



Inverleith Angle

We are delighted to extend a warm welcome to the Falkirk tour party who have made the short journey east for this National League 2 fixture. We hope that Vice President Mark Crawford, Treasurer Jennifer McKenna, head coach Kenny Grieve and their players, committee members and supporters enjoy their visit to Inverleith.

Falkirk President Bill Faulds can't be here today as he has committed the cardinal sin of booking a holiday before the end of the season. That's a real shame, as today's pre match lunch features a reunion of players who toured Colorado with him in 1994. I understand that 'Bud' had been lined up to lead the communal singing, though it's also rumoured that he chose to book a holiday rather than have to omit some of the tour's favourite songs from his repertoire in this rather more PC time. Something about a large shop in the Windy City was mentioned ...

Our visitors sit in seventh place in the table, having won 9 of their 20 matches to date. As you may remember, our game against them at Sunnyside back in November was very much a game of two halves, our 22-18 lead at half time stretching to 49-25 by the final whistle.

Ruaridh Mitchell claimed two tries in that game – just as he did in our 36-17 win over Howe Of Fife in Cupar last week. We weren't at our best at Duffus Park but still had enough quality about us to overcome a lively Howe team determined to make up for the gubbing they received here (under difficult circumstances) back at the start of November.

The 2nd XV travelled to Raeburn Place last Saturday to play a strong Accies XV for the Gavin Calder Memorial Cup. It rapidly became apparent that the silverware would be staying in Stockbridge as the home team raced into a 42-5 lead by the interval, though our boys dug in thereafter to make the final score 57-12 to our hosts.

Today's game is our last true home fixture of the season, as it now looks like the Highland game will be played at Raeburn Place on April 27th as our posts will be down by then. That means that the Club Dinner will take place *before* the final game, on Friday 12th April – here's hoping we have to recall the Top Try Scorer award due to putting a *when* of points past the men from Inverness!

Everyone at Inverleith was shocked to hear that committee member John Kerr had passed away so suddenly. There will be a minute's silence for John before today's 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 Howe Of Fife, Saturday 23rd March 2019

Great conditions for a display of running rugby at Duffus Park on Saturday. Bright sky, no wind, no rain - what more do you need?! A few changes were noted as Kyle Dixon replaced Adam Greig on the left wing, while, with Happy in the far-flung rainforests of Asia, Geoff Angco took up the inside centre position. Cormac McCracken came onto the bench, Ally Scott came in for our leader Momo and a special mention must be given to Ruaridh Stewart at number 8, making a return after his season was unceremoniously put on hold during the home game against Peebles. It takes a great deal of courage to come back, so well done!

Stew Mel kicked off (I guess) northwards, playing 'downhill', and, from the start, our dominance was evident in the opening exchanges. That said, kicking appeared to be the preferred tactic of both teams from the outset, with either the bounce of the ball creating uncertainty or clearance kicks not quite finding touch. Stew Mel also conceded several penalties in the early stages, giving Howe some respite. It was a scrappy start, but, eventually, after around 10 minutes, a lucky bounce was well retrieved by Chris Baikie, who touched down by the posts. The successful conversion by Euan Bowen made it Howe of Fife 0 Stew Mel 7.

The ball was well taken at the restart by Matt Sanderson and some territory was gained with the assistance of Doug Randall. A knock-on from Howe gave Stew Mel the scrum and an impressive drive over the half way line resulted in a wrestling match in midfield but little fluency behind the scrum. Quicker ball soon came, giving Kyle Dixon the opportunity to make progress down the left wing; debutant Geoff Angco followed suit in midfield, and, with James Ferguson close at hand five meters out, the try was inevitable. With 25 minutes played it was Howe 0 Stew Mel 14, Euan again being successful with the conversion.

Joe Baillie, this time, took the ball well at the restart and made further inroads, aided by Ally Scott. James was involved again as Stew Mel encroached on Howe's try line once more and Matt Sanderson was unlucky not to get over, some good defending from Howe preventing another score. There was a brief injury stoppage but momentum was soon regained and Ruaridh Mitchell, positioned fortuitously on the right wing, drove over. 30 minutes played, Howe 0 Stew Mel 19. Another couple of good phases by both forwards and backs followed the restart this time, releasing Kyle Dixon on the left wing to get the bonus point try. 35 minutes played, Howe 0 Stew Mel 24.

The lead appeared comfortable at this stage. James retired early with a calf injury to be replaced by Seb Trotter, though, and Howe suddenly took the initiative, throwing caution to the wind, and, with kick & chase and strong running, gaining good field position for the forwards to drive over. They did this not once but twice in succession, aided and abetted by a poor Stew Mel restart. That made it Howe 10 Stew Mel 24 at half time.



STEWART'S MELVILLE
R.F.C.

Despite having 'allowed' Howe back into the game, Stew Mel started the second half brightly, with some good hands amongst the forwards giving Fraser quicker ball to play with. This pressure resulted in a lineout on Howe's 22; although they eventually managed to kick to touch in desperation, this only served to bring the lineout back to a similar position. Further pressure ensued, but, unfortunately, a knock on prevented any immediate progress.

Stew Mel were dominant in the scrum by now, driving the Howe pack back, disrupting their ball and making it harder for them to launch any effective attacks. Howe had, however, certainly upped their tempo and were attacking effectively whenever the opportunity arose, putting together some reasonable phases with 60 minutes on the clock. A facial cut to Chris Baikie saw Connor McKay entering the fray, and, as always, his presence was felt by the opposition. A penalty eventually came Stew Mel's way, and, after some good forward play, Ruaridh Mitchell once again found himself on the right wing with a similar outcome. 65 minutes played, Howe 10 Stew Mel 29.

Our scrum dominance at this stage was key to turning the tables and putting more pressure on our hosts. Kyle Marshall replaced Doug Randall, fresh legs always being welcome at this stage. Perhaps the best and most 'typical' Stew Mel move of the match eventually saw Jamie Sword cantering over for another try and a successful conversion. That made it Howe 10 Stew Mel 36 with 70 minutes gone. With the clock counting down, Howe again emerged from the ashes and produced a strong finish, eventually being awarded a penalty try after a string of penalties against Stew Mel. Final score Howe 17 Stew Mel 36.

It was, perhaps, not the performance we were hoping for, but a bonus point win will do even if the term 'winning ugly' is an apt description of our afternoon at Duffus Park. There were spells where we showed what we are capable of, but, also, some very scrappy play where ball retention was difficult and too many basic errors were made. You can, of course, only perform as well as your opponents allow, and Howe certainly made it hard at times. A 'Noddy' guide to not conceding penalties would also have been a useful read prior to this encounter. Bottom line, we conceded too many, whether justified or not. The consolation penalty try was clearly the end result.

That said, there were still some outstanding individual performances from, in particular, Matt Sanderson, who was building an 'interesting' relationship with his opposite number. Euan Bowen was creative at 10 and Ruaridh Stewart showed no ill effects from his layoff, whilst Kyle Dixon, Ally Scott, Geoff Angco and Cormac McCracken all played their part. Howe clearly have some good players and are, I think, still very much in the development stage, mixing youth with more experienced personnel. We have been there, too, and it *does* come good in the end!

Kevin Murchie



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Saturday 30th March 2019: Kick off 3 pm

Stewart's Melville RFC

| | |
|----|---------------------|
| 15 | Matthew Watson |
| 14 | Sean Murchie |
| 13 | Kyle Dixon |
| 12 | Freddie Roddick |
| 11 | Adam Greig |
| 10 | Euan Bowen |
| 9 | Fraser Strachan |
| 1 | Connor McKay |
| 2 | Kyle Marshall |
| 3 | Ruaridh Mitchell |
| 4 | Jamie Sword |
| 5 | Fraser Morrison (C) |
| 6 | Matt Sanderson |
| 7 | Cormac McCracken |
| 8 | Ruaridh Stewart |

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Replacements

| | | |
|----|-----------------|---------------------------|
| 16 | Chris Baikie | Dreadnought Leith |
| 17 | Doug Randall | Barbershop Edinburgh |
| 18 | Willie Malcolm | Parker Pest Control |
| 19 | Jack Somerville | Bright Future Debt Advice |

Head Coach
Team Manager

Nick McCashin
Andrew Manson





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Falkirk RFC

- 15 F Call
- 14 C Rennie
- 13 C Lawson
- 12 A McNab
- 11 A Waters
- 10 D Thompkins
- 9 JJ Nelson
- 1 J McKenna
- 2 A Gillespe ©
- 3 N Chaudhary
- 4 G Dodd
- 5 D Scobie
- 6 S Fisher
- 7 R Crawford
- 8 J Valentine

Replacements

- 16. G Simpson
- 17. G. Ramsay
- 18. R. Denny
- 19. A. Connolly

Head Coach
Team Manager

Referee Stuart Wright

Match Sponsor Pollock (Scotrans)

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Next ***Sat 27 April 2019***
Home ***Vs Highland RFC***
Game ***Kick-off 3 pm***

Kenny Grieve

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 | C-C |
| 23/3/19 | Howe Of Fife | 3 pm | Duffus Park | 17-36 (W) |
| 30/3/19 | Falkirk | 3 pm | Inverleith | |
| 27/4/19 | Highland | 3 pm | Raeburn Place | |



STEWART'S MELVILLE
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Tennent's National League Division 2

| Pos | Team | P | W | L | D | BP | PT |
|-----|--------------------|----|----|----|---|----|----|
| 1 | Biggar | 20 | 19 | 1 | 0 | 16 | 92 |
| 2 | Highland | 19 | 15 | 4 | 0 | 17 | 77 |
| 3 | Stewart's Melville | 20 | 15 | 5 | 0 | 12 | 72 |
| 4 | Dumfries Saints | 20 | 14 | 5 | 1 | 11 | 69 |
| 5 | Peebles | 19 | 11 | 7 | 1 | 15 | 61 |
| 6 | Preston Lodge | 19 | 10 | 9 | 0 | 15 | 55 |
| 7 | Falkirk | 20 | 9 | 11 | 0 | 7 | 43 |
| 8 | Glasgow Accies | 20 | 6 | 13 | 1 | 11 | 37 |
| 9 | GHK | 21 | 6 | 14 | 1 | 6 | 32 |
| 10 | Whitecraigs | 21 | 5 | 15 | 1 | 9 | 31 |
| 11 | Lasswade | 20 | 4 | 16 | 0 | 9 | 25 |
| 12 | Howe Of Fife | 19 | 2 | 16 | 1 | 10 | 20 |

Tennent's National Reserve League Division 2

| Pos | Team | P | W | L | D | BP | PT |
|-----|--------------------|----|----|----|---|----|----|
| 1 | Currie | 17 | 16 | 1 | 0 | 16 | 81 |
| 2 | Edinburgh Accies | 18 | 16 | 2 | 0 | 15 | 81 |
| 3 | Stewart's Melville | 17 | 11 | 6 | 0 | 14 | 63 |
| 4 | Musselburgh | 17 | 8 | 9 | 0 | 13 | 52 |
| 5 | Cartha QP | 16 | 7 | 9 | 0 | 12 | 48 |
| 6 | Selkirk | 17 | 5 | 12 | 0 | 7 | 39 |
| 7 | Boroughmuir | 16 | 6 | 10 | 0 | 6 | 39 |
| 8 | Dundee | 17 | 6 | 11 | 0 | 6 | 39 |
| 9 | Biggar | 15 | 5 | 10 | 0 | 7 | 36 |
| 10 | Kelso | 16 | 3 | 13 | 0 | 2 | 23 |



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