



## Inverleith Angle

We are delighted to extend a very warm welcome to the GHK tour party who have made the journey east for this Tennent's National League 2 fixture. We hope that President Ronnie Gourley, head coach Danny Hoffman and their players, committee members and supporters enjoy their visit to Inverleith.

I'd also like to extend a warm welcome to the many former players who have joined us for lunch today. Organised by Club Captain Adam Howie, they've travelled from far and wide to honour our former head coach Bruce Macnaughton, who is here with his Currie 2<sup>nd</sup> XV today. I just hope that Bruce has done the sensible thing and left his car at home, as there will be a lot of people (myself included) who want to buy him a drink for all he's done for Stewart's Melville over the years!

Our visitors today have had a rather mixer-maxter season to date, with home wins over Lasswade, Peebles and Glasgow Accies and an away win at Whitecraigs offset by defeats on the road at PL, Highland, Dumfries, Lasswade and Peebles and at home to Stew Mel, Falkirk, Biggar, PL. and Highland. They also lost at home to Dumfries Saints last weekend - but only by 8 points.

With GHK now only 2 points ahead of Howe Of Fife and 1 point ahead of Lasswade at the foot of the table, they come to Inverleith desperate for points. That result of theirs against Dumfries underlines the fact that they can play a bit, and that we can take nothing for granted today. We rather caught GHK napping at Old Anniesland – they will doubtless be wide awake for the return tie!

Our form has, of course, been pretty good of late, with that 58-7 hammering of Lasswade before Christmas being followed by a hard fought win over Preston Lodge last weekend. After a large PL presence at the lunch that preceded our home game against them in September, we were determined to respond in kind, with 20 club members making their way to the Pans for a superb pre match function at the bowling club that now serves as PL's club house. I'd love to recount some of the jokes told by Scott Glynn at the function, but they'd probably get me arrested – and maybe kill off some of our older members!

We actually managed to put three teams out last week, with the 2s defeating Kelso A 36-0 at Poynder Park and the Ferry Road Wanderers winning 90-7 down at Penicuik. We did the business both on and off the park, in other words – long may that continue to be the case!

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 Preston Lodge, Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2019

With Michael Miller away on his Antipodean travels, Euan Bowen was the man selected to step in and pull the strings at 10, and, bar some minor adjustments, the starting line-up had a familiar settled look. A last minute change saw Dave Allan straight in at number 8 for the injured Denis Pech. With a well kempt pitch, fine weather, a comfortable stand and, to trump it all, a sea view, PL kicked off inland. Although the ball was well retrieved and sent back with interest, PL held on to possession and made significant progress, resulting in a penalty directly in front of the posts. The three points were a formality. Five minutes played, PL 3 - SM 0 - early days!

At the restart, the ball drifted out on PL's 22, and, with the first lineout of the game adjudged to be squint, SM showed their strength in the scrum, quick ball out to the right allowing Freddie Roddick to cut through for the first try of the afternoon. Happy, with his kicking boots on, added the extras. 10 minutes played, PL 3 - SM 7.

As play progressed it appeared we were back in exactly the same position with another lineout, but, this time, despite a formidable drive by Momo, the opportunity was lost, a penalty awarded to PL allowing them to gain good field position within SM's 22. From the lineout, however, the SM forwards wrapped them up, drove forward, and, ultimately, won a scrum at the halfway line. Secure ball and a good kick and we were back to that all too familiar 22 mark for the lineout. Again, despite a period of dominance and the application of pressure, the points unfortunately didn't come.

The SM forwards were certainly showing their authority although the backs were taking time to adjust, and, as a result of some uncharacteristic poor passing, PL got back into the driving seat with a scrum, penalty and territorial advantage. They ultimately drove over the line for a simple score and a successful conversion. 25 minutes played, PL 10 - SM 7.

Play resumed and PL were on the move again. Once more a penalty came their way in a kickable position and they didn't hesitate to grab the three points on offer: 35 minutes in, PL 13 - SM 7. Fortunes were soon reversed, however, as the first yellow card of the afternoon was shown to a PL forward, and, with the one man advantage, it wasn't long before James Ferguson was through for SM's second try, Happy again converting. PL 13 - SM 14.

As the end of the first half approached there was still plenty of time for more action from both sides, a penalty to PL increasing their tally to 16 and a yellow card coming SM's way. Our forwards and backs then combined well, with Dave Allan breaking through and finding Fraser Strachan with his orange boots in full flow for the try. Happy's conversion made it PL 16 - SM 24 at the break.

We had just about recovered from what had been quite a frantic and exciting first half as SM got the second half underway, floodlights now on full beam. A scrum within PL's 22 and quick ball



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ended with PL deciding to kick long; this was, however, well fielded and Freddie returned the compliment downfield. A penalty then came SM's way, Happy adding the three points after 55 minutes of play: PL 16 - SM 27.

A period of intense and constant pressure from PL ensued but the resolute SM defence kept them at bay as scrum after penalty after scrum came PL's way for at least 15 minutes, possibly more. It wasn't pretty but what a defensive effort from SM. Having survived the onslaught and allowed the SM supporters to breathe once more, the game then became a more balanced affair, gritty and competitive at times, with SM's game management, I think, showing signs of maturity (penalties aside!).

Both teams were restored to 15, for a period anyway, and, against the run of play, a kick was charged down, giving PL an edge as they attacked once more with a penalty, scrum and lineout. This time their pressure resulted in a try, although the conversion was unsuccessful. Around 70 minutes played, PL 21 - SM 27.

As the game reached its final stages the majority of play was in PL's 22, and, although the bonus point try eluded SM, they made sure they secured the win despite proceedings heating up a little amongst the players during the latter stages (with some added audience participation!) The final whistle thankfully came soon after. PL 21 - SM 27 (and not as stated on the SRU website).

A good start to 2019, and a hard, competitive game at that. I am not sure if Momo knew the ref but he certainly spent a good bit of time 'catching up' with him on Saturday afternoon. Good teams play on the edge, interpreting the laws accordingly. To be fair, the ref was consistent with his interpretation as both sides succumbed to officialdom. The first half was not untypical of a number of our games this season, with the lead changing hands several times, but the second half was quite superlative in terms of the defensive effort. This must have given our players a great deal of confidence and everyone played their part accordingly, showing immense character to a man.

The pack put in an extraordinary shift and I could namecheck all 8 for their contribution, both in attack and (particularly) in defence, which gave the backs the platform to deliver three good tries (and it could be argued that it should have been more). That said, PL also had their opportunities. Whilst a great team effort, I think James deserves a special mention for his attack, his defence and, dare I say it, his kicking. I am sure you will agree that he is a really nice guy, but it was good to see his competitive nature emerging on the 'battlefield' at the Pans!

A few things to work on before showcasing any flair next week against what I think will be a much improved GHK, who ran Dumfries very close on Saturday. See you then.

*Kevin Murchie*



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## Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2019: Kick off 2 pm

### Stewart's Melville RFC

15	Freddie Roddick
14	Sean Murchie
13	James Ferguson
12	Euan Morrison
11	Matthew Watson
10	Euan Bowen
9	Fraser Strachan
1	Chris Baikie
2	Doug Randall
3	Connor McKay
4	Alex Rappestad
5	Fraser Morrison (C)
6	Willie Malcolm
7	Joe Bailey
8	Dave Allan

### Player Sponsored By

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Parkthorn Gates
Euan Simpson
Hamilton Waste
Parker Pest Control
Scott Dickson
Bill McNie

### Replacements

16	Kyle Marshall	Findlay & Marshall Ltd
17	Ruaridh Mitchell	Craneware
18	Jamie Sword	Gav Maclean
19	Dave Hampton	Connor Malcolm

**Head Coach**

Nick McCashin

**Team Manager**

Andrew Manson





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### **GHK RFC**

- 15 Blair Forsyth
- 14 Erwann Le Balc'h
- 13 Finlay Callaghan
- 12 Danny Campbell
- 11 Robin Coates
- 10 James MacKinnon
- 9 Ben Frame
- 1 Kieren Boles
- 2 Nick Hurn (C)
- 3 Scott Bell
- 4 Jeremy Hanks
- 5 Ewan Stewart
- 6 Walter Gilbert
- 7 Craig Rintoul
- 8 Hugh Parker

### ***Replacements***

- 16 Ben Farmer
- 17 Cammy Crozier
- 18 Gavin McKirdy
- 19 Scott Davidson

**Head Coach**

**Team Manager**

**Referee** Calum Lazenby

**Match Sponsor** Pollock (Scotrans) Ltd

**Ball Sponsors** Exception

***Next Home Game*** ***Sat 2 March 2019***  
***Vs Dumfries Saints***  
***Kick-off 3 pm***

Danny Hoffman

**GRAHAM + SIBBALD**



**ALLIED SURVEYORS**



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## 1<sup>st</sup> 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 Annesland	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	0-31 (L)
8/12/18	Glasgow Accies	2 pm	New Annesland	8-13 (W)
15/12/18	Lasswade	2 pm	Inverleith	58-7 (W)
12/1/19	Preston Lodge	3 pm	Pennypit Park	21-27 (W)
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	



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## Tennent's National League Division 2

Pos	Team	P	W	L	D	BP	PT
1	Biggar	16	15	1	0	14	74
2	Highland	14	12	2	0	12	60
3	Stewart's Melville	16	12	4	0	9	57
4	Dumfries	15	10	4	1	8	50
5	Peebles	15	8	6	1	11	45
6	Preston Lodge	15	8	7	0	13	45
7	Falkirk	16	7	9	0	7	35
8	Glasgow Accies	16	5	10	1	8	30
9	Whitecraigs	15	4	10	1	9	27
10	GHK	16	4	11	1	3	21
11	Lasswade	16	3	13	0	8	20
12	Howe Of Fife	16	2	13	1	9	19

## Tennent's National Reserve League Division 2

Pos	Team	P	W	L	D	BP	PT
1	Edinburgh Accies	14	13	1	0	11	64
2	Currie	12	12	0	0	12	60
3	Stewart's Melville	13	9	4	0	12	52
4	Cartha QP	11	5	6	0	9	35
5	Musselburgh	12	5	7	0	7	32
6	Biggar	13	4	9	0	6	30
7	Dundee RFC	13	4	9	0	6	30
8	Boroughmuir	12	4	8	0	3	26
9	Selkirk	12	3	9	0	3	24
10	Kelso	10	2	8	0	2	16



## Many thanks to all of our Player Sponsors this season

<b>Player</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Player</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>
<b>David Allan</b>	Bill McNie	<b>Connor McKay</b>	Parkthorn Gates
<b>Struan Allan</b>	Struan Samson	<b>Ruaridh Mitchell</b>	Craneware
<b>Chris Baikie</b>	Dreadnought Leith	<b>Euan Morrison</b>	The Wee Restaurant
<b>Joe Bailey</b>	Scott Dickson	<b>Fraser Morrison</b>	Hamilton Waste
<b>Chris Beattie</b>	John MacColl	<b>Sean Murchie</b>	Graham + Sibbald
<b>Alex Beveridge</b>	Bob Bowie	<b>Denis Pech</b>	CapitalVolt Electrical Services
<b>Ben Black</b>	Sunshine Communications	<b>Tom Petiau</b>	Jamie & Rosie Bruce
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<b>James Ferguson</b>	Haldane UK Ltd	<b>Matt Sanderson</b>	Cello Signal
<b>Fraser Francis</b>	Fraser Porter	<b>Ally Scott</b>	IntelliDigest Ltd
<b>Adam Greig</b>	Prostate Scotland	<b>Charlie Simmonds</b>	Team Honey Badger 7s
<b>Stewart Hagart</b>	I. Simpson Agriculture Ltd	<b>Jack Somerville</b>	Bright Future Debt Advice
<b>Dave Hampton</b>	Connor Malcolm	<b>Ruaridh Stewart</b>	Prostate Scotland
<b>Murray Hanning</b>	ReSurge Africa	<b>Fraser Strachan</b>	Jamie Frost
<b>Gareth Henderson</b>	M Henderson Joinery	<b>Daniel Sweeney</b>	Morrison Ground Care
<b>Ed Kelman</b>	Stuart & Stuart	<b>Jamie Sword</b>	Gav Maclean
<b>Cameron Leask</b>	Ian Forsyth	<b>Seb Trotter</b>	Trotter Family Bakery
<b>Willie Malcolm</b>	Parker Pest Control	<b>Alex Wainwright</b>	Keith Dobson
<b>Kyle Marshall</b>	Findlay & Marshall Ltd	<b>Matthew Watson</b>	AW Photography
<b>Gavin McGregor</b>	Gavin MacColl	<b>Nick Winton</b>	P Mooney
<b>Jamie McGurk</b>	Seven Investment Mgmt	<b>Duncan Wood</b>	Breadalbane Finance