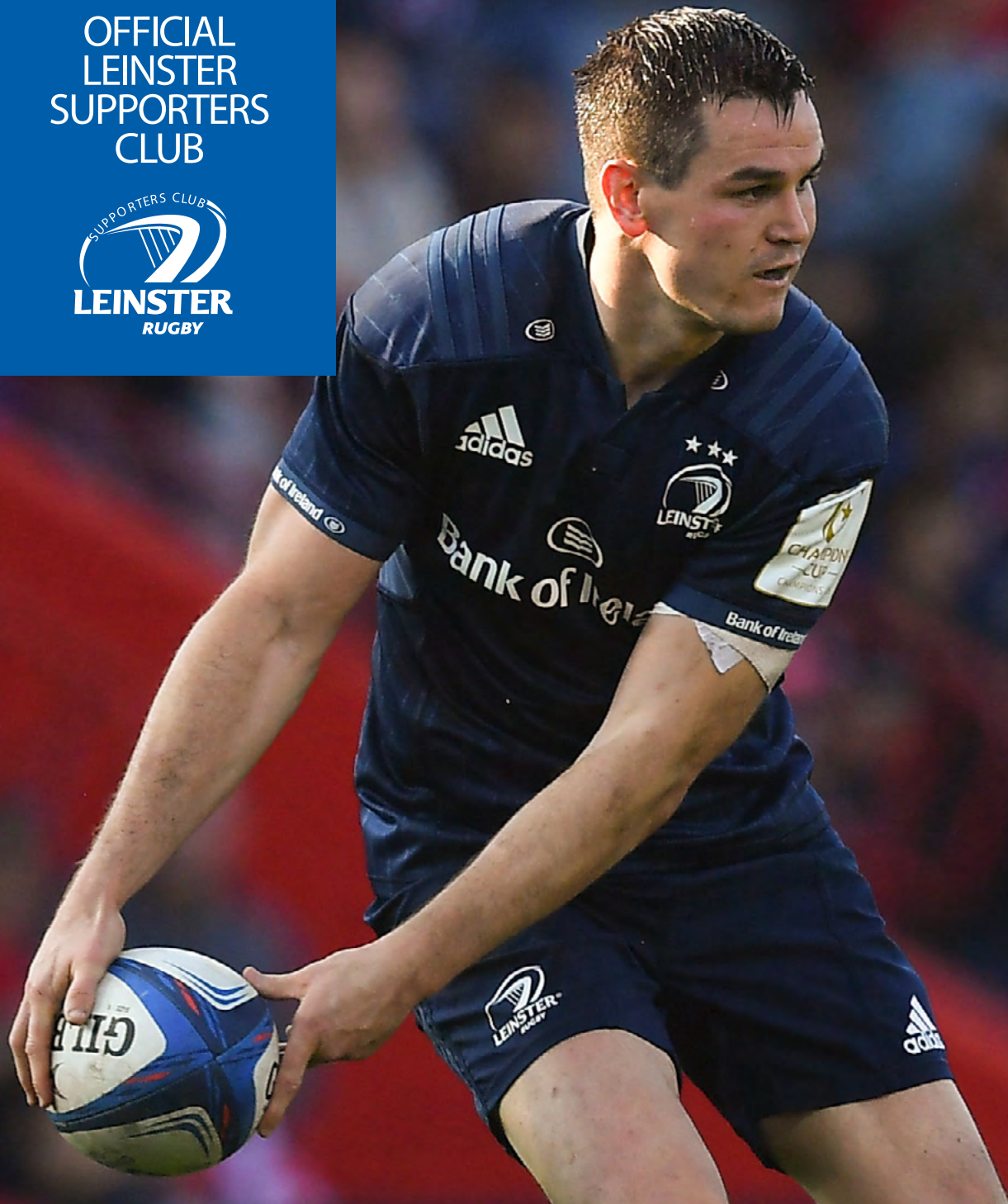


OFFICIAL
LEINSTER
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CLUB



Leinster v Saracens
Heineken Champions Cup Final
Saturday, 11th May 2019, KO 5:00pm
St James' Park

Guide to NEWCASTLE

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Introduction



The last time Leinster met Saracens it was of course last year's memorable Champions Cup Quarter final in Dublin on April 4th. Leinster won that much anticipated tussle 30 points to 19, marching onto the semi final and of course the final with Racing 92, and ultimately glory. That quarter final meeting is one of the three head to heads between Leinster and Saracens. The other two matches were pool games in the 2010/11 European season. Leinster won both matches. The first match, at Wembley was won 25 -23 and the second at the RDS 43-20. Leinster are three from three against Saracens, but that won't matter much today.

Newcastle upon Tyne, commonly known as Newcastle, is a city in Tyne and Wear, North East England, 166 km south of Edinburgh and 446 km north of London on the northern bank of the River Tyne, 13.5 km from the North Sea. Newcastle is the most populous city in the North East and forms the core of the Tyneside extended urban area, the eighth most populous urban area in the United Kingdom. Newcastle is a member of the English Core Cities Group and is a member of the Eurocities network of European cities. Newcastle was part of the county of Northumberland until 1400, when it became a county of itself, a status it retained until becoming part of



Tyne and Wear in 1974. The regional nickname and dialect for people from Newcastle and the surrounding area is Geordie. Newcastle also houses Newcastle University, a member of the Russell Group, as well as Northumbria University.

Today's game is at St James' Park. Which is a football stadium in Newcastle, England. Home to Premier League club Newcastle United FC. The stadium has a seating capacity of 52,388 and is the seventh largest football stadium in England. St James' Park has been the home ground of Newcastle United since 1892 and has been used for football since 1880. Throughout

its history, the desire for expansion has caused conflict with local residents and the local council. This has led to proposals to move at least twice in the late 1960s, and a controversial 1995 proposed move to nearby Leazes Park. Reluctance to move has led to the distinctive lop-sided appearance of the present-day stadium's asymmetrical stands

Besides club and International football, St James' Park has also hosted Rugby Union. Three of the 2015 Rugby World Cup matches were hosted at St James' Park. Long before that, in 1888 both Northumberland and Newcastle & District faced the first overseas touring team to visit the UK, the New Zealand Natives. In 1906 South African tourists met Northumberland at St James' Park followed by the Wallabies in 1908. Most recently this season Newcastle Falcons tasted victory over Sales Sharks in this seasons Gallagher Premiership with 27,284 people watching on. Newcastle is more than soccer country.

Getting to Dublin Airport



Get to/from Dublin airport the easy way with Aircoach, official coach supplier to Leinster Rugby and the OLSC for our inter-provincial away trips. Full time table information and their cheapest fares can be found at www.aircoach.ie (you can also buy on board).

Those driving and who may need car parking at Dublin Airport can get 10% off any non-promotional rates in the red zone by using 'OLSC2019' at www.dublinairport.com or via their app.

If you need a taxi, try www.irelandbytaxi.com to pre-book and lock in your fare to/from the airport – there will be no unexpected surprises!

Getting to Newcastle



Aer Lingus and Ryanair fly daily from Dublin direct to Newcastle airport. In addition, flying to other UK cities and taking over ground transport to Newcastle is a good option. There are flight connections available through a host of UK airports including Leeds, Manchester, and Edinburgh:

Fly to Leeds and get a train 1.5hrs/car 1.5hrs.

Fly to Manchester and get a train 2.2hrs/car 2.5 hrs.

Fly to Edinburgh and get a train 1.5hrs/car 2.5hrs.

Also, Dublin to Heathrow and a connecting flight to Newcastle is an option. For train timetables see www.thetrainline.com. Other travel options include ferries from Dublin to Holyhead and Belfast to Cairnryan. See Park & Ride options in this guide.

Official travel partner to Leinster Rugby, JWT also had day trips or over night trips still available at the time of writing, check out their website, www.joewalshstours.ie

If you are flying direct to Newcastle or indirectly through another UK city and taking the train or car you will most likely end up at Newcastle Central Train Station or Monument Station. Trains from Newcastle airport are every 20mins and journey time to the city centre is 25mins

Accommodation Tip

Newcastle has a wide range of accommodation options available. Be warned, we have already seen some price increases given the expected demand. For options across several comfort levels and prices try www.laterooms.com, www.bookings.com, www.trivago.com and www.newcastlegateshead.com/accommodation

Supporters HQ

Our HQ will be the Tyneside Irish Centre, 43 Gallowgate, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 4SG, UK. Situated right beside St James' Park and 15mins from the Fan Village. This location is perfect for taking part in the Sea of Blue welcome of the Leinster team bus into the stadium. If you get there early the entertainment starts on Thursday.



Thursday 9th May 8pm - midnight: Celtic Social Club - traditional music from Brittany

Friday 10th May - Open at 10am serving Irish Breakfast for £5. 7.45pm: Clermont v La Rochelle shown on all screens across three floors. 10pm - midnight: Live trad music and song in the Concert Room

Saturday 11th May - Open at 10am serving Irish Breakfast for £5 Leinster Supporters Lounge in the Concert Room (2nd floor), drinks discount will be available on this floor.

5pm: The Big One, Leinster v Saracens on all screens. 7.30: Liam Turner, Irish singer in the Concert Room. Guinness at £4 per pint ALL weekend.

It begins here

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Begin

Flags and being blue!

The OLSC team will have a limited number of Leinster flags sponsored by Bank of Ireland that will be distributed around the ground on the day. Please bring what you can from home, those with the white plastic pole have been cleared as hand luggage by the Dublin Airport Authority. Watch out for updates on OLSC social media for flag collection points and details on Sea of Blue, welcoming the Leinster team bus into the St James' Park.

Top 5 things to see and do during your stay

1. Leinster v Saracens, St. James' Park. KO 5.00pm on Saturday
2. Challenge Cup Final – ASM Clermont Auvergne v Le Rochelle, St. James' Park, KO 7.45pm on Friday
3. Newcastle Castle - www.info@newcastle.co.uk
4. The Quayside and Champions Fan Village
5. The Tyne Bridge, book the zip line in advance

Getting to the Ground

With a city centre location, St. James' Park is one of the most accessible and well-connected football grounds in the UK. The stadium is located close to the junction of Gallowgate, St. James' Boulevard and Barrack Road, just a ten-minute walk from Newcastle Central Station and around five minutes from Monument Metro Station and the city's major bus stations. Simply follow the pedestrian signs located throughout the city centre. St. James' Park - Strawberry Place, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 4ST. www.nufc.co.uk Disability support / Contact information, Email: disabilitysupport@nufc.co.uk, Phone: 0191 201 8457.

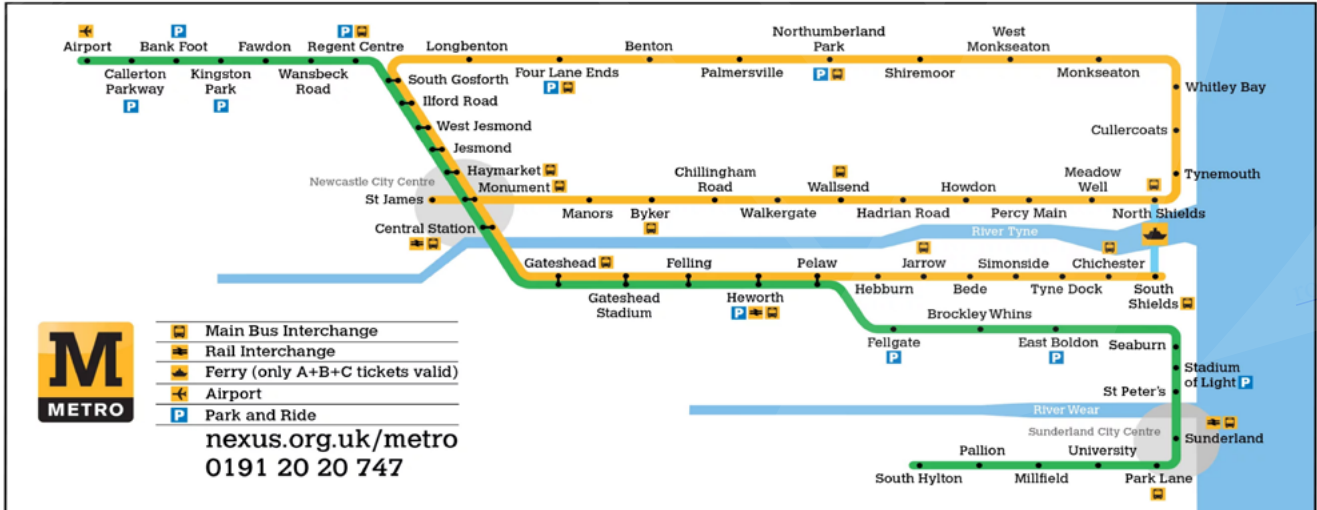
Metro: Newcastle is served by the Tyne & Wear Metro system; a light rail network with frequent services between Newcastle Airport, Newcastle city centre, the coast, and major transport interchanges and destinations south to Wearside. Monument station is a five-minute walk away from St James' Park – is served by both yellow and green line routes towards Newcastle International Airport, South Shields and the coast. A £5:20 day ticket would seem to be the best value. For more information, visit www.nexus.org.uk/metro. Please see Metro map on the next page.

Train: Situated on the East Coast Mainline, Newcastle Central Station is a principle stop for services between London and Edinburgh/Glasgow. In addition to regional services, it also offers direct cross-country routes to and from Leeds, Manchester, Liverpool Birmingham and Bristol. The station is a ten-minute walk from St. James' Park, walk west along Neville Street (A186) and turn right onto St. James' Boulevard. The stadium is located at the top of the road and will become visible as you reach the junction with Bath Lane/Wellington Street. To plan your train journey, visit www.nationalrail.co.uk.

Public Bus (local): Newcastle has two major bus stations for local and regional services – Haymarket, for services to and from Northumberland and the North, and Eldon Square, for services to and from County Durham and the South. Both are located on Percy Street, a five-minute walk from St. James' Park. To reach the stadium, walk south west on Percy Street and turn right onto Gallowgate. St. James' Park will become visible on your right. For more information on local bus services, please visit www.nexus.org.uk/bus.

National Coach service: Newcastle Coach Station is on St. James' Boulevard and receives National Express coach services, while Megabus operates services from outside Newcastle Central Station.

Taxi service: There are taxi services available throughout the city, with major taxi ranks located at Newcastle Central Station and transport interchanges. The nearest taxi rank to St. James' Park is situated two-minutes walk on foot, opposite the entrance to Chinatown.



Park and Ride; There are no unreserved public car parks on event days at St. James' Park and traffic restrictions may be in place. Instead, the OLSC strongly recommend using public transport to reach the stadium. A park and ride system operates from two sites close to the A1 motorway– from Newcastle Great Park (close to the Newcastle Racecourse) and the Metro Centre; one of Europe's biggest shopping centres. For directions, timetables and additional information, please visit www.gonortheast.co.uk/nufcbuses.

Champions Cup Fan Village

With the biggest weekend in rugby coming to Newcastle, the city's famed Quayside will transform into a festival-like fan village. It will be free to enter and non-ticketed throughout the weekend. It opens at 3pm on Thursday May 9th and closes on Saturday night at 10:30pm with a fireworks display. Between Thursday and Saturday night there will be activities, performers and food & drink. Check it out before or after the game. If you don't have a match ticket this is the next best place to watch the game.

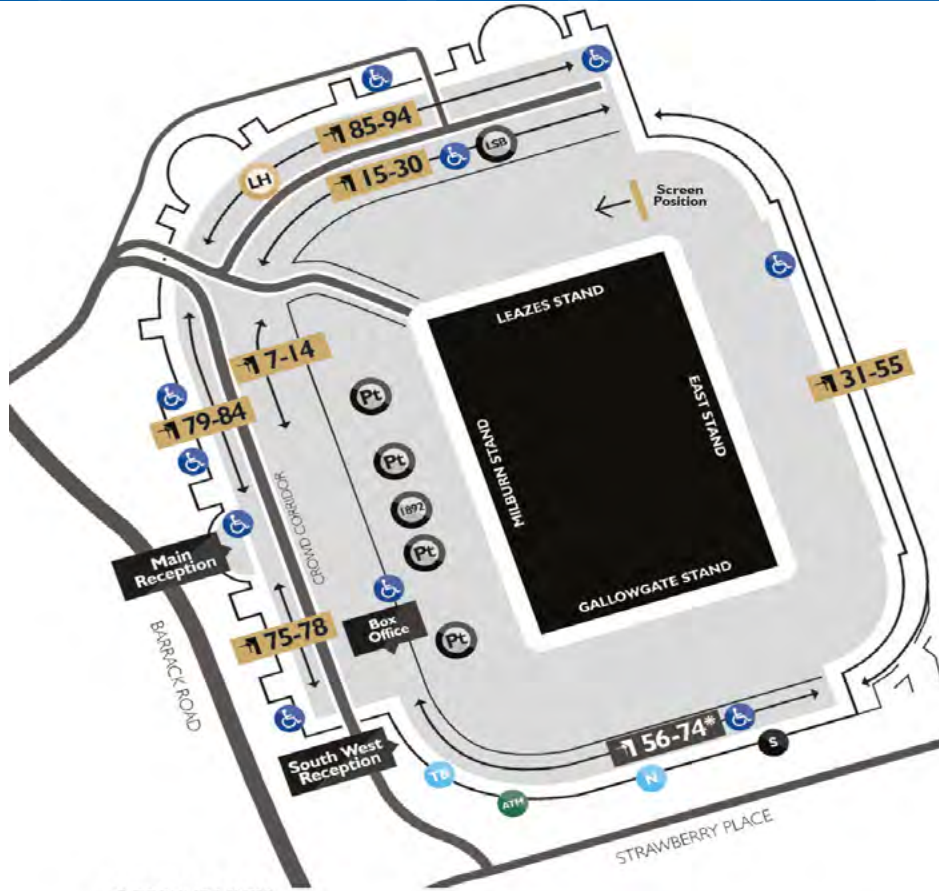
One of the prime attractions will undoubtedly be an exhilarating zip wire suspended from the iconic Tyne Bridge down to the Quayside. Booking in advance is recommended. There will also be street theatre and rugby activities – including the chance to try kick a ball across the Tyne – and a main stage.

There will be a very limited number of Zip Wire tickets available to people arriving on the day. To guarantee your Zip Wire experience, you should book in advance at www.tickettailor.com/events/newcastlefinals2019

Around The Ground

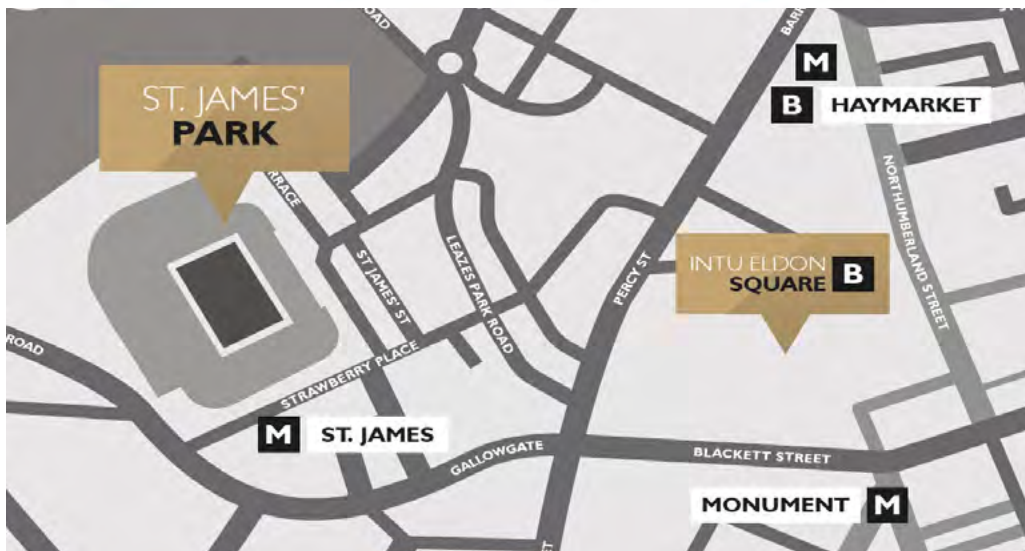
There will also be fan experiences around the stadium itself as well as at Grey's Monument. Other fan activation zones will also be operating across the weekend including a local food and craft market at Monument, activities with Newcastle Pride at Baltic Square and Spectator Plaza at Strawberry Place and St James' Metro Car Park.

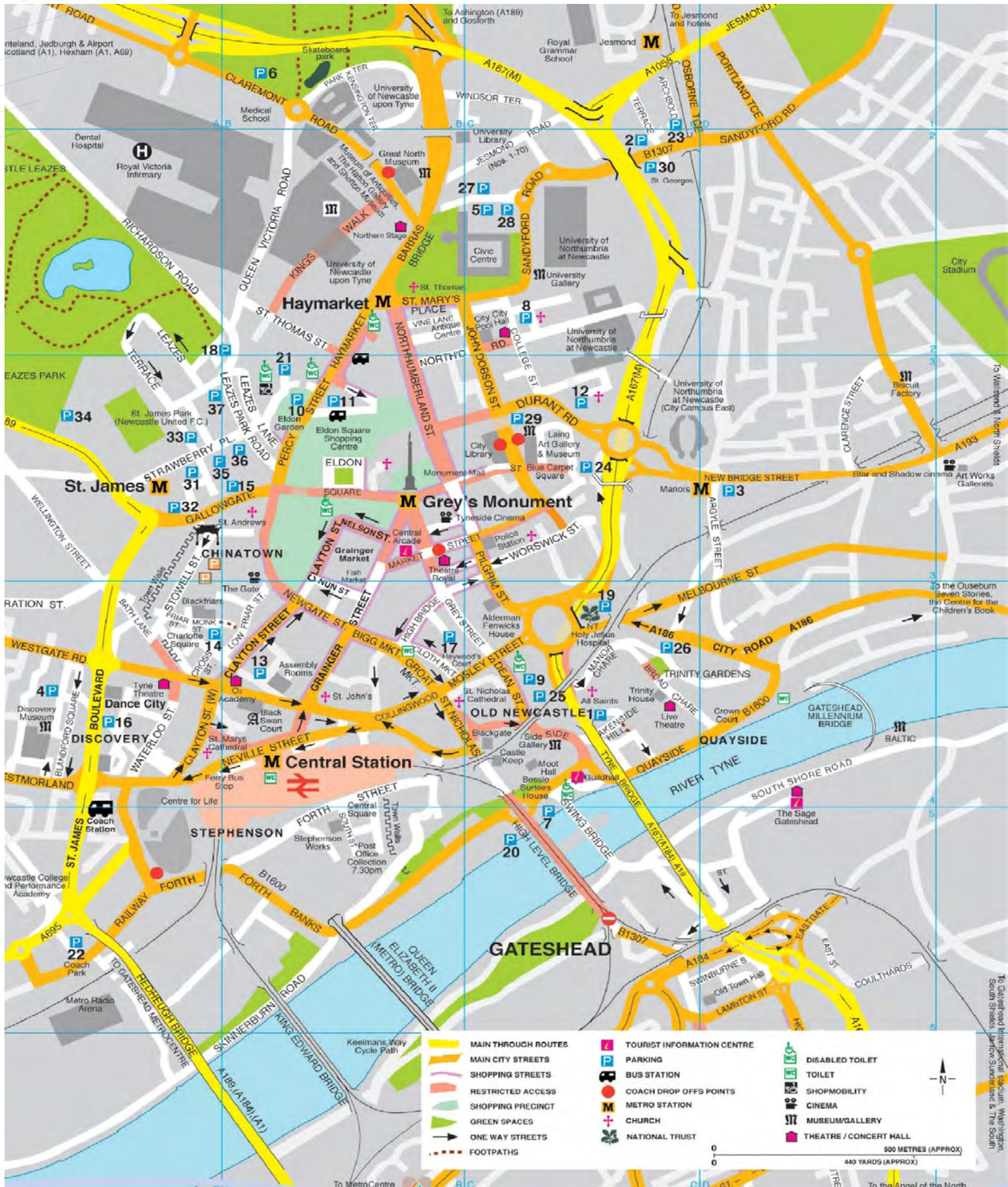
The stadium has two of its own external bars - NINE Bar and The Terrace Bar- which are open to all supporters and members of the public. The bars are located next to the club retail store beneath the Gallowgate Stand. While there are other pubs and bars close by, including the Strawberry Bar and our HQ, The Tyneside Irish Centre which has a full bar, live sports and live music. Contact-less payment is possible at most stadium kiosks. If you prefer cash, there is a Barclays ATM at the South West corner of St. James' Park, between the two entrances to The Terrace Bar.



STADIUM KEY

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------|--|-------------|--|
| Main Reception | For access to hospitality suites and boxes within the Milburn Stand. | LH | Leazes hospitality entrance for Park Grill and Leazes Executive Boxes. |
| South West Reception | For access to the Gallowgate Club and South West Corner boxes. | Pt | Platinum club entrance. |
| 131-55 | Ground level turnstiles. | LSB | Leazes sports bar entrance. |
| 156-74* | Upper concourse turnstiles. | 1892 | Bar 1892 entrance. |
| | | ♿ | Accessible entrance. |
-
- | | | | | | | | |
|----------|-----------------|-----------|-----------------|----------|------------|------------|---------------|
| N | NINE Sports Bar | TB | The Terrace Bar | S | Club Store | ATM | Cash machines |
|----------|-----------------|-----------|-----------------|----------|------------|------------|---------------|





Message from the Coach



A second Heineken Champions Cup Final in two seasons is hard to comprehend, but I am delighted for this group of players and staff that they have reached the final weekend of European rugby.

It has taken 57 players and nine Academy debuts to get us to this point in the season and I can't speak highly enough of the players and their efforts.

Unfortunately there are never any guarantees beyond this point and we face one of Europe's form teams in Saracens but the players have applied themselves over the pool stages and now into the knock-out games and I believe they deserve their chance to perform on the biggest stage.

A credit also to all the staff that work so hard to help the players get to this point on and off the pitch. We are in a relatively healthy place but that being said you would obviously love to have Adam, Dan, Josh and Barry fit and available for this weekend also. We wish them all a speedy recovery from their respective injuries.

Since our last Away Day Guide to Coventry, we have had two brilliant days in the Aviva Stadium. These days are what makes this club and the link without supporters so special.

Seeing that Sea of Blue as the bus arrives into the stadium sets up the day and the challenge perfectly. A 12 county army there with us every step of the way. Thank you.

Aviva and RDS days and that support are special. But those away days can be just as impactful, even if the numbers are smaller. We all still remember so clearly Bilbao last year.

Nobody takes for granted the cost and the logistical challenges involved in getting to these away games and in particular for finals when there are additional costs.

Again, thank you from us all and we look forward to similar scenes in Newcastle this weekend as we drive up towards St. James' Park.

Thank you to Bank of Ireland for their support of Leinster Rugby and of these guides over the season and indeed thank you to all the sponsors and partners that have supported us. It was great to spend some time with you all last week at the Awards Ball and to thank you in person.

A final thank you to the OLSC who have once again been a brilliant voice for our supporters and who I know will be in Newcastle in force helping to maximise the support and the impact of the Sea of Blue. All are volunteers and all doing it for the good of the club and of the supporters they represent.

Safe trip over and enjoy the game,

Leo

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Message from the Committee



Hello from the OLSC Committee...

If you're reading this Away Guide sponsored by Bank of Ireland, you're probably lucky enough to be on your way to Newcastle to watch Leinster take on Saracens in this year's Heineken European Champions Cup final. Back to back European titles are possible. Five European titles are possible. The double double is possible! Hard work has been put in to get us here, harder work remains. These are indeed heady times for Leinster supporters riding the crest of unprecedented success.

Unprecedented success! That's right folks, you are on board team Leinster on our bid to become the most decorated European team ever. Remember that as we welcome the team into the stadium with a Sea of Blue. Two years ago, Leo Cullen, Stuart Lancaster and the Leinster coaching team stated that their ambition was to become the first team to reach five titles. If we win today, we are undisputed heavy weight champions, top dog, head honchos, top of the all time champions table. It doesn't get any bigger than this, is an understatement.

On final qualification, Johnny Sexton proclaimed this final to be the competition of this Leinster team's lives. Sean O'Brien backed that up as the leading voice in an emotional team huddle after the final whistle against Toulouse. We, the supporters, are part of the equation. We have the ability to lift the team like no one else. James Ryan, fresh from being voted Leinster's Player of the Year by his team-mates, is one of many within the team to acknowledge the important role we, the supporter have played over the course of this season. Ryan said recently,

"It's going to be a great day, hopefully. I think we'll get great Leinster support over there as well. I was at the Millennium Stadium when we beat Northampton and then Twickenham when we beat Ulster. I was always a huge Leinster fan so I'm well aware of it, I know as a supporter how good that feels when your club is successful. It's slightly different being a player now but I'm well aware how much that means to the supporters of the club. Our fans have been unbelievable all year. I mentioned after the Toulouse game, the Sea of Blue we had driving in was unbelievable, there were people in blue lining the streets. No team has done it before [back-to-back doubles] so it's definitely something we've spoken about. Toulouse and Leinster are the only teams to have won four European Cups so to win another would be a great legacy."

Thank you James Ryan. We, the supporters will play our part. It's crucial we let the players know that we are there for them. That we provide a Sea of Blue, that we are behind them EVERY STEP of the way. Every tackle, ruck, hit, defensive read and attacking move will be crucial. This is the fight for the biggest prize in European club rugby. There are no second chances.

Be seen, be heard, be loud, be proud and most importantly **BE BLUE!**

C'MON LEINSTER!
The OLSC Committee