



Inverleith Angle

A warm welcome to Kirkcaldy President Graeme Hannah along with the rest of the touring party who have made the trip to Inverleith today. I hope that, no matter what the result, we all enjoy the day and see some cracking rugby!

The game against Falkirk last weekend was a rather stressful 80 minutes. Both teams wanted to play a running game and it felt, at times, like a Barbarians game! Whilst it did not do my blood pressure any good, the players should be delighted to come off the field with a win, albeit by a small margin. Flip over the page for the full match report.

Kirkcaldy RFC have had quite the mixed start to the season. They were comfortable winners in the cup against Newton Stewart two weeks ago (80–19) but lost a tight encounter with Dumfries Saints in the league last week. It was a fairly astounding set of results in National 2 last weekend with all but one game having a four point or less margin (and the other game only had an eight point margin). There was even a 36 all draw between Whitecraigs and PL. I guess it is going to be a close league!!

Our 2nd XV are at home today against Musselburgh, after a good win last weekend away to Jed-Forest, and the Ferry Road Wanderers are away to Caledonian Thebans at Roseburn Park.

If you see a few supporters looking a little worse for wear today it will be due to the World Cup Long Lunch held yesterday at Prestonfield. This was held in place of the Annual Dinner in an effort to 'change things up' a little. Although I am writing this article before the actual event, I am sure that the Calder twins, along with Michael Lynagh, Dean Richards and Martin Johnson, kept everyone fully entertained. Perhaps more importantly, I hope that the evening was a financial success and raised money for our charity partner, Edinburgh Headway Group, as well as for the rugby club.

Finally, those interested in International tickets should have recently received a communication about application deadlines from Don Rolls. If not, please check the club website for further info or contact Don.

I hope to see you for a 'swift half' in the bar after the game.

Simon Breeze
President



Match Report vs Falkirk RFC, Saturday 7th September 2019

Sunnyside really lived up to its name on Saturday, the sun splitting the sky and the pitch in great nick. There was a decent crowd in attendance, too, with Finn Russell once again on hand to see how his brother Harry got on at 9 for the home team.

There was a rather familiar look to the Stew Mel team that took to the field, with Matthew Watson at full back, Sean and Jack on the wings and Happy and Jamie McGurk starting in the centre. Darren Miller, a close season signing from Myreside, started at hooker, with big Roo and Chris Baikie either side of him, while Scott 'brother of Gregory' Alldritt made his competitive debut at 8.

We started the game on the front foot, an excellent scrum allowing Jamie to burst up the park before offloading to stand off Mike Miller. Mike swung the ball right before a chip ahead allowed Sean to burst through the backpedalling defence to claim the touchdown. Happy missed the difficult conversion, but we were still 5-0 up with only 7 minutes played.

We then effectively surrendered possession for the next 10 minutes as we were repeatedly penalised by the referee. Two Falkirk penalties went to touch then the third one went over the posts from close range to make the score 5-3 in our favour.

We came close to scoring again on the 17 minute mark, a scrum on the right hand side leading to a barnstorming run from Matt Sanderson. He was, however, stopped just short of the line by some dogged Falkirk defence.

Falkirk really took the game by the scruff of the neck after that, attacking with intent through the midfield. We recovered the ball and launched our own attack up the middle of the pitch – only for some wayward handling to gift an interception to one of the Falkirk backs, who hared off towards our posts. Jamie managed to get back to prevent the try but an excellent offload to winger Calum Rennie gave Falkirk their first five pointer of the afternoon. What looked like a fairly simple conversion was missed, but we were still 8-5 down with 20 minutes played.

We spurned another scoring chance three minutes after that, strong running by Dave Allan and captain Momo ending with Matt being held, once again, within inches of the line. Our 'red zone fever' flared up once again with 30 minutes played, another promising attack ending when we were penalised for offside with the Falkirk line seemingly at our mercy.

We were forced to revamp our team two minutes after that, a nasty head cut sustained by Fraser Strachan bringing his match to a premature end. With no back subs on the bench, Dave Allan went to the wing, Jack moved to the centre, Happy moved to 9 and Willie Malcolm came into the back row (there will be a quiz later, hope you are paying attention!)



STEWART'S MELVILLE
R.F.C.

We also earned our first penalty of the half around this time, Falkirk having been awarded eight in their favour by now. We were lucky not to have at least one player in the bin as a result – definitely something to work on before the next game!

Falkirk claimed their second try on the 35 minute mark, some more slack handling in our midfield allowing the home backs to launch another attack. Their handling was, unfortunately, exemplary, with the ball being shipped along the backline before winger Alan Connolly dotted down in the right hand corner. The conversion was missed once again, but we were now 13-5 down.

We managed to rally in the remaining minutes of the half, earning a penalty in front of the posts that Happy easily knocked over. He then added a second kick to make it 13-11 to Falkirk at the break.

We have tended to play much better in the second half in our recent games against Falkirk, and that's pretty much what happened on Saturday, better tactical kicking allowing us to pin our all-action opponents deep in their own 22. We claimed two tries from this tactic in the first 13 minutes of the second half, Happy darting over from close range on the 45 minute mark then Darren Miller rumbling through a big hole in the home defence after 53 minutes. Those tries and another penalty from Happy made the score 24-13 in our favour with 20 minutes left to play – bonus point time?

Falkirk were, to their credit, determined that that *wasn't* going to happen, and very much bossed the final 20 minutes of the match. Errors started to creep into our play once again, earning Falkirk a kickable penalty, while our already rather makeshift backline got even *more* makeshift when Jamie was yellow carded for an alleged no-arms tackle after 75 minutes ('It was chin on chin!', he protested rather cryptically as he trudged off).

Falkirk had been held up over our line just before then, but made no mistake shortly after Jamie had headed off to claim a prime spot in the showers, the home pack rumbling over for a fully deserved pushover try that left the score at 24-21 to Stewart's Melville at the final whistle.

This was one of those games where it felt like we had lost even though we had won. We had left so many points out on the field, as the saying goes, while most of Falkirk's points came as a result of errors on our part. Saturday was something of a reality check, and that's maybe no bad thing.

Given how close the other games in National 2 were on Saturday (two games drawn and a combined winning margin of only 18 points across the other four games), it already feels like the teams in the league are going to be very closely matched this season, with no whipping boys and no runaway leaders. In that environment, winning ugly (as we did on Saturday) may be more important than ever.

Bill McNie



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Saturday 14th September 2019: Kick off 3 pm

Stewart's Melville RFC		Player Sponsored By
15	Matthew Watson	TBC
14	Sean Murchie	TBC
13	Jamie McGurk	TBC
12	Euan Morrison	TBC
11	James Ferguson	TBC
10	Mike Miller	TBC
9	Fraser Strachan	TBC
1	Chris Baikie	TBC
2	Darren Miller	TBC
3	Ruaridh Mitchell	TBC
4	Jamie Sword	TBC
5	Fraser Morrison (C)	TBC
6	Matt Sanderson	TBC
7	Dave Allan	TBC
8	Scott Alldritt	TBC

Replacements

16	Joe Bailey	TBC
17	Alexander Middleton	TBC
18	Connor McKay	TBC
19	Charlie Simmonds	TBC

Head Coach Jonny Else
Team Manager Rhys Morgan





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Kirkcaldy RFC

- 15 Cameron Pilmur
- 14 Owen Bonner
- 13 Thomas Glendinning
- 12 Josh Laird (C)
- 11 Alex Brooks
- 10 Finlay Smith
- 9 Gavin McKenzie
- 1 Danny Jennings
- 2 Greg Wallace
- 3 Marcus Salt
- 4 Connor Wood
- 5 Stuart Porter
- 6 Jacob Ramsay
- 7 Steven Milne
- 8 Chris Mann

Referee Iain Morrison

Match Sponsor Allied Surveyors

Ball Sponsors Pollock (Scotrans)

Replacements

- 16 Craig Hamilton
- 17 Gerrard Queen
- 18 Kieran Mitchell
- 19 Sean McKervail

Next ***Sat 21 September 2019***
Home ***Vs GHK RFC***
Game ***Kick-off 3 pm***

Head Coach
Team Manager

Quintan Sanft

GRAHAM + SIBBALD



ALLIED SURVEYORS



STEWART'S MELVILLE
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1st XV Fixtures, Season 2019/20

Date	Opposition	KO	Venue	Result
7/9/19	Falkirk	3 pm	Sunnyside	21-24 (W)
14/9/19	Kirkcaldy	3 pm	Inverleith	-
21/9/19	GHK	3 pm	Inverleith	-
28/9/19	Newton Stewart	3 pm	Bladnoch Park	-
5/10/19	Peebles	3 pm	Inverleith	-
12/10/19	Preston Lodge	3 pm	Pennypit Park	-
19/10/19	Dumfries Saints	3 pm	Inverleith	-
26/10/19	Dumfries Saints (Cup)	3 pm	Inverleith	-
2/11/19	Whitecraigs	2 pm	West Lodge	-
9/11/19	Gordonians	2 pm	Inverleith	-
16/11/19	Glasgow Accies	2 pm	Old Anniesland	-
23/11/19	Hamilton	2 pm	Inverleith	-
30/11/19	Falkirk	2 pm	Inverleith	-
7/12/19	Kirkcaldy	2 pm	Beveridge Park	-
14/12/19	GHK	2 pm	Old Anniesland	-
11/1/20	Newton Stewart	2 pm	Inverleith	-
18/1/20	Peebles	2 pm	The Gytes	-
15/2/20	Preston Lodge	3 pm	Inverleith	-
29/2/20	Dumfries Saints	3 pm	Park Farm	-
7/3/20	Whitecraigs	3 pm	Inverleith	-
21/3/20	Gordonians	3 pm	Countesswells	-
28/3/20	Glasgow Accies	3 pm	Inverleith	-
4/4/20	Hamilton	3 pm	Laigh Bent	-



STEWART'S MELVILLE
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Tennent's National League Division 2

Pos	Team	P	W	L	D	BP	PT
1	Hamilton	1	1	0	0	1	5
2	Dumfries Saints	1	1	0	0	1	5
3	Peebles	1	1	0	0	0	4
4	Stewart's Melville	1	1	0	0	0	4
5	Preston Lodge	1	0	0	1	1	3
6	Whitecraigs	1	0	0	1	1	3
7	Glasgow Accies	1	0	0	1	0	2
8	Newton Stewart	1	0	0	1	0	2
9	Kirkcaldy	1	0	1	0	2	2
10	GHK	1	0	1	0	2	2
11	Falkirk	1	0	1	0	1	1
12	Gordonians	1	0	1	0	0	0

Tennent's National Reserve League Division 1

Pos	Team	P	W	L	D	BP	PT
1	Edinburgh Accies	1	1	0	0	1	5
2	Stewart's Melville	1	1	0	0	1	5
3	Selkirk	1	1	0	0	1	5
4	Musselburgh	1	1	0	0	1	5
5	Hawick	1	0	1	0	2	3
6	Biggar	1	0	1	0	2	3
7	Jed-Forest	1	0	1	0	0	1
8	Boroughmuir	1	0	1	0	0	1
9	Currie	0	0	0	0	0	0



STEWART'S MELVILLE
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Down Inverleith Way

The 2nd XV travelled to Jedburgh last Saturday and came away from the Borders with a comfortable win (14-46). Early days after one game, but this puts them in 2nd place in the Reserve league. Long may it continue!

It is pleasing to note that, despite some unavailability and injury, the 1st XV and 2nd XV still had 47 players available for selection. Indeed, a massive amount of work has gone on behind the scenes to ensure that all players are well looked after and can enjoy their rugby. Under Director of Rugby, Nick McCashin, a strong coaching team has been put together:

1st XV Head Coach -	Jonny Else
1st XV Forwards Coach -	Gavin McLeod
1st XV Backs Coach -	Alex Hagart
2nd XV Head Coach -	Dave Hampton
1st XV Team Manager -	Rhys Morgan
2nd XV Team Manager -	David Calder
Ferry Road Wanderers Manager -	Martin Kemp

Neither has effort been limited to on field matters. Next Friday (13th September) sees over 550 people sitting down to the Stewart's Melville Rugby World Cup Lunch where guests will be Michael Lynagh, Martin Johnson and Dean Richards. It promises to be an outstanding event and all involved in the organisation deserve much credit.

A look at the results of the first week suggests a very competitive National League 2. With no obvious weak teams and some of our competitors recruiting 'big name' players and coaches, success is going to take hard work and dedication. However, the club is buzzing. Why not come to Inverleith this Saturday (14th September), join in and watch the 1st XV against Kirkcaldy or the 2nd XV play Musselburgh. Both are 3 pm kick offs. The club is working very hard to increase its reputation as a family enterprise and everybody would be made most welcome. The players really do appreciate your vocal support from the touch line.

The College teams had their first encounter in the Conference on Saturday, winning 11 out of the 13 matches played against Edinburgh Academy. The 1st XV, after a very encouraging win against Dollar the previous week, made heavy weather of beating a very combative Newfield side (26-36). Despite numerous mistakes they still showed the ability and ambition to score from anywhere on the pitch and defend with great tenacity when necessary. The 2nd XV also showed admirable attacking intent to score 50 points in an entertaining game. Next week (14th September) sees Strathallan as the opposition with the 1st XV playing away again at Forgandenny.

'Chill' Phil Waine