



Inverleith Angle

We are delighted to extend a very warm welcome to the Dundee High tour party who have made the journey south for this National 1 fixture. We hope that President Gerry Tosh, head coach Colin Sangster and their players, committee members and supporters enjoy their visit to Inverleith.

I'd also like to welcome Simon Breeze of Allied Surveyors and his guests to Inverleith for this match. As one of our sponsors this season, the support that Allied give to the club is essential, and very much appreciated by everyone at Inverleith. Simon's not a bad Vice President, either, to be fair!

As they tend to do, our visitors from the banks of the Tay currently sit in the higher reaches of the league table, with 9 wins and 50 points from their 17 games. Their form has been somewhat topsy turvy since the turn of the year, with three wins (one away to Falkirk) and three losses (to Gala and Kelso at Mayfield and to Accies at Raeburn Place). Looking further back, though, they put 62 points past us at Mayfield in mid October, though, so we are definitely in for a tough contest today, regardless of recent form. So be it – if we are to work our way out of the relegation zone, we just need to knuckle down, play to our strengths and cherish every point. Raucous support from the sidelines will help, too!

Last Saturday saw us take on Peebles in the Quarter Final of the BT National Cup. As you'll read later in this programme, the first half was pretty stodgy, with not a lot between the two teams. Duncan Wood then engineered a tactical masterstroke by finding a working muscle and pulling it, allowing Conor Boyle to replace him. We were pretty much on the front foot thereafter, running in four tries to record a solid 29-13 victory. That has earned us a Semi Final against Kelso at Poynder Park on 31st March, with the away game against Selkirk due to take place on that date moving forward a fortnight (to the day of Italy vs Scotland, 17th February) as a result.

The Peebles game took place the day before the Scotland vs France game at Murrayfield. That match was played for the new Auld Alliance trophy, and a group of French fans who had played a major role in the creation of the new silverware paid a flying visit to Inverleith on the Friday afternoon. They were over to commemorate all of the rugby internationalists who died during the Great War and were, therefore, keen to visit the ground that hosted Scotland games around that time (including the first game against France). I made a passable speech, Fin made a *wonderful* speech and the visitors duly trooped out onto Pitch One to take in the dimensions of the pitch, the view of the castle and the size of our grand old stand. 'Surely one of the most beautiful rugby grounds in the world', wrote one of the visitors afterwards – no disagreement here!

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 Peebles (BT National Cup), Saturday 10th February 2018

A lovely but blustery day at Inverleith and a reasonable number of travelling supporters from Peebles set the scene. A few changes from the team that faced Accies had been made, just for a change! It would be disrespectful to Peebles to report only on the second half, however this certainly was a game of two halves (as the old cliché goes) and the second half is when Stew Mel began to do what they are capable of doing. It was really only during this period that the gulf between the two teams and their respective divisions was apparent. All credit to Peebles, who gave everything right up to the final whistle and did manage to get that consolation try in the dying minutes. I was, however, never in doubt that we would win, and, perhaps, we should have won by a bigger margin.

Peebles kicked-off towards the Castle and immediately the ball was spilled – ‘no names, no pack drill’. This is exactly what happened at the beginning of the Aberdeen game, so, as far as I was concerned, was a good omen! As play resumed, Stew Mel won a lineout around the half way line and, after a good drive by the forwards and a break by James Ferguson, Peebles were subsequently penalised. Although the penalty was within kicking distance, we showed our intent at this early stage of the game by going for the line rather than the 3 points. The lineout malfunctioned, however, and the opportunity to open the scoring was lost.

A good break from Peebles and another lineout just outside Stew Mel's 22 resulted in a knock on. The subsequent scrum, followed by another break, didn't lead to a score, with Stew Mel managing to clear their lines. A successful lineout this time gave our forwards a good driving platform, and, at 5 metres out, Peebles were penalised for offside. Stew Mel took the penalty quickly but were held up. A scrum on the visitors' 5 metre line, and, thereafter, a successful clearance gave Peebles some breathing space. Stew Mel won back possession, though, and, after a break by Adam Greig, were awarded another penalty. A knock on from what appeared to be a good lineout gifted Peebles the opportunity to attack, having only been in the Stew Mel half once in the first 15 minutes of play. Stew Mel again won possession, but, after a break from stand off Bowen, another knock on and a penalty put Peebles in the ascendancy, with territorial advantage being gained. A solid scrum from the Borderers thereafter lead to a further penalty, giving them the chance to open the scoring with the boot. 25 minutes played: Stew Mel 0 Peebles 3.

As play resumed, another good break by Adam ended with a kick and chase, with the subsequent drive over the line by our pack being held up. Peebles, by this stage, were getting more into the game; they were unable to hold onto possession for sustained periods, but did manage to make further inroads into Stew Mel's 22. Another solid scrum resulted in a penalty in a similar position as before and another 3 points. Stew Mel 0 Peebles 6.

With 6 points in the bag, Peebles looked more confident, although Stew Mel were beginning to put phases together and to look more like the team that played Accies the previous week. An injury to



STEWART'S MELVILLE
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Duncan (hamstring) around the 35 minute mark meant another run out for the impressive Conor Boyle. As Peebles were put under more pressure, the first yellow card of the match was duly shown, giving Stew Mel an immediate advantage. A good break down the right wing led to a lineout 5 metres out, successful this time, and a drive over the line by Ruaridh Mitchell set up the first try for Stew Mel. The conversion was missed; 35 minutes in, Stew Mel 5 Peebles 6.

Another good break up the centre of the field eventually fizzled out, with perhaps the wrong option being taken. As half time approached, Stew Mel were gradually getting on top, and there was a feeling that there would be more tries in the second half. Conor Boyle duly obliged on the 42nd minute mark, picking up a loose ball and sprinting to the line. Stew Mel 12 Peebles 6.

Some more good hands and a good break from Cameron (one of them) set up Adam for another try, converted by Happy, around 50 minutes: Stew Mel 19 Peebles 6. Peebles were by no means on the rack, and, after another attack, were awarded a penalty for offside. Stew Mel won the ensuing lineout, though, giving Gregor the opportunity to clear our lines.

A change in the half backs was then made, with Charlie Simmonds coming in at scrum half and Gregor resuming his now familiar role at number 10. Charlie's 'bullet' pass is very much from the Andrew Manson school of scrum half passing (finest in the Northern Hemisphere) and the resultant quick ball enabled the backs to set up attacks to good effect. A turnover by Ruaridh Mitchell then put some more pressure on Peebles and led to a penalty within their 22.

Around 55 minutes, after some good field position was established, another break by James led to a try by centre Cameron Symes. Stew Mel 24 Peebles 6.

Stew Mel were now showing their dominance, although Peebles were not down and out by any stretch of the imagination and still took any opportunities which came their way. This was, however, overshadowed by the number of good phases Stew Mel were putting together, and our superior fitness levels were beginning to show.

Like most teams that find themselves on the back foot, another yellow card came Peebles' way. A break by Conor ended with the ball arriving in James's hands and another try at around the 70 minute mark. Stew Mel 29 Peebles 6.

In the dying moments, the pace of the game, combined with some tired legs and a few mistakes, came into the mix, allowing Peebles to drive over the line for their consolation try. Final score Stew Mel 29 Peebles 13.

A win is a win under any circumstances and will give confidence going into yet another crucial league match against Dundee on Saturday. *Plus*, we're in the Semi Final of the National Cup!

Kevin Murchie



STEWART'S MELVILLE
R.F.C.

Saturday 17 February 2018: Kick off 3 pm

Stewart's Melville RFC

15 Sean Murchie

14 Nathan Ross

13 Cameron Symes

12 Euan Morrison

11 James Ferguson

10 Euan Bowen

9 Gregor Porteous

1 Josh Scott

2 Ruaridh Mitchell (captain)

3 Rhys Morgan

4 William Malcolm

5 Fraser Morrison

6 Nick Winton

7 Conor Boyle

8 Adam Howie

Player Sponsored By

Graham + Sibbald

Bier Hoose

Haldane UK

Pollock

Craneware

Super Moons Lentil Puffs

Replacements

16 Craig Willis

17 Tom Petiau

18 Lewis Scott

19 Jamie McGurk

20 Charlie Simmonds

Bill Johnstone

Rob Mac

Head Coach

Gordon Henderson

Team Manager

Graham Inglis





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Dundee HSFP

- 15 Kieran Scoular
- 14 Ronan Joy
- 13 Isoa Matacagi
- 12 Neil Herron
- 11 Danny McGinn
- 10 Harvey Young
- 9 Fraser McKay
- 1 Lewis McLean
- 2 Ceillem Stewart
- 3 Alan Brown
- 4 George Arnott
- 5 Peter Redmayne
- 6 Alasdair Mackie
- 7 Angus Farquhar
- 8 Lewis McNamara

Referee
AR 1 Graeme Wells
AR2 Mhairi Hay
John Hawryluk-Beaton

Match Sponsor Allied Surveyors

Ball Sponsor Allied Surveyors

Replacements

- 16 Logie Walker
- 17 Josh Steadwood
- 18 Andrew Clarkson
- 19 Andrew Hamilton
- 20 Henry Sampson

Next
Home *Sat 10 March 2018*
Game *Vs GHA*
Kickoff 3 pm

Head Coach

Colin Sangster

Team Manager

Gavin Robertson





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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	5-20 (L)
27/1/18	v Aberdeen Grammar	2 pm	Rubislaw	18-22 (W)
3/2/18	v Edinburgh Accies	12 pm	Raeburn Place	34-5 (L)
10/2/18	v Peebles (Cup)	2.30 pm	Inverleith	29-13 (W)
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	
17/3/18	v Selkirk	3 pm	Philiphaugh	
24/3/18	v Gala	3 pm	Inverleith	
31/3/18	v Kelso (Cup Semi)	3 pm	Poynder Park	
7/4/18	v Kelso	3 pm	Inverleith	



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STEW MEL PLAYER PROFILE

Name	Sean Murchie
Position	Wing / Full Back
Player Sponsor 2017/18	Graham + Sibbald
Nickname	Murch
Date / Place Of Birth	Edinburgh / 26 th September 1991
Height / Weight	6' / 81 KG
Previous Clubs	University Of St Andrews RFC, Aberdeenshire RFC, NTK Rugby Club (Cape Town)
Representative Honours	Scottish Universities
Favourite Stew Mel Player	Lewis Scott
Favourite Other Player	Duncan Wood
Most embarrassing moment	Running the length of the pitch and dropping the ball over the line (circa 2010)
Claim To Fame	I was the Hibs mascot in the famous 6-2 win over Hearts in 2000
Celebrity Double	Fernando Torres
Favourite Stew Mel moment	Beating Aberdeen away in 2018
Favourite Stew Mel try	Against Jed at Inverleith (2016)
One thing you'd change at the Club?	Our current league position



STEWART'S MELVILLE
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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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