



## Inverleith Angle

We are delighted to extend a very warm welcome to the Musselburgh tour party who have made the short but snowy journey into town for this National 1 fixture. We hope that President Robin Veitch, head coach Grant Talac and their players, committee members and supporters enjoy their visit to Inverleith.

I'd also like to welcome Keith Neilson of Craneware and his guests to Inverleith for this match. As one of our Major Sponsors this season, the support that Craneware give to the club is essential, and very much appreciated by everyone at Inverleith.

Following recent results, Musselburgh now sit one place above us in National 1, with 22 points to our 16. Like us, they've recorded wins over Falkirk and Gala -but, *unlike* us, they managed to beat Cartha at Dumbreck, securing a narrow 18-15 win there back in mid October. They also recorded that equally narrow 19-14 win over us at Stoneyhill a couple of weeks previously.

With the gap between us currently six points, we can't overtake Musselburgh today, whatever happens – but a win today would, at least, keep us in touch with the teams immediately above us in the league. Please give our boys all the support you can muster!

Last Saturday saw us on the road to Riverside Park to take on a high flying Jed-Forest side. The game was scoreless for the first 20 minutes, but a couple of rather contentious tries helped the men in blue towards a 33-0 lead at half time. Jed went on to record a 64-7 win that, on the face of it, would suggest another depressing afternoon for the Stew Mel players and supporters. It's worth remembering, however, that the Jed backline is probably the best in the division at the moment (and featured all three of the talented Young brothers on Saturday). And, crucially, our boys never let their heads go down, despite the scoreline. Craig Willis recorded our only try.

Two of Jed's most famous sons, Roy Laidlaw and Gary Armstrong, were nowhere to be seen at Riverside Park on Saturday; they were, in fact, at Inverleith for the game between our Mighty Threes and Penicuik 2s. Roy was watching – but Gary was playing, at the ripe old age of 51! This was either because he's always wanted to play for our 3<sup>rd</sup> XV – or, more likely, because he agreed to do one last favour for his old captain Fin Calder! Either way, it was a fantastic occasion, with Gary playing a half for each team and putting in a Man Of The Match performance despite his advancing years. We won the game 78-35, although (as the old cliché goes) rugby was very much the winner on the day.

I hope that you enjoy your visit to Inverleith today, and look forward to discussing the finer points of the game with you in the bar afterwards.

Bill McNie  
President



## Match Report vs Cartha Queen's Park, Saturday 6th January 2018

Following on from the unscheduled winter shutdown in December and further contemplation of launching my new business venture – [www.itwillbeon.com](http://www.itwillbeon.com), taking on Mother Nature and possibly the Dragons' Den - we were back at Inverleith once again, much to the supporters' (and, I am sure, players') delight, for, in the context of our league position, a huge game against Cartha, our last encounter against them having ended in a narrow loss.

The weather had been kind to us for a change, with dry but cold conditions. With our last game having been on the 2nd December against Kelso and with all the festivities, the question was, had we benefited from the 'break' and rejuvenated for 2018, or, on the other hand, were we likely to be 'ring rusty'? Sadly, it was the latter!

Cartha kicked-off towards the Castle with Stew Mel playing into a biting north wind. The opening stages were scrappy, as expected, with mistakes on both sides. Cartha, however, managed to find themselves in possession within Stew Mel's 22 and a fine break from the scrum half after 10 minutes put them ahead with the try converted. Stew Mel 0 - Cartha 7.

Cartha gathered again from the restart and continued to apply pressure from a similar position, this time with their stand-off breaking through and scoring with 15 minutes on the clock (Stew Mel 0 Cartha 12).

Further pressure from Cartha resulted in a penalty and an easy 3 points. 20 minutes in and it was Stew Mel 0 - Cartha 15. At this stage, things were not looking good for the hosts.

As the first half was approaching the 30 minute mark it appeared that Stew Mel were eventually coming alive, gaining and retaining more possession. After some good attacking phases from the backs, James powered his way over the line. There were further indications of the start of a comeback, with the forwards providing quick ball and some slick passing resulting in James diving into the corner for a second. Stew Mel 10 - Cartha 15.

Cartha's lead was extended to 18 shortly afterwards with yet another penalty. The half time score was Stew Mel 10 - Cartha 18.

The second half started well, with the wind behind us and some good forward play and strong running from the backs leading to a penalty and subsequent line out. A solid forward drive resulted in Ruaridh Mitchell crossing the line. He must now be the highest scoring hooker in national 1!

With the score at Stew Mel 15 - Cartha 18, confidence amongst the home support must have been growing; this was, however, short lived, as a period unfolded of malfunctioning line outs and a dominant Cartha scrum providing plenty of ball for their backs to exploit gaps in our defence.



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R.F.C.

It wasn't, therefore, long before they recorded two further tries - undoubtedly aided by two almost consecutive yellow cards to Stew Mel (one, I think, a bit harsh) - to bring the score at around the 55 minute mark to Stew Mel 15 - Cartha 32.

At this stage things seemed to go from bad to worse, Cartha becoming dominant in all phases with their influential number 10 Wayne Burrows pulling the strings with good tactical play to match his exemplary kicking game from both hand and tee. It was yet another one of those games when the final whistle came as a relief. Full time score was Stew Mel 15 - Cartha 46. A comprehensive defeat by a well organised unit.

It is always difficult after a game like this to look for positives and much easier to look for excuses. Whilst I would not wish to dwell on excuses, the performances of both individuals and the team as a whole were below par. There have been very few games this season when we have been able to field, more or less, the same starting line-up, due to both injuries and unavailability. Consistency of selection enables players, through familiarity, to play for each other, which generally leads to a successful outcome.

The forwards, in particular, had a difficult afternoon. They ultimately struggled in the set piece against a big Cartha pack and misfired at the lineout, and, inevitably, any ball that they did secure was generally slow, enabling the Cartha back line to close us down and so give us very little space to operate in.

On the positive side, Duncan Wood, at times, took on the Cartha pack singlehandedly to great effect, with some great carries, as did David Stoddart and Nick Winton. Ruaridh, as always, led by example.

It must have been a tough day for Gregor behind the scrum, but he kicked well to gain field position and also tried his best to get the back line moving. The back three attacked at every opportunity and James used his power and strength to score two fine tries. It was good to see Mark Sinclair back in the frame after a lengthy layoff, adding a bit of spark.

There is still so much to play for, so let us put this one down to a 'post festive season hangover'. I think there are 10 league games left, with a significant number of those at home, in addition to a Cup game against Peebles. Onwards and upwards, hopefully! It's not all doom and gloom, and I'm already looking forward to Jed next Saturday. The Last Time we were at the Riverside, we won!

*Kevin Murchie*



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## Saturday 20 January 2018: Kick off 2 pm

### Stewart's Melville RFC

15	Adam Greig
14	Jack Somerville
13	Cameron Symes
12	James Ferguson
11	Sean Murchie
10	Freddie Roddick
9	Gregor Porteous
1	Josh Scott
2	Ruaridh Mitchell (captain)
3	Rhys Morgan
4	Fraser Morrison
5	Jamie Sword
6	Duncan Wood
7	Conor Boyle
8	Adam Howie

### Player Sponsored By

Haldane UK
Graham + Sibbald
Pollock
Craneware
DJ Alexander
Super Moons Lentil Puffs

### Replacements

16	Craig Willis	Bill Johnstone
17	Cameron Harrison	Bourbon
18	William Inglis	Baillie Gifford
19	William Lockhart	
20	Charlie Simmonds	

<b>Head Coach</b>	Gordon Henderson
<b>Team Manager</b>	Graham Inglis





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## Musselburgh RFC

15 Ruairidh Young

14 James Doig

13 Andrew Cook

12 Rory Watt

11 Sandy Watt

10 Gareth Pritchard

9 Danny Owenson

1 Craig Owenson

2 Ross Gregor

3 Colin Arthur

4 William Fleming

5 Graeme McKinstry

6 Euan Milton

7 Brad Graham

8 Luke Hutson

**Referee**

Kevin White

**AR 1**

John Smith

**AR2**

Mhairi Hay

**Match Sponsor**

Craneware

**Ball Sponsor**

Craneware

## *Replacements*

16 Connor Slaven

17 Bob Stott

18 Cameron Pryde

19 Donald Kennedy

20 Ben Hibberd

**Next**

**Sat 10 February 2018**

**Home**

**Vs Peebles (Cup)**

**Game**

**Kickoff 2.30 pm**

**Head Coach**

Grant Talac

**Ball Boys:**





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26/8/17	v Gordonians (Cup)	3 pm	Inverleith	47-31 (W)
2/9/17	v Edinburgh Accies	3 pm	Inverleith	26-38 (L)
9/9/17	v GHA	3 pm	Braidholm	83-19 (L)
16/9/17	v Cartha Queens Park	3 pm	Dumbreck Rd	24-22 (L)
23/9/17	v Jed-Forest	3 pm	Inverleith	0-48 (L)
30/9/17	v Musselburgh	3 pm	Stoneyhill	19-14 (L)
7/10/17	v Aberdeen Grammar	3 pm	Inverleith	25-67 (L)
14/10/17	v Dundee HSFP	3 pm	Mayfield	62-6 (L)
21/10/17	v Falkirk	3 pm	Inverleith	41-17 (W)
28/10/17	v Gala	3 pm	Netherdale	24-41 (W)
4/11/17	v Selkirk	2 pm	Inverleith	19-29 (L)
18/11/17	v Preston Lodge (Cup)	2 pm	Inverleith	33-27 (W)
2/12/17	v Kelso	2 pm	Poynder Park	35-30 (L)
9/12/17	v Edinburgh Accies	2 pm	Raeburn Place	P-P
16/12/17	v GHA	2 pm	Inverleith	P-P
6/1/18	v Cartha Queens Park	2 pm	Inverleith	15-46 (L)
13/1/18	v Jed-Forest	2 pm	Riverside Park	64-7 (L)
20/1/18	v Musselburgh	2 pm	Inverleith	
27/1/18	v Aberdeen Grammar	2 pm	Rubislaw	
3/2/18	v Edinburgh Accies	12 pm	Raeburn Place	
10/2/18	v Peebles (Cup)	2.30 pm	Inverleith	
17/2/18	v Dundee HSFP	3 pm	Inverleith	
3/3/18	v Falkirk	3 pm	Sunnyside	
10/3/18	v GHA	3 pm	Inverleith	
24/3/18	v Gala	3 pm	Inverleith	
31/3/18	v Selkirk	3 pm	Philiphaugh	
7/4/18	v Kelso	3 pm	Inverleith	

The league game against GHA on 16<sup>th</sup> December was called off due to Inverleith being frozen. The game will now take place on 10<sup>th</sup> March with a 3 pm kick off – *unless* the Peebles game is cancelled.



## STEW MEL PLAYER PROFILE



<b>Name</b>	Duncan Wood
<b>Position</b>	Back Row
<b>Player Sponsor 2017/18</b>	Breadalbane Finance
<b>Nickname</b>	The Slug
<b>Date / Place Of Birth</b>	1st September 1988 / Dundee
<b>Height / Weight</b>	6' 1" / 105 KG
<b>Previous Clubs</b>	Kinross RFC, Lenzie RFC, Trinity RFC, West Of Scotland RFC
<b>Representative Honours</b>	None
<b>Favourite Stew Mel Player</b>	Sean Murchie
<b>Favourite Other Player</b>	Nick McCashin
<b>Claim To Fame</b>	I was King Of The Clipper in 2012 in the Whitsundays
<b>Celebrity Double</b>	Rufus Sewell or Ian McShane
<b>Favourite Stew Mel moment</b>	Beating Jed in Jed – and the Rusty Nails afterwards
<b>Favourite Stew Mel try</b>	Sean Murchie scoring against Hamilton at Ligh Bent last season to overturn a 20 point deficit and win the game
<b>One thing you'd change at the Club?</b>	Create a 'Cap' system so that long serving players are recognised with a special blazer



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# **SIX NATIONS CALCUTTA CUP**

**SATURDAY 24 FEBRUARY 2018**

**Join Finlay & Jim Calder for Stewart's Melville RFC's  
pre match hospitality @ The Mary Erskine School  
3 course lunch with wine & beer  
(Free parking and only 10 minute walk to BT  
Murrayfield)  
(doesn't include match ticket)**

**£50  
pp**

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