



Inverleith Angle

We are delighted to extend a warm welcome to the Dumfries Saints tour party who have made the journey north for this National League 2 fixture. We hope that President Andy Graham, head coach Euan Mack and their players, committee members and supporters enjoy their visit to Inverleith.

I'd also like to extend a special welcome to Kevin Murchie and his guests from Graham + Sibbald, along with Sam Malcolm and the esteemed thespians of the Inverleith Amateur Dramatic Society. I hope that you enjoy your lunch and Chairman Finlay's overview of our plans for next season.

Our visitors today are going well in the league, despite losing head coach Rudi Urbach at the end of November. Like us, they have won 13 of their 18 games, earning 10 bonus points in the process – but, thanks to a draw against Peebles at the Gytes at the start of October, the Saints now sit two points above us in the table. A win today is therefore essential to keep us in the promotion race.

Our own trip to the Gytes, back on 26th January, was not a happy one, as we struggled to get into the game against a typically aggressive Peebles team. A penalty try and a touch down from Ruaridh Mitchell nudged us into the lead in the second half, but a late try and an even later penalty from our hosts earned them the win and deprived us of the losing bonus point.

While there's not been any 1st XV rugby during February, there has still been plenty going on at the Club. The Burns Supper held at Inverleith on Saturday 16th was a resounding success, with Fraser Morrison delivering the Selkirk Grace, Jingles addressing the Haggis and John Calder dazzling those present with his word perfect rendition of 'Tam O'Shanter'.

On the business side of the whitewash, the North Edinburgh Vikings (AKA our joint Academy section with Heriot's) beat Melrose U16s 41-12 at the start of the month. The Vikings went on to defeat Currie U16s 24-19 then steered their longboats down to Poynder Park last Saturday, putting their Kelso counterparts to the sword by 11 tries to 1.

Looking ahead, we have a charity quiz night at Inverleith on 7th March, lunches before our remaining home games against Highland and Falkirk then the annual Awards Dinner on 12th April. Please speak to me, Simon or Finlay if you would like to support any or all of these events.

Everyone at the Club was shocked to hear of the death of former President Mike Sims. Our thoughts are with his family. There will be a minute's silence for Mike before the game today.

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 Peebles, Saturday 26th January 2019

It was never going to be easy at the Gytes, and, despite the previous result at home, a tough encounter in damp conditions was anticipated. Tough it was, and, regrettably, we left without even a losing bonus point, which was probably deserved – if not more. But that's rugby.

It's an interesting game when one team has 90% possession (slight exaggeration, of course, but you catch my drift – we certainly had the majority of it), a dominant scrum and a significant amount of territory – and don't come away with a win! On the flip side, however, Peebles put up a mighty defence, and, despite all of SM's attacking opportunities, maybe, in hindsight (once referred to as the philosophy of fools), we should have varied the 'pick and go' and attempted to use width – but it was not to be.

With a pretty settled back line, the only change being Kyle Dixon on the left wing, there were a couple of changes in the back row, with Matt Sanderson and Alex Wainwright coming in at numbers 6 and 7, respectively, to keep Dave Allan company.

SM kicked off and it wasn't long before the first lineout of the afternoon at the half way line (the shortened version). Momo and Ruaridh Mitchell combined well to drive into Peebles' half, aided by Dave Allan, but, with a slippery ball, the knock-ons were inevitable. The first scrum of the afternoon saw SM produce an emphatic drive and take one 'against the head', which is certainly uncommon in modern day rugby. A kick through by Fraser Strachan gave some good field position with the lineout 10 metres out, but the offside line was breached, giving Peebles, after a long kick downfield and a cleanly taken lineout, the opportunity to drive over the line for the first try of the afternoon. 10 minutes in, Peebles 5 SM 0.

At the restart SM found themselves back in a familiar position, 10 metres out from the Peebles line, but, after some good forward play (by Chris Baikie in particular), a penalty was unfortunately conceded. Another opportunity missed and more good field position for our hosts; the lineout was squint, though, enabling SM to gain vital territory of their own courtesy of Happy, Momo and Doug Randall. We were then awarded a penalty in a kickable position – 15 minutes played, Peebles 5 – SM 3.

It wasn't, however, long before Peebles found themselves in a similar position to take the 3 points on offer; 20 minutes in, Peebles 8 SM 3.

After some good progress down the right wing by Sean Murchie, well supported by Doug, SM were unlucky not to see points materialise, and, unfortunately, Dave Allan succumbed to what looked like a shoulder injury, ending his illustrious afternoon. Peebles were finding it hard to get out of their own 22 as the pressure from the SM forwards, in particular, mounted, and a combination of this and clever kicking from Fraser kept our hosts penned in until the inevitable penalty gave them some respite.



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The Peebles lineout was again adjudged to have been squint, and, with the impetus then coming SM's way once more, Kyle Dixon managed a nice break on the left wing before eventually being ushered into touch. Again Peebles tried to escape from their own 22, which they eventually did – and, after an apparent high tackle, they won another penalty. Another squint lineout led to a scrum in SM's favour but the man with the whistle prevented any further progress. This time Peebles were given the chance 10 metres out and rumbled over after several phases. 30 minutes played, Peebles 15 SM 3.

SM were soon back into that familiar position within the Peebles 22 once more, but we were struggling to make any progress and the long anticipated try didn't come before half time.

A second half comeback? There was certainly optimism, given the possession and territorial advantage we had enjoyed in the opening period, and after a similar pattern of play, a yellow card shown to one of the Peebles forwards was quickly exploited, with Ruaridh driving over for the try. This was awarded even though the man on the Tannoy was perhaps exploiting his position somewhat by suggesting that there had been a knock on. Thankfully there was another man closer to the action on the pitch referred to as the referee!

The clean kit of the substitutes was now clear to see on the business side of the whitewash. Thor, Connor, Dave Hampton and the not so clean Kyle Marshall (as the bench was now fully emptied) all started to have a significant impact, and, with Peebles a man down, the pressure eventually lead to a well-deserved penalty try. With about 15 minutes to go, it was Peebles 15 SM 17. At the restart Peebles managed to find a way back into SM's 22 and retain that all important possession. Following a lineout 5 metres out courtesy of another penalty, a try came their way at around the 70 minute mark. As time was running out, SM were, once again, trying to break down that brick wall, but, as further progress was prevented, Peebles were the lucky recipients of a kickable penalty, against the run of play. This gave them a crucial 3 points and extinguished any hopes we had of at least a losing bonus point. Final score Peebles 25 SM 17.

A frustrating afternoon for SM, but plenty of positives to be taken. The boys demonstrated the rugby that they are capable of playing, regardless of the conditions, and were unlucky not to have capitalised on the amount of pressure we exerted, particularly when camped 5 metres out for significant periods. As said in my preamble, varying the tactics might have worked but what was on display was certainly not for the faint hearted as the Peebles line was attacked relentlessly. James Ferguson made significant inroads and Matt Sanderson, in particular, never seemed to run out of steam. Credit must, however, go to Peebles for their defensive effort, which effectively gave them the upper hand – and, of course, when they found themselves in the red zone, they made sure of the points.

Kevin Murchie



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Saturday 2nd March 2019: Kick off 3 pm

Stewart's Melville RFC

15	Freddie Roddick
14	Sean Murchie
13	James Ferguson
12	Euan Morrison
11	Adam Greig
10	David Bowen
9	Fraser Strachan
1	Connor McKay
2	Doug Randall
3	Ruaridh Mitchell
4	Jamie Sword
5	Fraser Morrison (C)
6	Matthew Sanderson
7	Joe Bailey
8	Dave Allan

Player Sponsored By

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Gav Maclean
Hamilton Waste
Cello Signal
Scott Dickson
Bill McNie

Replacements

16	Kyle Marshall	Findlay & Marshall Ltd
17	Chris Baikie	Dreadnought Leith
18	Willie Malcolm	Parker Pest Control
19	Dave Hampton	Connor Malcolm

Head Coach

Nick McCashin

Team Manager

Andrew Manson





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Dumfries Saints RFC

- 15 Robert Neill
- 14 Andrew Whiteford
- 13 Sam Hiddleston
- 12 Michael Yates
- 11 Kenneth Henderson
- 10 Jack Currie
- 9 Alan Birdsall
- 1 Ewan Robert Miller
- 2 Ryan Cruickshank
- 3 Gavin Wilson
- 4 Ian Carlisle
- 5 David Andrew
- 6 Craig Goldie
- 7 Tom Martin
- 8 Sean Graham

Referee Simon Williams

Match Sponsor Graham + Sibbald

Ball Sponsors IADS

Replacements

- 16 Scott Goodwin
- 17 Ben Johnstone
- 18 Scott McLellan
- 19 TBC

Next Home Game ***Sat 16 March 2019***
Vs Highland RFC
Kick-off 3 pm

Head Coach
Team Manager

Euan Mack
Stan Johnstone

GRAHAM + SIBBALD



ALLIED SURVEYORS



STEWART'S MELVILLE
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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	
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	18	17	1	0	15	83
2	Highland	17	13	4	0	15	67
3	Dumfries	18	13	4	1	10	64
4	Stewart's Melville	18	13	5	0	10	62
5	Peebles	17	9	7	1	13	51
6	Preston Lodge	17	9	8	0	14	50
7	Falkirk	18	8	10	0	7	39
8	Glasgow Accies	18	5	12	1	10	32
9	Whitecraigs	18	5	12	1	9	31
10	GHK	18	5	12	1	4	26
11	Lasswade	18	4	14	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	15	14	1	0	12	69
2	Currie	14	13	1	0	13	66
3	Stewart's Melville	15	11	4	0	14	62
4	Musselburgh	15	6	9	0	11	35
5	Cartha QP	14	6	8	0	11	42
6	Boroughmuir	15	6	9	0	6	38
7	Selkirk	15	5	10	0	5	35
8	Dundee	15	5	10	0	5	33
9	Biggar	14	4	10	0	7	32
10	Kelso	14	3	11	0	2	23



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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
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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