2	Julien Bonnaire	ASM Clermont Auvergne	8	84	6
3	Chris Henry	Ulster Rugby	7	78	1
4	David Seymour	Sale Sharks	6	74	4
5	Josh Navidi	Cardiff Blues	6	72	11
6	Iain Henderson	Ulster Rugby	7	66	4
7	Steve Borthwick	Saracens	8	63	4
8	James Scaysbrook	Exeter Chiefs	6	61	5
9	Jamie Heaslip	Leinster Rugby	6	60	0
10	Wenceslas Lauret	Biarritz Olympique Pays Basque	6	58	4



Most clean breaks

Rank	Player	Team	Games	Clean Breaks
1	Timoci Nagusa	Montpellier	7	14
2	Napolioni Nalaga	ASM Clermont Auvergne	8	13
3	Wesley Fofana	ASM Clermont Auvergne	7	11
4	Matt Giteau	Toulon	8	9
4	David Smith	Toulon	5	9
6	Mathieu Bastareaud	Toulon	8	8
6	Eli Walker	Ospreys	5	8
6	Alex Cuthbert	Cardiff Blues	6	8
6	Delon Armitage	Toulon	8	8
10	Steffon Armitage	Toulon	8	7
10	Rudi Wulf	Toulon	6	7
10	Ken Pisi	Northampton Saints	4	7

Most defenders beaten

Rank	Player	Team	Games	Defenders Beaten
1	Napolioni Nalaga	ASM Clermont Auvergne	8	26
2	Wesley Fofana	ASM Clermont Auvergne	7	23
2	Eli Walker	Ospreys	5	23
4	David Smith	Toulon	5	19
5	Alex Cuthbert	Cardiff Blues	6	18
6	Timoci Nagusa	Montpellier	7	17
7	Mathieu Bastareaud	Toulon	8	16
7	Sitiveni Sivivatu	ASM Clermont Auvergne	7	16
7	Yoann Huget	Toulouse	6	16
7	Seremaia Burotu	Biarritz Olympique Pays Basque	6	16
7	Luke Arscott	Exeter Chiefs	6	16
7	Peter O'Mahony	Munster Rugby	8	16

Most offloads

Rank	Player	Team	Games	Offloads
1	Aurelien Rougerie	ASM Clermont Auvergne	6	19
2	Sitiveni Sivivatu	ASM Clermont Auvergne	7	15
3	Mathieu Bastareaud	Toulon	8	14
3	Louis Picamoles	Toulouse	6	14
5	Nick Easter	Harlequins	6	13
5	Tom Williams	Harlequins	6	13
7	Matt Giteau	Toulon	8	12
7	Casey Laulala	Munster Rugby	8	12
7	Damien Chouly	ASM Clermont Auvergne	7	12
7	Nathan Hines	ASM Clermont Auvergne	7	12



Most turnovers won

Rank	Player	Team	Games	Turnovers Won
1	Rory Best	Ulster Rugby	7	14
2	Justin Tipuric	Ospreys	5	9
2	Chris Henry	Ulster Rugby	7	9
4	Andrew Trimble	Ulster Rugby	7	8
5	Thierry Dusautoir	Toulouse	4	7
5	Nikola Matawalu	Glasgow Warriors	6	7
5	David Seymour	Sale Sharks	6	7
5	John Afoa	Ulster Rugby	7	7
9	Nine players	-	-	6

Most lineouts won (including steals)

Rank	Player	Team	Games	Lineouts Won
1	Steve Borthwick	Saracens	8	44
2	Geoff Parling	Leicester Tigers	7	39
3	George Robson	Harlequins	7	35
4	Julien Bonnaire	ASM Clermont Auvergne	8	34
5	Tom Wood	Northampton Saints	6	30
5	Courtney Lawes	Northampton Saints	6	30
5	Alastair Kellock	Glasgow Warriors	5	30
8	Donnacha Ryan	Munster Rugby	8	28
9	Grant Gilchrist	Edinburgh Rugby	6	27
10	Mike McCarthy	Connacht Rugby	6	26
10	Jocelino Suta	Toulon	8	26

Most try assists

Rank	Player	Team	Games	Try Assists
1	Morgan Parra	ASM Clermont Auvergne	8	5
2	Steffon Armitage	Toulon	8	4
2	Jonny Wilkinson	Toulon	6	4
2	Jonathan Sexton	Leinster Rugby	8	4
2	Charlie Hodgson	Saracens	6	4
6	Mike Brown	Harlequins	6	3
6	Kahn Fotuali'I	Ospreys	7	3
6	Nick Evans	Harlequins	5	3
6	Luke McAlister	Toulouse	6	3
6	Stephen Myler	Northampton Saints	6	3



ERC Elite Awards

As the final of the 18th Heineken Cup season approaches, here are the leading players and clubs in the four ERC Elite Awards categories:

50 Tournament caps

110 – Ronan O’Gara (Munster Rugby); **101** – John Hayes (Munster Rugby); **94** – Peter Stringer (Munster Rugby); **91** – Gordon D’Arcy (Leinster Rugby); **88** – Donncha O’Callaghan (Munster Rugby); **87** – Leo Cullen (Leinster Rugby), Shane Horgan (Leinster Rugby); **86** – Anthony Foley (Munster Rugby), David Wallace (Munster Rugby); **84** – Jean Bouilhou (Toulouse), Marcus Horan (Munster Rugby), Stephen Jones (Scarlets, ASM Clermont Auvergne); **82** – Brian O’Driscoll (Leinster Rugby); **81** – Fabien Pelous (Dax, Toulouse), Martyn Williams (Pontypridd, Cardiff Blues)

500 Tournament points

1,365 – Ronan O’Gara (Munster Rugby); **869** – Stephen Jones (Scarlets, ASM Clermont Auvergne); **661** – Dimitri Yachvili (Biarritz Olympique PB); **645** – Diego Dominguez (Milan, Stade Francais Paris); **564** – David Humphreys (Ulster Rugby); **502** – Neil Jenkins (Pontypridd, Celtic Warriors, Cardiff Blues)

25 Tournament tries

35 – Vincent Clerc (Toulouse); **32** – Brian O’Driscoll (Leinster Rugby); **29** – Dafydd James (Bridgend, Pontypridd, Scarlets, Celtic Warriors, Harlequins); **27** – Shane Horgan (Leinster Rugby); **26** – Gordon D’Arcy (Leinster Rugby); **25** – Geordan Murphy (Leicester Tigers)

50 Tournament matches

131 – Toulouse; **130** – Munster Rugby; **121** – Leinster Rugby; **117** – Leicester Tigers; **111** – Scarlets; **110** – Ulster Rugby; **108** – Cardiff Blues; **97** – Edinburgh Rugby; **92** – Biarritz Olympique PB; **90** – Benetton Treviso

For the full list of ERC Elite Awards go to
<http://www.ercrugby.com/eng/elite/index.php>



The 17 Cup finals

1996 TOULOUSE	21	Cardiff	18 (aet)
1997 BRIVE	28	Leicester Tigers	9
1998 BATH RUGBY	19	Brive	18
1999 ULSTER	21	Colomiers	6
2000 NORTHAMPTON SAINTS	9	Munster	8
2001 LEICESTER TIGERS	34	Stade Français Paris	30
2002 LEICESTER TIGERS	15	Munster	9
2003 TOULOUSE	22	Perpignan	17
2004 LONDON WASPS	27	Toulouse	20
2005 TOULOUSE	18	Stade Français Paris	12 (aet)
2006 MUNSTER	23	Biarritz Olympique	19
2007 LONDON WASPS	25	Leicester Tigers	9
2008 MUNSTER	16	Toulouse	13
2009 LEINSTER RUGBY	19	Leicester Tigers	16
2010 TOULOUSE	21	Biarritz Olympique	19
2011 LEINSTER RUGBY	33	Northampton Saints	22
2012 LEINSTER RUGBY	42	Ulster Rugby	14



Tied Heineken Cup final

Should the scores be tied at the end of full time then **20 MINUTES** (two periods of 10 minutes) of extra time will be played. If at the end of extra time the scores are still level, then the winners will be the team which has scored the most tries in the game, including extra time. If the teams are level on points and tries at the end of extra time then the winners will be determined through a place-kicking competition as follows:

In the case of the Penalty Shoot-out each team will be asked to nominate **THREE** goal kickers. The kickers need not be predetermined but they must come from the players on the pitch at the final whistle. No substituted or dismissed player will be permitted to take part. The end at which the competition takes place will be determined by the toss of a coin. The team to kick first will also be determined by the toss of a coin.

Each kicker will have two kicks from designated positions on the 22 and 10 metre lines and after each team has completed their six kicks a winner will be declared. If the teams remain deadlocked the competition will continue on a sudden-death basis.