



Inverleith Angle

We are delighted to extend a very warm welcome to the Selkirk RFC tour party who have made the journey north for this National 1 fixture. We hope that President Rob Forrest, Vice President Benny Rafferty and their players, coaches and supporters enjoy their visit to Inverleith.

Selkirk have made an excellent start to the season, winning 7 games and only losing away to Gala (16-5) and Edinburgh Accies (27-15). They will begin their BT Cup campaign with a tough Borders derby against Hawick at Mansfield Park on November 18th (the same day we play Preston Lodge in round two of the BT National League Cup here at Inverleith).

Two of our visitors' stand out players this season came to Selkirk from South Africa as part of a longstanding player exchange scheme. Wing Clinton Wagman of Progress Rugby Club in George and loose forward Siphamandla Dama of Belhar RFC in Cape Town are spending a few months playing for the Souters. The pair were identified following their eye-catching performances in a series of televised Gold Cup qualifying matches held earlier this year as part of the new SuperSport Rugby Challenge. The player exchange is part of an ongoing collaboration between SA Rugby, the British High Commission and Selkirk, aimed at giving South Africa's best club players a chance to experience living and playing rugby in another country.

Clinton Wagman is currently the third highest try scorer in National 1, with 10 to his name after 9 games, so our wingers better be on top form today to stop him adding to that tally!

We have, of course, been scoring a few tries of our own of late, albeit it was our pack who hogged the scoresheet down at Netherdale last weekend. In one of the shock results of this season, we scored 26 unanswered points in the second half, eventually running out 31-24 winners. Gala, to their credit, made no excuses for their defeat, with the match report on their website headed up with the word 'Scunnered!' and a photo of a very dejected scoreboard operator at the final whistle – happy days!

Our 2s were due to play their Gala counterparts last week, but were awarded a 5 point victory as Gala couldn't raise a team. That's the second 'bye' in a row for our 2s, who now sit 4th in the table. They will (fingers crossed) *actually* play Selkirk 'A' on Pitch 2 this afternoon!

The Mighty Threes recorded a fine victory over Northern 2s last week – see match report later – but were sadly unable to raise a team to play Dunfermline 2s at McKane Park today.

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

Bill McNie
President



Match Report vs Gala RFC, Saturday 28th October 2017

At half time on Saturday, it looked like another case of 'same old Stew Mel' at Netherdale. We'd played fairly well in the first half, enjoying the majority of possession without ever doing very much with it. Gala, on the other hand, had had four meaningful attacks, and had scored with each of them, prolific winger Craig Russell claiming three tries and stand off Dean Keddie scoring and converting a fourth.

Our only points came in the dying minutes of the half when Adam Howie picked up at the base of a ruck and cantered up the blindside to score in the corner. Happy's missed conversion made the score 24-5 to Gala at the break, with Dave Stoddart having spent the last ten minutes of the half on the sidelines after being yellow carded for a 'reckless' tackle on one of the Gala locks.

Our hosts would have the blustery wind at their backs in the second half, and the game already seemed to slipping beyond us, with even your ever optimistic correspondent fearing that this would be another game where we played pretty well but still allowed the opposition to do their points difference a power of good.

Oh me of little faith! Possibly inspired by the fact that our only points so far had come care of the forward pack, we changed our game plan during the break and basically stuck the ball up our jumpers for the entire second half. This led to four close range tries, with Ruaridh Mitchell, Gus Wallace (2) and Dave Stoddart claiming the touch downs.

Despite the fact that he was kicking into a strong wind, Happy managed to convert the first three tries, albeit the kick after Gus's first try only made it over via the hand of one of the onrushing Gala blockers – with the Fairydean ground just over the fence behind him, the poor chap maybe forgot which code he was playing ...

Our almost complete forward dominance – it looked like we were seriously attempting a push over try from well within our own half at one point – meant that the dangerous Gala backs had very little possession to work with, while the fact that Wallace had limped off not long after half time prevented him from adding to his tally.

With Dave's unconverted try having given us an almost unbelievable 31-24 lead with 76 minutes played, the Maroons rallied for one last attack, carrying the ball into our half up the stand side wing. Just as you began to fear that they would score under the posts to force the draw, the attack broke down and we were able to clear our lines to claim a precious victory. 31 unanswered points in 45 minutes at Netherdale – what a stunning performance!

Gala summed the game up very well on their Facebook page:

Well poor game management lost us that match.



STEWART'S MELVILLE
R.F.C.

Congrats to Stew Mel who dished out a lesson in how to retain the ball through umpteen phases and how to score from 5 yards. No lack of effort by our boys, Stew Mel forwards just wanted it more.

Turning that around, we looked like a different team at Netherdale, having had the confidence to change our game plan to suit the opposition and the weather conditions and the patience to work through the phases until a scoring opportunity presented itself. And our pack were simply *immense*; while captain-for-the-day big Roo was deservedly voted Man Of The Match by his team mates, it would probably have been fairer to give the award to the pack as a whole. We had the upper hand in the set piece, our lineout was imperious (again, hats off to Roo for throwing some tidy darts despite the howling gale) and our 'pick and go' game was simply irresistible.

Willie Malcolm also deserves special praise for his contributions – while more of a 2s player so far this season, he looked completely at home in the boilerhouse at Netherdale, and (along with Will Inglis, who also played very well) will cause our coaches some very welcome selection headaches when Jamie Sword is available once again. Willie's dad Sam was down at Netherdale, and must have been very proud of his 'wee' boy!

Adam Howie also had a fine game at number eight, providing some real heft at the base of the scrum and rampaging about the park like a teenager. For a man who played the last time we were down at Netherdale in 2010, he has aged remarkably well.

Behind the scrum, the backs looked composed during the opening period, handling well and taking the game to Gala (albeit without really stretching the home defence – our old coach Al Christie was watching and reckoned we'd butchered at least two tries in the first half).

Our youthful Heriot Watt half back pairing of Charlie Simmonds and Freddie Roddick performed admirably throughout the game, appearing entirely unfazed by playing in such a fabled (and; let's face it, fairly hostile – in a good way) rugby arena as Netherdale. Some of their tactical kicking was a bit harem scarem, but that will come as they bed into the team. Their Heriot Watt peer Jamie McGurk replaced Happy in the centre late in the game and fitted in seamlessly – we really are starting to pick up some good young players.

Special mention has to be made of new coach Paul Huish, who stood on the far touchline and acted as Sesh's 'mouthpiece', passing on his instructions and generally keeping our players informed and on their toes. Paul, by his own admission, was the biggest loudmouth at Malleny Park back in his playing days, and it was great to hear him roaring 'Slow ball!' at the forwards as we worked through all those pick and goes during the second half.

Bill McNie



STEWART'S MELVILLE
R.F.C.

Saturday 4 November 2017: Kick off 2 pm

Stewart's Melville RFC

15	Sean Murchie
14	Ruaridh Stewart
13	James Ferguson
12	Jamie McGurk
11	Jack Somerville
10	Freddie Roddick
9	Gregor Porteous
1	Josh Scott
2	Shaun Burns
3	Angus Wallace
4	William Inglis
5	David Stoddart
6	Tom Croy
7	Nick Winton
8	Adam Howie (captain)

Player Sponsored By

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Replacements

16	Craig Willis	Bill Johnstone
17	Cameron Taylor	Bill Johnstone
18	Jamie Sword	DJ Alexander
19	Nick Hay	Jim Hay Marketing
20	Cameron Macdonald	

Head Coach	Gordon Henderson
Team Manager	Graham Inglis





STEWART'S MELVILLE
R.F.C.

Selkirk RFC

- 15 Steven Hamilton
- 14 Clinton Wagman
- 13 Aaron McColm
- 12 Ross Nixon (captain)
- 11 Frazer Anderson
- 10 Rory Banks
- 9 Mikey Davies
- 1 Luke Pettie
- 2 James Bett
- 3 Nick Hall
- 4 Andrew Renwick
- 5 Peter Forrest
- 6 Sean Nixon
- 7 Josh Mackay
- 8 Siphamandla Dama

Referee

Craig Clark

AR 1

Willie Anderson

AR 2

Dave McKervail

Match Sponsor

TaxAssist Accountants

Ball Sponsor

TaxAssist Accountants

Replacements

- 16 Gavin Ross
- 17 David Anderson
- 18 Donald Nichol
- 19 Callum McEwan
- 20 Bruce Riddell

Next

Home

Game

Sat 18th November
vs Preston Lodge RFC
Kick off 1.30 pm

Head Coach

Graham Marshall

Ball Boys:

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

William Skinner

Hugo Welsh





STEWART'S MELVILLE
R.F.C.

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	41-17 (W)
28/10/2017	v Gala	3 pm	Netherdale	24-31 (W)
04/11/2017	v Selkirk	2 pm	Inverleith	
18/11/2017	v Preston Lodge (Cup)	1.30 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	Philiphough	
07/04/2018	v Kelso	3 pm	Inverleith	

For full information on the club:

www.stewmelrugby.com

Official club Facebook page:



Stewart's Melville RFC

News & live score updates via:



stewmelrugby1
#redblackandgold



Stew Mel 3s 51 – Edinburgh Northern 2s 12 (Inverleith, 28/10/17)

Although the scoreline suggests an easy home win this was the most competitive game the Mighty 3s have had in recent weeks.

As per usual Fin rang the changes and the starting 15 was unrecognizable from the team that beat Corstorphine seven days ago.

TJ Perenara and Beauden Barrett are an excellent half back partnership at this level and we are so lucky to have them. I have to come clean it was actually Masi Faiva and Hayden Mourits but honestly both are Kiwis and they had us on the front foot from the off.

Sadly we will lose Masi in December and Hayden next summer so hopefully they will play a good few more games for the 3s before they head home.

Sean Nisbet finished off a smart handling move to get the scoreboard moving and some fine running from our power builder Andy Smith in the centre and tries for Callum MacDonald and Andy Bryce put us well ahead at half time.

Callum has become a try machine in recent weeks and scored another couple today but with our policy of giving the try scorer the conversion he needs work on his kicking. Dad Martin will back me up here.

Although not yet mentioned the classiest runner on show was young Will Lockhart who arrived at training this week for the first time and started at 15 today. Will had a touch of class about him and looks ready for promotion.

The second half was a much closer affair and full marks to the visitors who remained competitive throughout. They fully deserved their consolation tries.

Injuries to Richie Borthwick and Heamasi Faiva seemed to knock us out our stride and brought cries from the touchline - where is Vanessa? - she was a miss today.

Luckily for the Mighty 3s young Rory Anderson had arrived with his dad straight from watching Hearts at Murrayfield lose 3-1 to a Pedroless Rangers.

Rory belied his obvious disappointment at Hearts' insipid display by taking over from Masi at 9 and turning in a tidy performance.

Lawrance Reilly



STEWART'S MELVILLE
R.F.C.

Stewart's Melville Rugby Club Season 2017-18 Memberships Due Now



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R.F.C.



Stewart's Melville Rugby Club Season 2017-18



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ANNUAL BALL
4 NOVEMBER 2017

£55 pp
3 Course dinner
Dancing
Fantastic
Prizes

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All proceeds to
Stewart's Melville RFC

For tickets / Information contact : lindseygeddes@live.com