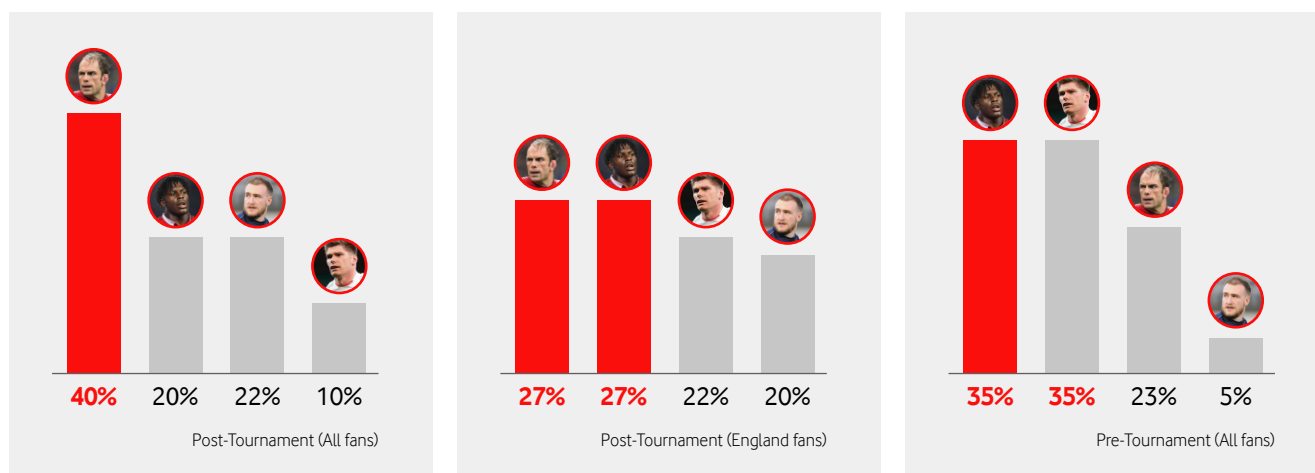


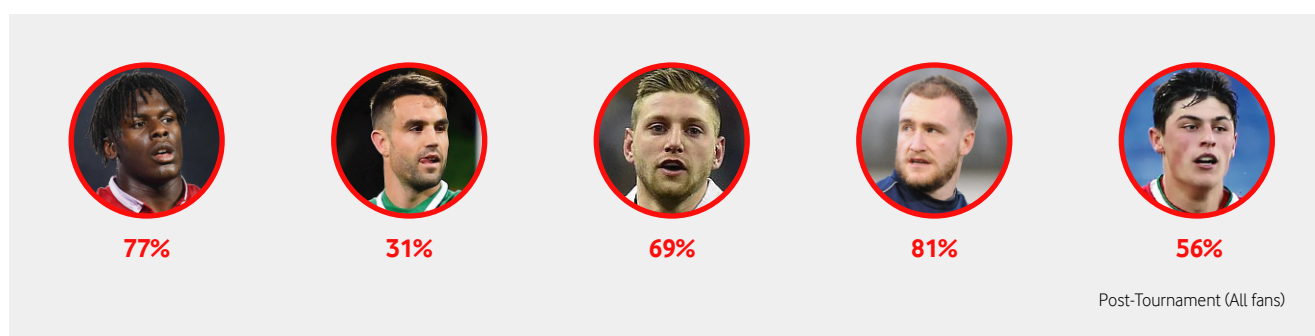
The Captaincy



- Wales veteran **Alun Wyn Jones** is the fans' overwhelming favourite for the armband with **40%** of the vote, clear of fellow contenders **Maro Itoje (22%)**, **Stuart Hogg (20%)** and **Owen Farrell (10%)**.
- Even England fans are leaning towards the Welshman, although he is currently neck-and-neck with Saracens lock **Maro Itoje**. Both have **27%** each of the vote **amongst the English**, with **Owen Farrell** in third on **22%** and **Stuart Hogg** just behind on **20%**.
- This is a huge shift from the start of the season: before February 8th, **Maro Itoje** and **Owen Farrell** were neck-and-neck at the top of the pile with **35%** of the vote each, with **Jones** a distant third on **23%**. **Stuart Hogg** was nowhere to be seen, with only **5%** of fans picking him as captain **pre-tournament**.

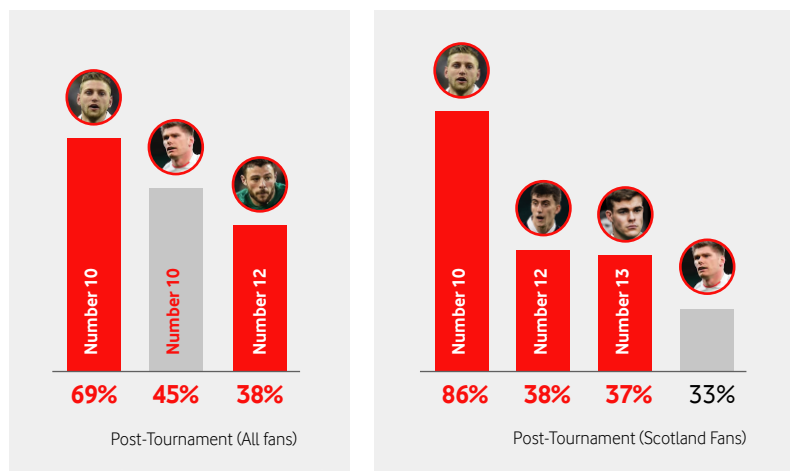
The Battle for Places

The Dead Certs



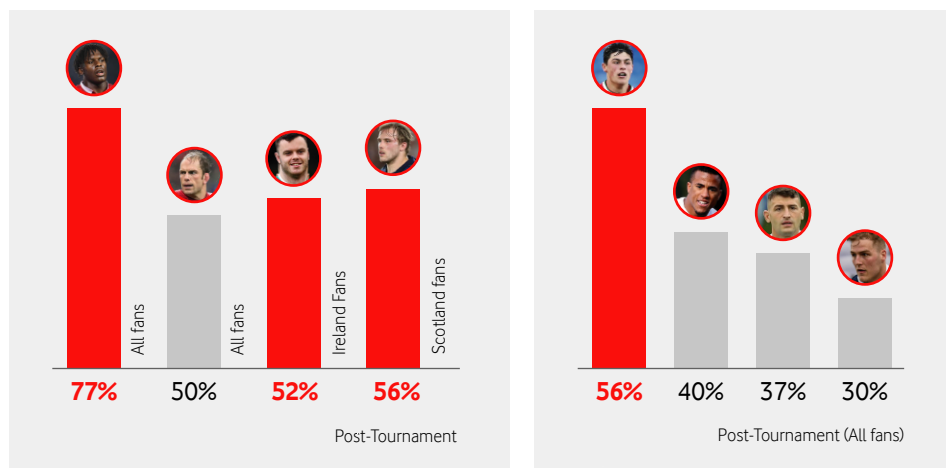
- Maro Itoje**, **Conor Murray**, **Finn Russell**, **Stuart Hogg** and **Louis Rees-Zammit** are all nailed-on starters according to the data, with fans of **every home nation** picking them in their squad for the first Test against the Springboks.
- Tadgh Furlong** likewise is a firm favourite to start at prop (**47%** of the vote), with **England fans** the only group not to include him in their starting XV, preferring an all-English front row of **Mako Vunipola**, **Luke Cowan Dickie** and **Kyle Sinckler**.

Under Threat



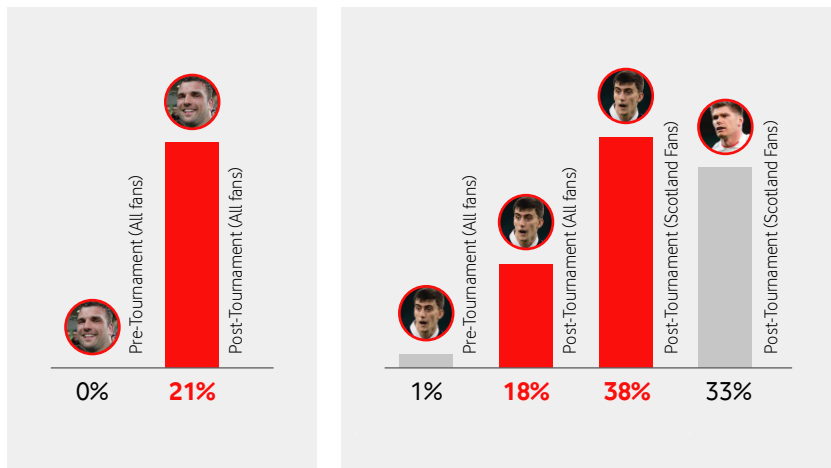
- **Owen Farrell (45%)** lost out to **Finn Russell (69%)** at number 10, and is moved to the subs bench with **Robbie Henshaw (38%)** given the nod at centre.
- Even **England fans** now prefer **Russell** at fly half, and **Scottish fans** have dropped the **England captain (33%)** from the starting XV entirely, with **Russell (86%)** at number 10 and a pairing of **Cameron Redpath (38%)** and **Garry Ringrose (37%)** at 12 and 13.

Close calls



- **Maro Itoje (77%)** is a nailed-on starter according to Lions fans, but there is still debate over who should appear alongside him on the second row. **Alun Wyn Jones (50%)** is the current front runner, but despite him being the clear favourite for captain he does not make it into **Ireland or Scotland fans'** first XVs, who prefer **James Ryan (52%)** and **Jonny Gray (56%)** respectively.
- There is also a tight battle to decide who will play on the opposite wing to **Louis Rees-Zammit (56%)**. Bath star **Anthony Watson** currently leads on **40%**, ahead of his England teammate **Jonny May** on **37%**, but both face a challenge from **Duhan van der Merwe (30%)**, as he looks to take on his birth country.

Wildcards



- Not a single fan picked **Tadgh Beirne** before February 8th, but following a superb tournament he now features in **21%** of teams. He doesn't make the fans' starting line ups, but he does get himself a well-deserved place on the plane.
- One game may have made a summer for **Cameron Redpath**, whose single appearance against England at the start of the month was enough to see him rise from less than **1%** to **18%** of the vote and the fringes of the selection conversation. For **Scotland fans** the impact was even greater, who have him in the starting XV with **38%** of the vote, above **Owen Farrell (33%)**.
- English trio **Manu Tuilagi**, **Sam Simmonds** and **Sam Underhill** haven't lost out with the fans despite not making Eddie Jones' squad – all three have received enough votes so far to make the plane, and fans are hoping Tuilagi's achilles heals in time.

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XV SELECTOR FINDINGS REPORT

Fans' British & Irish Lions XV Selector

Pre - Tournament
(All fans)

BENCH

L. COWAN-DICKIE, C. HEALY,
K. SINCKLER, A. W. JONES, J. TIPURIC,
B. YOUNGS, F. RUSSELL, J. ADAMS



Fans' British & Irish Lions XV Selector

Post - Tournament
(All fans)

BENCH

K. OWENS, C. HEALY, K. SINCKLER,
J. RYAN, C.J. STANDER, A. PRICE,
O. FARRELL, J. MAY



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XV SELECTOR FINDINGS REPORT

Fans' British & Irish Lions XV Selector

Post - Tournament
(England fans)

BENCH

J. GEORGE, C. HEALY, T. FURLONG,
C. LAWES, T. FALETAU, B. YOUNGS,
F. RUSSELL, A. WATSON



Fans' British & Irish Lions XV Selector

Post - Tournament
(Ireland fans)

BENCH

K. OWENS, W. JONES, K. SINCKLER,
A. W. JONES, S. UNDERHILL,
B. YOUNGS, R. HENSHAW,
D. VAN DER MERWE



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XV SELECTOR FINDINGS REPORT

Fans' British & Irish Lions XV Selector

Post - Tournament
(Scotland fans)

BENCH

K. OWENS, W. JONES, K. SINCKLER,
A. W. JONES, J. RITCHIE, A. PRICE,
O. FARRELL, J. MAY



Fans' British & Irish Lions XV Selector

Post - Tournament
(Wales fans)

BENCH

J. GEORGE, M. VUNIPOLA, K. SINCKLER,
J. RYAN, CJ. STANDER, T. WILLIAMS,
R. HENSHAW, J. MAY

