



Inverleith Angle

We are delighted to extend a very warm welcome to the Biggar tour party who have made the short journey over the Pentlands for this Tennent's National League 2 fixture. We hope that President John Bogle, Past President Ian Warnock, head coach Gary Mercer and their players, committee members and supporters enjoy their visit to Inverleith.

Our visitors today need very little introduction, having played us many times at Inverleith in recent seasons. They are, of course, flying high in the current campaign, sitting top of the table after 11 wins out of 12.

One of those wins was against us when we visited Hartree Mill on September 8th, with the home team enjoying a comfortable 36-3 victory. While we were never at the races that day, it must be acknowledged that that was largely down to the efforts of our hosts, who kicked cleverly, took their chances ruthlessly and – most importantly – tackled like dervishes.

It's significant that Gary Mercer was defensive coach at Glasgow Warriors for eight years, as his players *love* a tackle. You only need to look at their Points Against total in the league table to see the impact of that mindset – our visitors have only conceded 87 points *in total* in the league to date. That's just over a converted try per game; couple that with the fact that Biggar have also scored more points (490) than any other team in the league and you will understand the challenge facing our players today as we seek some payback for that schooling at Hartree Mill.

It is, however, fair to say that we've been performing pretty well ourselves of late, with a thumping home victory over a depleted Howe Of Fife team being followed up with solid away wins over Falkirk (25-49) and Whitecraigs (22-50). We ran in no less than eight tries in the latter game at Newton Mearns, with Kyle Dixon claiming a brace and Euan Morrison kicking 5 conversions.

While our very welcome run of away form came to an end in the Cup against Aberdeen Grammar last week, we left Rubislaw with our heads held high, having won the second half 14-12 against a strong home team who currently play in the league above us. Our hosts had, unfortunately, won the first half 19-0, but the fact remains that this was a very promising display from a Stew Mel squad that included 17 players who had previously started for the 2nd XV this season.

I'd like to finish by welcoming all of our past players who have attended today's pre match lunch, and thanking Malcolm MacColl, Nick Penny and Fraser Pollock for organising the event.

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

Bill McNie
President



Match Report vs Falkirk RFC, Saturday 10th November 2018

Falkirk started proceedings, although Stew Mel failed to secure their ball, the knock-on leading to the first scrum of the afternoon. Falkirk then moved the ball wide with good hands and a clever grubber kick through; Stew Mel were then penalised for offside, and, with only 3 minutes played, Falkirk had opened the scoring. At the restart, there was another knock-on and scrum and Falkirk cleared their lines – but the ensuing lineout gave Stew Mel the opportunity to progress into Falkirk's 22. After a bit of football, we finally managed to play some rugby, giving Dave Allan the chance to open the scoring. 10 minutes played, Falkirk 3 Stew Mel 5.

The ball was taken clearly at the restart this time, giving a solid platform for Fraser Strachan to consider his options and gain some territory with a boot down the park and another scrum just over the half way line. At this stage I felt our set piece was good, and some 'touch line' chat with someone who knows a bit about forward play, and, indeed, about rugby in general (more than I ever will), confirmed what I thought. How right he was as the game progressed – complete forward domination.

Falkirk managed to get their hands on the ball once more and were running everything, particularly down the right side where they clearly had pace in the form of their number 14, Lawson. Their decision to kick through rather than keep the ball in hand gave possession back to Stew Mel, however, allowing us time to regroup. The game at this stage was probably equal in terms of possession, although Falkirk were gradually being pushed back into their 22 before they managed to break out again, working down the right hand side. Their winger was through once again for what looked like a certain try, but this was thankfully prevented by a cover tackle from the Stew Mel number 14. The ensuing lineout was good, as was the resulting drive down field, but an unfortunate interception on the blind side gave Falkirk an opportunistic try. 20 minutes played, Falkirk 8 Stew Mel 5.

More Stew Mel pressure followed, and, again, Falkirk found themselves on the back foot within their own 22 as we started to turn the screw. Pressure eventually led to points as Matthew Watson crossed over and Michael Miller added the extras. 25 minutes played, Falkirk 8 Stew Mel 12.

Another untidy restart gave Falkirk the upper hand as a penalty came their way, followed by a strong attacking spell where they were clearly over the line but the attentions of Sean and Fraser forced a 'held up' decision. It wasn't, however, long before they attacked again, successfully this time. 30 minutes gone, Falkirk 15 Stew Mel 12.

Play resumed on the halfway line, and this time it was Falkirk's turn to put pressure on Stew Mel within their own 22. The resultant penalty gave Falkirk 3 points, increasing their lead to 18-12. A period of play then followed which, while not pretty, at least saw us by and large retaining possession. A concerted effort on the blind side was relentless, and, eventually, paid dividends as Ruaridh Mitchell stormed over, bringing the half time score to 18-17.



STEWART'S MELVILLE
R.F.C.

The second half began with no wind and no low sun, almost perfect conditions. A strong start was followed by good phases and it wasn't long before Ruaridh Mitchell again powered his way over. With 45 minutes played it was Falkirk 18 Stew Mel 22.

The forwards were certainly starting to work extremely efficiently as a unit, making significant progress and creating space for the backs. A penalty soon came and Michael Miller slotted it home, making the score 18-25 in our favour with around 50 minutes played.

A long kick at the restart was taken well by Dave Allan, who drove forward to give us a solid platform; some clever tactical kicking then put Stew Mel into a good field position and piled more pressure on the opposition. A quick tap and go, some great hands between the forwards and backs and quick ball wide found Stew Mel's number 14 who touched down. 55 minutes played, Falkirk 18 Stew Mel 30.

We again secured the ball at the restart and some more impressive forward play put us well into Falkirk's half as our pack continued to show their dominance. Further good interplay between forwards and backs ended with Momo driving over for another try. After 60 minutes it was Falkirk 18 Stew Mel 35.

An unfortunate mistake at the restart by Stew Mel gave Falkirk a small bit of hope but it wasn't long before we were back in the driving seat after a short lineout at around the halfway line. More good hands between both forwards and backs ended with Matt getting over, the conversion by Michael Miller being successful. That made it Falkirk 18 Stew Mel 42 with 70 minutes played, the intensity and tempo of our play really starting to tell.

At this point a few substitutes came on in the back row, the front row and at scrum half, giving a well-deserved rest to those who had put in an awesome shift. Fresh legs are always welcome – unlike the yellow card that Falkirk now received. As the game reached its conclusion, Falkirk, to their credit, were still fighting, eventually enjoying a spell where their pack got the upper hand and managed to drive over. It wasn't long before we restored our points differential, though, courtesy of another try by Matthew and a superb conversion by Happy. 75 minutes gone, Falkirk 25 Stew Mel 49.

Another try almost came our way in the dying moments, but, as the final whistle blew, I am sure our players were satisfied with the 8 that they did get – along with the bonus point, of course. Final score Falkirk 25 Stew Mel 49.

Kevin Murchie



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Saturday 1st December 2018: Kick off 2 pm

Stewart's Melville RFC

15	Matthew Watson
14	Sean Murchie
13	James Ferguson
12	Euan Morrison
11	Adam Greig
10	Michael Miller
9	Charlie Simmonds
1	Connor McKay
2	Doug Randall
3	Ruaridh Mitchell
4	Matt Sanderson
5	Fraser Morrison
6	Nick Winton
7	Alex Wainwright
8	Dave Allan

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Replacements

16	Chris Baikie	Dreadnought Leith
17	Kyle Marshall	Findlay & Marshall Ltd
18	Alex Rappestad	Euan Simpson
19	Freddie Roddick	Glencairn Properties

Head Coach

Nick McCashin

Team Manager

Andrew Manson





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Biggar RFC

- 15 Robbie Orr
- 14 Ross Bradford
- 13 Matthew Stewart
- 12 Robbie Lavery
- 11 Rowan Stewart
- 10 Conor Lavery
- 9 David Reive
- 1 Donald Voas
- 2 Ewan Stewart
- 3 Guy Kelly
- 4 Jamie Orr
- 5 Alan Warnock
- 6 Chris Mulligan
- 7 Euan Sanderson
- 8 Ross Jackson

Referee Steven Turnbull (Gala)

Match Sponsor Pollock

Ball Sponsors Baillie Gifford

Replacements

- 16 Franco Carossi
- 17 Declan Dinnen
- 18 Ryan Moffat
- 19 Iain Renwick

Next ***Sat 15 December 2018***
Home ***Vs Lasswade***
Game ***Kick-off 2 pm***

Head Coach

Gary Mercer

Team Manager

GRAHAM + SIBBALD



ALLIED SURVEYORS



STEWART'S MELVILLE
R.F.C.

1st XV Fixtures, Season 2018/19

Date	Opposition	KO	Venue	Result
25/8/18	Carrick (Cup)	3 pm	Carrick Academy	19-41 (W)
1/9/18	Whitecraigs	3 pm	Inverleith	27-21 (W)
8/9/18	Biggar	3 pm	Hartree Mill	36-3 (L)
15/9/18	Glasgow Accies	3 pm	Inverleith	40-15 (W)
22/9/18	Lasswade	3 pm	Hawthornden	13-17 (W)
29/9/18	Preston Lodge	3 pm	Inverleith	24-22 (W)
6/10/18	GHK	3 pm	Old Anniesland	7-46 (W)
13/10/18	Peebles	3 pm	Inverleith	22-7 (W)
20/10/18	Dumfries Saints	3 pm	Park Farm	41-26 (L)
27/10/18	Highland	3 pm	Canal Park	36-5 (L)
3/11/18	Howe Of Fife	2 pm	Inverleith	86-7 (W)
10/11/18	Falkirk	12.30 pm	Sunnyside	25-49 (W)
17/11/18	Whitecraigs	2 pm	West Lodge	22-50 (W)
24/11/18	Aberdeen Grammar (Cup)	12.30 pm	Rubislaw	31-14 (L)
1/12/18	Biggar	2 pm	Inverleith	
8/12/18	Glasgow Accies	2 pm	New Anniesland	
15/12/18	Lasswade	2 pm	Inverleith	
12/1/19	Preston Lodge	2 pm	Pennypit Park	
19/1/19	GHK	2 pm	Inverleith	
26/1/19	Peebles	2 pm	The Gytes	
2/3/19	Dumfries Saints	3 pm	Inverleith	
16/3/19	Highland	3 pm	Inverleith	
23/3/19	Howe Of Fife	3 pm	Duffus Park	
30/3/19	Falkirk	3 pm	Inverleith	



STEWART'S MELVILLE
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Tennent's National League Division 2

Pos	Team	P	W	L	D	BP	PT
1	Biggar	12	11	1	0	10	54
2	Highland	12	10	2	0	10	50
3	Stewart's Melville	12	9	3	0	8	44
4	Falkirk	12	7	5	0	7	35
5	Peebles	12	6	5	1	8	34
6	Preston Lodge	12	6	6	0	10	34
7	Dumfries	11	6	4	1	5	31
8	Whitecraigs	11	3	7	1	8	22
9	GHK	12	4	7	1	2	20
10	Glasgow Accies	12	3	8	1	5	19
11	Lasswade	12	2	10	0	7	15
12	Howe Of Fife	12	1	10	1	5	11

Tennent's National Reserve League Division 2

Pos	Team	P	W	L	D	BP	PT
1	Edinburgh Accies	10	9	1	0	9	46
2	Currie	9	9	0	0	9	45
3	Stewart's Melville	10	7	3	0	8	39
4	Cartha QP	9	4	5	0	8	29
5	Biggar	10	4	6	0	6	28
6	Dundee HSFP	10	4	6	0	5	26
7	Musselburgh	9	3	6	0	5	21
8	Boroughmuir	10	3	7	0	2	20
9	Selkirk	9	2	7	0	1	16
10	Kelso	8	2	6	0	1	13



Many thanks to all of our Player Sponsors this season

Player	Sponsor	Player	Sponsor
David Allan	Bill McNie	Connor McKay	Parkthorn Gates
Struan Allan	Struan Samson	Ruaridh Mitchell	Craneware
Chris Baikie	Dreadnought Leith	Euan Morrison	The Wee Restaurant
Joe Bailey	Scott Dickson	Fraser Morrison	Hamilton Waste
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Stewart Hagart	I. Simpson Agriculture Ltd	Jack Somerville	Bright Future Debt Advice
Dave Hampton	Connor Malcolm	Ruaridh Stewart	Prostate Scotland
Murray Hanning	ReSurge Africa	Fraser Strachan	Jamie Frost
Gareth Henderson	M Henderson Joinery	Daniel Sweeney	Morrison Ground Care
Ed Kelman	Stuart & Stuart	Jamie Sword	Gav Maclean
Cameron Leask	Ian Forsyth	Seb Trotter	Trotter Family Bakery
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