



STEWART'S MELVILLE  
R.F.C.

## Inverleith Angle

We are delighted to extend a very warm welcome to the Falkirk RFC tour party who have made the short journey east for this National 1 fixture. We hope that President Matt Dodd, committee member Mark Crawford and their players, coaches and supporters enjoy their visit to Inverleith.

You'll know that Falkirk's start to the season has mirrored our own, in that they have yet to record a victory and currently occupy the 'drop zone' in the league table. Like us, they've suffered some heavy losses, and, also like us, they will be desperate to kick start their season with a win at Inverleith today. Our victory at Sunnyside last season was, I would suggest, the point at which we officially started to turn our season around – please give our players as much support as you can today as they try to stop Falkirk using us as *their* springboard this season!

Last weekend saw the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> XVs heading to Mayfield to play Dundee High. As you'll read overleaf, the 1s put in a pretty promising performance in the first half before dropping out of the game in the second; the 2s, on the other hand, were very much on top in the first half of *their* game, then let Dundee back in before closing out a fine 31-24 victory.

The 2s game against Biggar today has been called off, but the Mighty Three are good to go against Corstorphine 2<sup>nd</sup> XV. As well as putting together a 3s squad brimming with talent and featuring some real RBG legends - take a bow, Messrs Borthwick and Marshall – Fin has also been debating scrum laws with the SRU this week and is doing a Q&A about the Super Six proposals with Colin before today's match day lunch. There's busy, and there's *Calder* busy!

There's more rugby at Inverleith tomorrow, with two East vs West Academy games taking place. The U16s kick off at 12.30 pm and the U18s at 2.15 pm. With a few SMC prospects likely to feature, I'd encourage you to come along and see the future of Scottish rugby playing on our hallowed turf. Admission is free and there will be half time refreshments – see you in the pie queue!

Seriously, though – it's worth remembering that, despite the tough start that the 1s have had to their season, the club as a whole is actually in pretty fine fettle. Let's keep it that way!

Talking of which ... our Annual Ball takes place at Murrayfield two weeks today. The tables are filling up fast, so please speak to Lindsey Geddes or any of the committee today if you've not yet got your tickets. We've got some stunning auction and raffle prizes lined up, but would still be delighted to receive any other prizes that you or your company can help us with.

Enjoy the game today – look forward to seeing you in the bar afterwards.

Bill McNie  
President



## Match Report vs Dundee High, Saturday 14th October 2017

We coped well with Dundee's attacks during the opening exchanges but still conceded the opening try after five minutes, a penalty kicked to the corner allowing the home pack to rumble over from the resulting lineout. Kieran Scoular's fine conversion from the touchline made the score 7-0.

We took the game to Dundee from the restart, Jamie Sword, Happy and Sean Murchie all carrying well as we worked our way into the Dundee half. The passage of play ended with us being awarded a penalty in front of the post on the 22, Happy's neat kick pegging Dundee back to 7-3.

Dundee came roaring back at us thereafter, but some fine collective defence appeared to have halted them in their tracks, our 'new' stand off Gregor Porteous marshalling the backs well and big Gus Wallace putting in some resounding hits. We were, however, undone by a simple tap penalty on the 16 minute mark, the rapid attack ending with home flanker Arnott trotting in at the clubhouse end for a soft try. The conversion was missed after the ball fell off the tee, but we were now 12-3 down.

We narrowed the gap to 6 points on 25 minutes after Dundee were deemed to have halted another flowing attack illegally on the edge of their 22. Happy made simple work of the penalty, although, to be honest, we would probably have preferred to have gone with the advantage as a neat chip through by Murray Hanning had sent Sean and our 'born-again' winger Ruaridh Stewart haring after the ball as it rolled towards the Dundee line.

Dundee's next try was rather fortuitous, albeit it stemmed from an almighty up and under from inside centre Andy Hamilton around the half way line. The ball landed near the touchline at the clubhouse corner, bounced over Sean's head and was then fly hacked over the line by lurking Dundee winger Evan Fairweather. With our defence struggling to react, Fairweather duly beat James Ferguson to the touch down in the corner. The conversion came back off the post, leaving the score at 17-6 to Dundee.

We enjoyed the bulk of possession for the next five minutes, but were twice penalised for diving over the top after we had carried the ball deep into the Dundee 22. This happened at least three times during the first half, and underlines just how important fine margins can be – with a bit more composure in the 'red zone', we could have been at least two tries to the good.

As it was, Dundee finished the half on the attack, making the most of the yellow shown to birthday boy Tom Croy for an alleged 'no arms' tackle on one of the hefty Dundee props. Tom at least had the decency to shake said prop's hand in apology as he headed over to the stand to get first pick of the oranges. Dundee understandably kept the ball in the pack after the resulting penalty, eventually claiming a pushover try from another lineout despite some manful defence from our forwards. The conversion gave us that 24-6 scoreline at the break.



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We'd actually put in a pretty decent performance during the opening period, the introduction of Gregor stiffening up our midfield defence while Ruaridh Stewart had shown real hunger both in attack and defence. We did, however, seem rather confused by the amount of possession we had enjoyed, kicking the ball away at times when we should just have put it through the hands and (as noted above) rushing things when we managed to break into the home 22. Poor game management and a lack of precision in attack, in other words.

Despite all our efforts in the first half, the game was effectively beyond us before the second half was ten minutes old. The Dundee pack rumbled over on 46 minutes after we'd been penalised at a scrum near our line (29-6) then number 8 Danny Levison scampered in under the posts on 50 minutes after a penalty led to another Dundee lineout near our line (36-6).

We showed admirable spirit to take the game to Dundee thereafter, with Happy and Swordy punching the ball up the middle ... only for classy, ex-Hawks centre Neil Herron to intercept a pop pass around half way and sprint in for the try. That made it 43-6 with 20 minutes left to play.

The watching Stew Mellies knew that the game was beyond us now – but the men in red, black and gold showed no sign of surrender, hammering the Dundee line for fully five minutes. Our attacks swung from right to left and back again, our backs handling well and putting pace on the ball ... but we just couldn't seem to break the thin blue line, and were eventually penalised. While this represented our best attacking spell to date in the game, you did get the feeling that we'd kind of run out of ideas – once again, we just needed one of our older heads to take a second, assess the situation and change the point of attack accordingly.

This was, rather understandably, the point at which our heads started to go down, allowing Dundee to finish the game very much in the ascendancy. They ran in three further tries as we started to fall off tackles, giving a final score of 62-6.

Another heavy (and point-less) defeat, then, but there were still plenty of positives to take from the game. We have historically struggled at Mayfield, and better Stew Mel teams than this one have been more than 18 points adrift at the interval there.

Dundee, by their own admission, enjoyed a very good day at the office, finding their home form for the first time this season and pulling off moves that, on most other occasions, would have broken down or led to a turnover. Our defence looked a lot more solid for the first forty minutes, and we were unlucky to come away from Mayfield without scoring at least a couple of tries. The revamped half back pairing of Cameron MacDonald and Gregor worked well, while 'tall Roo' looked like a natural winger rather than a lock who'd lost his scrum cap.

*Bill McNie*



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## Saturday 21 October 2017: Kick off 3 pm

### Stewart's Melville RFC

15	Sean Murchie
14	Ruaridh Stewart
13	James Ferguson
12	Euan Morrison
11	Jack Somerville
10	Freddie Roddick
9	Cameron Macdonald
1	Josh Scott
2	Ruaridh Mitchell
3	Angus Wallace
4	William Inglis
5	Jamie Sword
6	Tom Croy
7	Duncan Wood (captain)
8	Nick Winton

### Player Sponsored By

Graham + Sibbald
Haldane UK
Pollock
Craneware
Baillie Gifford
DJ Alexander
Breadalbane Finance

### Replacements

16	Shaun Burns	Bisset Waste Management
17	Cameron Taylor	Bill Johnstone
18	David Stoddart	Dreadnought Leith
19	Conor Boyle	
20	Nathan Ross	Bier Hoose

**Head Coach**  
**Team Manager**

Gordon Henderson  
Graham Inglis





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## **Falkirk RFC**

- 15 Connor Faulds
- 14 Calum Rennie
- 13 Martin Hall
- 12 Chris Lawson
- 11 Thomas Fleming
- 10 Fraser Syme
- 9 Fionn Call
- 1 John McKenna
- 2 Andrew Gillespie
- 3 Graeme Simpson
- 4 Ross Denny
- 5 Sean McGlynn
- 6 Andrew McNab
- 7 Ryan Howie
- 8 Stewart McCulloch (captain)

**Referee**  
**AR 1** Mike Milner  
**AR 2** Murdo Wilson  
Ben Evans

**Match Sponsor** Allied Surveyors

**Ball Sponsor** Allied Surveyors

## ***Replacements***

- 16 Grant Kirk
- 17 Zak Beattie
- 18 Jamie Syme
- 19 Duncan Scobbie
- 20 Gregor Ramsay

***Next Home Game*** ***Sat 4th November vs Selkirk RFC***  
***Kick off 2 pm***

## **Head Coach**

Kenny Grieve

## **Ball Boys:**

- Sam Bowers
- Jamie Jarvis
- Calum Jessop
- James Healy

William Skinner  
Hugo Welsh





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Date	Opposition	KO	Venue	Result
26/08/2017	v Gordonians (Cup)	3 pm	Inverleith	47-31 W
02/09/2017	v Edinburgh Accies	3 pm	Inverleith	26-38 (L)
09/09/2017	v GHA	3 pm	Braidholm	83-19 (L)
16/09/2017	v Cartha Queens Park	3 pm	Dumbreck Rd	24-22 (L)
23/09/2017	v Jed-Forest	3 pm	Inverleith	0-48 (L)
30/09/2017	v Musselburgh	3 pm	Stoneyhill	19-14 (L)
07/10/2017	v Aberdeen Grammar	3 pm	Inverleith	25-67 (L)
14/10/2017	v Dundee HSFP	3 pm	Mayfield	62-6 (L)
21/10/2017	v Falkirk	3 pm	Inverleith	
28/10/2017	v Gala	3 pm	Netherdale	
04/11/2017	v Selkirk	2 pm	Inverleith	
18/11/2017	v Preston Lodge (Cup)	2 pm	Inverleith	
02/12/2017	v Kelso	2 pm	Poynder Park	
09/12/2017	v Edinburgh Accies	2 pm	Raeburn Place	
16/12/2017	v GHA	2 pm	Inverleith	
06/01/2018	v Cartha Queens Park	2 pm	Inverleith	
13/01/2018	v Jed-Forest	2 pm	Riverside Park	
20/01/2018	v Musselburgh	2 pm	Inverleith	
27/01/2018	v Aberdeen Grammar	2 pm	Rubislaw	
17/02/2017	v Dundee HSFP	3 pm	Inverleith	
03/03/2018	v Falkirk	3 pm	Sunnyside	
24/03/2018	v Gala	3 pm	Inverleith	
31/03/2018	v Selkirk	3 pm	Philippaugh	
07/04/2018	v Kelso	3 pm	Inverleith	

**For full information on the club:**

**[www.stewmelrugby.com](http://www.stewmelrugby.com)**

**Official club Facebook page:**



Stewart's Melville RFC

**News & live score updates via:**



stewmelrugby1  
#redblackandgold



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# RUGBY CAMPS : OCTOBER 2017



Monday 23 - Thursday 26 October  
Stewart's Melville RFC

Camp Times:

P1 & P2 : 9am - 12 noon

P3 - S2 : 9am - 3pm

Kicking & Catching Master Class -  
Specialist skills - Games - Guest Coaches  
Speed & Agility - Skills Challenge - Unit Work -  
Analysis - Tag Rugby - KNT's Rugby Rounders  
Rugby Golf - Rugby Tennis - Assault Course

For further information  
about the class, please contact:  
Bruce Ruthven on  
07780 467 309 or e-mail:  
[bruthven@esms.org.uk](mailto:bruthven@esms.org.uk)



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# Stewart's Melville Rugby Club

## Season 2017-18

### Memberships Due Now ....



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# Stewart's Melville Rugby Club

## Season 2017-18



STEWART'S MELVILLE R.F.C.

**ANNUAL BALL**  
**4 NOVEMBER 2017**

£55 pp  
3 Course dinner  
Dancing  
Fantastic  
Prizes

**BT MURRAYFIELD**

All proceeds to  
Stewart's Melville RFC

For tickets / Information contact : [lindseygeddes@live.com](mailto:lindseygeddes@live.com)