



Inverleith Angle

We are delighted to extend a warm welcome to the Highland tour party who have made the long journey south for this National League 2 fixture. We hope that President Alastair McKenzie, former coach Jim Hay, head coach Davie Carson and their players, committee members and supporters enjoy their visit to Inverleith.

I'd also like to extend a special welcome to my Vice President Simon Breeze and his guests from Allied Surveyors, along with the ladies from the PE department at MES. I hope that you enjoy your lunch and that my *(to quote Simon, tongue firmly in his cheek)* 'diamond banter' before the meal doesn't ... put you *off* your meal!

We're also particularly delighted to see our old friend and supporter Sally Ray down at the club today. Highland's Jim Hay was a boarder at Melville College back in the dim and distant, and Sally's father was his boarding house master – all roads really do lead to ESMS today!

After the relegation dogfights of the last couple of seasons, it's great to find ourselves in with a chance of promotion with three games left to play. While I'd like to think that we will be able to overcome Falkirk at Inverleith and Howe Of Fife in Cupar, today is arguably the most important (and challenging) match of our season so far. As you'll see from the league table elsewhere in this programme, Highland are five points ahead of us in the table; they also have a better points difference (+358 to our +218) and a game in hand.

Highland hold most of the cards, in other words, but we've still got a few potential jokers left to play: three of Highland's four defeats this season have come on the road, their game in hand is against Peebles at the Gytes ... and we showed against Dumfries a fortnight ago that we are well capable of turning over teams who beat us on their home turf (or AstroTurf) earlier in the season!

The charity quiz night held at Inverleith on 7th March was a great success, with Bryan Redpath, Carl Hayman, Ollie Philips and Gregor Townsend taking part in a Q&A session before the quiz kicked off. Ollie's story of the time Madonna joined him and his Stade Français team mates in the communal bath after a game will live long in the memory!

Greig Laidlaw was also in attendance, though he had (thankfully) headed off before the team names for the quiz were revealed – I'm not sure how he would have felt about 'Laidlaw Pays The Price' in light of the squad selected for the Wales game!

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 Dumfries Saints, Saturday 2nd March 2019

A welcome return for Adam Greig as Dumfries kicked off towards Ferry Road with a considerable breeze at their backs. Stew Mel gathered well and attempted to move the ball out of their half with a degree of success but unfortunately knocked on in the process. The first scrum of the afternoon was solid from both packs, and, with the possession going Dumfries's way, they attempted to go wide but a trademark tackle by Joe Bailey put a stop to any progress.

The wind was proving to be a challenge in terms of territorial gain. The first lineout of the afternoon for Dumfries was, however, lost as Stew Mel managed to turn the tables. There was, however, no further need for help as James Ferguson broke through and Momo made significant progress; possession was, however, ultimately lost, allowing Dumfries to kick long. The ball was well fielded by Adam, who made the yards before Ruaridh Mitchell battered his way forward, with further passes finding Happy and Doug Randall to take it on. Euan Bowen and Freddie Roddick then danced their way through the opposition with good support from Matt Sanderson.

With Stew Mel having the majority of possession thus far, it was unfortunate that a penalty came in Dumfries's favour; the resultant lineout was, however, only temporarily successful as Matt had other ideas and won the ball back – and, with that, a Stew Mel penalty. Another scrum and it did appear that Stew Mel were showing that they had the upper hand, allowing Fraser Strachan time to consider his options as he changed direction, finding Euan, who kicked through for another short lineout.

After some good forward play, the gusty conditions contributed to a knock on, giving Dumfries an advantage which they took well, making an impressive break down the middle of the park, although the attentions of Sean Murchie and Freddie held things at bay in their own 22. Dumfries's attack was certainly far from over, though, and, after a few phases, a scrum 5m out, once reset, allowed them a second bite at the cherry and they drove over for the first try of the afternoon. 15 minutes played, Stew Mel 0 – Dumfries 5.

At the restart Stew Mel won the ball back, continuing their attack, and, although getting over the line, the 'try' was not given. Now in a good position, the scrum was solid, and a clever kick through by Euan was grounded by Happy, who was also successful with the conversion. Stew Mel 7 – Dumfries 5, 20 minutes played. Stew Mel were still enjoying a significant amount of possession as play resumed, with Freddie and Adam making the breaks, well supported by Dave. Against the run of play, however, the ball was lost and a kick and chase by Dumfries gave them an opportunistic try approximately 25 minutes in. Stew Mel 7 – Dumfries 10.

Dumfries thereafter began to gain a bit more territory, making good use of the conditions, and, with a bit of cohesion, pushing Stew Mel back into their own 22. The lineouts were working in their favour, but, 10m out, they were penalised for crossing, allowing Stew Mel to clear their lines and launch another attack, Matt again showing his athleticism and pace. Dumfries managed to win



STEWART'S MELVILLE
R.F.C.

possession back, finding themselves a short distance from the Stew Mel try line, but strong scrummaging prevented any further dividends, with Momo securing the ball; Connor McKay was then off on one of his breaks, wrestling with anything and anyone that came his way.

Although there was a short period of living dangerously, Stew Mel managed to break out back into the familiar territory of Dumfries's half, and, after good handling from Connor and Doug, with the backdrop of a rainbow and half the pitch baked in sunshine, this eventually led to a well-earned try as James charged over and Happy added the extras. Half time Stew Mel 14 – Dumfries 10.

With the wind now at Stew Mel's back there was an inevitability about the tactics that would be adopted as Euan kicked off. The ball was not collected well, once again putting Stew Mel in the driving seat with possession and territory an advantage, although Dumfries's defence was resolute until a penalty came Stew Mel's way and Happy added the 3 points. That made it Stew Mel 17 – Dumfries 10 with around 43 minutes played. It was a good start to the second half and it wasn't long before the first yellow card of the afternoon was produced, the visitors being the recipients. With the wind in their faces and down to 14 men, they had a challenge on their hands. After some scrappy play within Dumfries's 22, Euan managed to find a way over and was successful with the conversion. 52 minutes played, Stew Mel 24 – Dumfries 10.

The restart into the wind was never going to be easy and Doug retrieved the footballer's strike like an accomplished goalkeeper, allowing us to launch another attack deep into Dumfries's 22. They regained possession, however, and made headway into Stew Mel's half, although a penalty and a big boot, wind assisted, gave Stew Mel a favourable territorial position as Kyle Marshall made his way on, Doug heading off for a well-deserved rest. The lineout was clean, Momo taking it on, and what appeared to be a training ground exercise saw Fraser breaking down the blind side then finding Sean, who dived over in the corner for the fourth try and the bonus point. 60 minutes played, Stew Mel 29 – Dumfries 10.

The pressure was beginning to show as Dumfries's discipline was being tested, albeit they were fighting for everything they could get and managed to retain possession for a reasonable period. The Dumfries pressure continued temporarily as an exchange of knock ons and early engagements in the scrum allowed them a chance to try and get some points, but it was not to be. With 65 minutes played, a forward pass prevented progress but possession was soon regained and Fraser touched down for another try, converted by Euan. Stew Mel 36 – Dumfries 10.

Dumfries then coughed up another yellow card and there was a feeling the game was now wrapped up as Stew Mel were, again, the beneficiaries of another score, this time by Freddie, converted by Euan. 70 minutes played, Stew Mel 43 – Dumfries 10. Dumfries were still in the fight, looking for that consolation try which they probably deserved, but Stew Mel were equally ruthless in their attack, giving Adam Greig the final say of the afternoon. Final score Stew Mel 48 – Dumfries 10.

Kevin Murchie



STEWART'S MELVILLE
R.F.C.

Saturday 16th March 2019: Kick off 3 pm

Stewart's Melville RFC

15	Freddie Roddick
14	Sean Murchie
13	James Ferguson
12	Geoff Angco
11	Kyle Dixon
10	Euan Bowen
9	Fraser Strachan
1	Chris Baikie
2	Doug Randall
3	Ruaridh Mitchell
4	Jamie Sword
5	Fraser Morrison (C)
6	Matt Sanderson
7	Joe Bailey
8	Ruaridh Stewart

Player Sponsored By

Glencairn Properties
Graham + Sibbald
Haldane UK Ltd
Calder Family
Saxen Ltd
Calder Family
Jamie Frost
Dreadnought Leith
Barbershop Edinburgh
Craneware
Gav Maclean
Hamilton Waste
Cello Signal
Scott Dickson
Prostate Scotland

Replacements

16	Connor McKay	Parkthorn Gates
17	Cormac McCracken	Calder Family
18	Dave Hampton	Connor Malcolm

Head Coach

Nick McCashin

Team Manager

Andrew Manson





STEWART'S MELVILLE
R.F.C.

Highland RFC

- 15 Rob Eatough
- 14 Steven Rutledge
- 13 Seumas Ross
- 12 Rory Cross (CC)
- 11 Rupeni Rokoduguni
- 10 Craig Irvine
- 9 Ruaridh MacDonald
- 1 Lewis Sinclair
- 2 Kevin Brown
- 3 Murdo Paterson
- 4 Stuart MacDonald (CC)
- 5 Oscar Baird
- 6 Callum Carson
- 7 Gordon Gregor
- 8 Andrew Findlater

Referee Alex Obreja

Match Sponsor Allied Surveyors

Ball Sponsors Baillie Gifford

Replacements

- 16 Jonny Milton
- 17 Sean Blair
- 18 Andrew Kellock
- 19 Calum Macpherson

Next *Sat 30 March 2019*

Home *Vs Falkirk RFC*

Game *Kick-off 3 pm*

Head Coach

Davie Carson

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	0-31 (L)
8/12/18	Glasgow Accies	2 pm	New Anniesland	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	33-19 (W)
26/1/19	Peebles	2 pm	The Gytes	25-17 (L)
2/3/19	Dumfries Saints	3 pm	Inverleith	48-10 (W)
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
R.F.C.

Tennent's National League Division 2

Pos	Team	P	W	L	D	BP	PT
1	Biggar	19	18	1	0	15	87
2	Highland	18	14	4	0	16	72
3	Stewart's Melville	19	14	5	0	11	67
4	Dumfries Saints	19	13	5	1	10	64
5	Peebles	18	10	7	1	14	56
6	Preston Lodge	18	10	8	0	15	55
7	Falkirk	19	9	10	0	7	43
8	Glasgow Accies	19	5	13	1	10	32
9	Whitecraigs	19	5	13	1	9	31
10	GHK	19	5	13	1	5	27
11	Lasswade	19	4	15	0	9	25
12	Howe Of Fife	17	2	14	1	10	20

Tennent's National Reserve League Division 2

Pos	Team	P	W	L	D	BP	PT
1	Edinburgh Accies	16	15	1	0	13	74
2	Currie	15	14	1	0	14	71
3	Stewart's Melville	15	11	4	0	14	62
4	Musselburgh	16	7	9	0	12	47
5	Cartha QP	14	6	8	0	11	42
6	Boroughmuir	16	6	10	0	6	39
7	Selkirk	16	5	11	0	6	37
8	Biggar	15	5	10	0	7	36
9	Dundee	16	5	11	0	5	34
10	Kelso	15	3	12	0	2	24



STEWART'S MELVILLE
R.F.C.

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
Chris Beattie	John MacColl	Sean Murchie	Graham + Sibbald
Alex Beveridge	Bob Bowie	Denis Pech	CapitalVolt Electrical Services
Ben Black	Sunshine Communications	Tom Petiau	Jamie & Rosie Bruce
Neil Bowie	Ralph Campbell	Gregor Porteous	Brewster Brothers
Jack Calder	PMA Contracts Ltd	Doug Randall	Barbershop Edinburgh
Will Corbett	Tosh Park	Alex Rappestad	Euan Simpson
Greg Cunning	Jeremy Breaks	Patrick Ritchie	Allan Munro
Kyle Dixon	Saxen Ltd	Freddie Roddick	Glencairn Properties
Ben Dollery	John Calder	Dylan Russell	Cambridge Bar
James Ferguson	Haldane UK Ltd	Matt Sanderson	Cello Signal
Fraser Francis	Fraser Porter	Ally Scott	IntelliDigest Ltd
Adam Greig	Prostate Scotland	Charlie Simmonds	Team Honey Badger 7s
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
Willie Malcolm	Parker Pest Control	Alex Wainwright	Keith Dobson
Kyle Marshall	Findlay & Marshall Ltd	Matthew Watson	AW Photography
Gavin McGregor	Gavin MacColl	Nick Winton	P Mooney
Jamie McGurk	Seven Investment Mgmt	Duncan Wood	Breadalbane Finance