



Inverleith Angle

Good afternoon and welcome to Inverleith, particularly to our friends from Whitecraigs who have made the journey through from the west for the game today. As I write this the forecast is actually quite good, and the BBC suggests it will be a balmy 8 degrees. A far cry from last weekend in Dumfries when I was genuinely worried some of the players might end up frostbitten!

Whilst the weather was properly atrocious in Dumfries, I was extremely proud of the players. Both teams played exceptionally well in the conditions and handling errors were few and far between. Our defence, which won us the game, is the best in the league at present and I pray it continues. Please flip over a page or two for Kevin Murchie's match report.

Our Development Team have their final league game of the season today away to Boroughmuir. A win will mean that they finish with more wins than losses and will be situated comfortably in the top half of the table. The DT (coached by Dave Hampton and managed by David Calder) have a cracking set of players and have played some scintillating rugby this season. I hope they finish the season on a high. Bringing home the Gavin Calder Cup will certainly be a highlight from this season for a lot of us!

I have mentioned the Summer Ball before but it is now time to start properly pushing it. It costs approximately £2K per player to keep the club alive and we need to raise this money somehow, somehow. We try to avoid putting out the begging bowl too often but we absolutely must have a successful Ball. It will take place on 13th June at Prestonfield House Hotel and I promise to do my best to make it a very enjoyable event (U2 and Coldplay are busy but I am looking at other options). Please see me or Lindsey if you can sort a table and/or an auction or raffle prize. I would forever be in your debt!

Finally, a very warm welcome to all of you who have joined us for lunch today. We have a mixed bag of friends, family, sponsors, injured players and even the odd Lion or two! There are even free halftime pies care of our old friends at Trotters Family Bakers. This is what Saturdays are all about!

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

Simon Breeze

President



Match Report vs Dumfries Saints RFC, Saturday 29th February 2020

A two hour plus bus journey to the south west corner of Scotland, an area with probably amongst the highest recorded rainfall in the country, in winter, and in the knowledge that Storm Jorge was on its way, all in order to play a game of rugby, is not for the fainthearted. Well done to all 19 of the RBG squad. A Herculean effort – and that was before a ball was kicked at 3 pm!

That effort then went above and beyond as we held on for a win despite two yellow cards, an injury to Happy that led to him being stretchered off at half time and Adam Greig also being forced to retire as he tried his best to hobble around the pitch with a hamstring injury and with hypothermia and cramp setting in!

The wind was blowing straight at Stew Mel's backs as we kicked off but Dumfries collected well and kept possession for a significant period, playing the right game in the conditions, with the visitors hardly managing to see the ball let alone touch it before Dumfries's possession led to the first try of the afternoon. With 15 minutes played it was Dumfries 5 – Stew Mel 0. I had noted the score before the attempted conversion, which I knew wasn't going to make it unless the ball had been launched by a bazooka!

The wind was so strong – and getting stronger – that even an attempt by a resident crow to fly the length of the pitch was quickly abandoned as it realised that walking would possibly be more productive. Unlike the crow, however, Dumfries were in full flight as they kept their attacks coming with ball in hand for remarkably long periods, and, with that possession, put Stew Mel under intense pressure. As a result, the penalty count against us began to mount.

We did, however, manage to gain some territory at last, pushing Dumfries back into their own half before sniffing an opportunity from 5 metres out; we were then, unfortunately, penalised and the chance of a score was lost. Dumfries were, however, still battling to get out of their own half and Stew Mel were retaining them well. With the resultant possession, Chris Baikie eventually touched down, Happy then slotting the ball between the sticks with a bit of assistance from Jorge. 25 minutes played, Dumfries 5 – Stew Mel 7.

At the restart, whilst the wind was playing havoc, it was actually of some benefit to the hosts as the ball was conveniently blown back to the Dumfries players, so, with more possession to play with, they continued their onslaught. After more sustained pressure,



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Stew Mel were penalised and, this time, the first yellow card was shown. Even with Dumfries's one man advantage, Stew Mel still managed to put the hosts under pressure in their own half and a crucial interception by James Ferguson and Happy's boot allowed Stew Mel to extend their lead with 30 minutes played: Dumfries 5 – Stew Mel 14.

Almost instantaneously, however, Dumfries came back once more, this time putting the one man advantage to good use and scoring an unconverted try to make it Dumfries 10 – Stew Mel 14. With the first half coming to an end, we ground out another crucial score, Darren Miller bundling over this time – but the half was not over until it was over, and another wave of pressure from Dumfries left them inches away from scoring. Thankfully, a combination of robust Stew Mel defence and an uncharacteristic Dumfries fumble meant the halftime score remained at Dumfries 10 – Stew Mel 19.

There was certainly a degree of urgency to get the second half underway as players and spectators alike were not enjoying the weather as the wind had increased and brought horizontal rain with it. The tactics that we adopted in the second period were as good as it gets and Stew Mel possession was definitely in the ascendancy, with our penalty count abating slightly and a few awards even being made in our favour. Scrums were well contested, although, at times, Dumfries appeared to have the upper hand care of some impressive drives – but Stew Mel stood firm and our play in the 'loose' was coming into its own.

With 60 minutes played, Dumfries were still pushing into Stew Mel's half but, perhaps, without the same intensity they had displayed in the first half. There must have been some tired legs out there, and, again, the tactical kicks, although infrequent, were difficult to judge. It was a day to keep possession, not to squander it, and Stew Mel did exactly what was needed, gradually making their way out of their own half and pushing Dumfries back with a view to increasing our lead. That didn't quite happen, as the Dumfries defence was strong, but, at least, the play was within their half.

As the weather deteriorated and another yellow card came our way, the game became a mental battle as much as a physical one. Thankfully it was Stew Mel who won both of those conflicts, with the scoreline remaining as it had been at the end of the first half. Final score Dumfries 10 – Stew Mel 19.

Kevin Murchie



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Saturday 7th March 2020: Kick off 3 pm

Stewart's Melville RFC

15	Matthew Watson
14	Sean Murchie
13	James Ferguson
12	Geoff Angco
11	Jamie Thompson
10	Euan Bowen
9	Fraser Strachan
1	Doug Randall
2	Darren Miller
3	Chris Baikie
4	Jamie Sword
5	Fraser Morrison (captain)
6	Willie Malcolm
7	Joe Bailey
8	Scott Alldritt

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Replacements

16	Stephen Spowart	The Spowart Family
17	Ben Dollery	The Dollery Family
18	Ally Scott	Woodhouse Design
19	Michael Miller	Sunamp Limited

Head Coach	Jonny Else
Team Manager	Rhys Morgan





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Whitecraigs RFC

- 15 Gary Emans
- 14 Sam Adair
- 13 Graham Murchie
- 12 Grant Berry
- 11 Edmund Abekhe
- 10 Callum Innes
- 9 David McCormick
- 1 Connor Porteous
- 2 Daniel McPhail
- 3 Sundar Atwal
- 4 Connor Duncan (captain)
- 5 Stuart Pollock
- 6 Lewis Ramage
- 7 Michael Christine
- 8 Craig Percival

Referee Iain Morrison

Match Sponsor Pollock (Scotrans)

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Pie Sponsor Trotters Family Bakers

Replacements

- 16 Stuart Fisher
- 17 Sam Berry
- 18 Richard Cunningham
- 19 Russell Nolan

Next Home Game ***Sat 14th March 2020
v Newton Stewart RFC
Kick-off 1.30 pm***

Head Coach Ian Hamilton

Team Manager



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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	19-13 (W)
21/9/19	GHK	3 pm	Inverleith	19-44 (L)
28/9/19	Newton Stewart	3 pm	Bladnoch Park	0-12 (W)
5/10/19	Peebles	3 pm	Inverleith	27-17 (W)
12/10/19	Preston Lodge	3 pm	Pennypit Park	25-19 (L)
19/10/19	Dumfries Saints	3 pm	Inverleith	C-C
26/10/19	Dumfries Saints (Cup)	3 pm	Inverleith	43-22 (W)
2/11/19	Whitecraigs	2 pm	West Lodge	5-47 (W)
9/11/19	Gordonians	2 pm	Inverleith	39-0 (W)
16/11/19	Glasgow Accies	2 pm	Old Anniesland	8-27 (W)
23/11/19	Hamilton	2 pm	Inverleith	38-27 (W)
30/11/19	Falkirk	2 pm	Inverleith	C-C
7/12/19	Kirkcaldy	3 pm	Beveridge Park	8-26 (W)
14/12/19	GHK	3 pm	Old Anniesland	6-10 (W)
11/1/20	Newton Stewart	2 pm	Inverleith	C-C
18/1/20	Peebles	3 pm	The Gytes	32-29 (L)
25/1/20	Dumfries Saints (R)	2 pm	Inverleith	33-24 (W)
1/2/20	Preston Lodge (Cup)	1.30 pm	Inverleith	34-29 (W)
15/2/20	Preston Lodge	3 pm	Inverleith	18-0 (W)
22/2/20	Falkirk (R)	3 pm	Inverleith	C-C
29/2/20	Dumfries Saints	3 pm	Park Farm	10-19 (W)
7/3/20	Whitecraigs	3 pm	Inverleith	-
14/3/20	Newton Stewart (R)	1.30 pm	Inverleith	-
21/3/20	Gordonians	3 pm	Countesswells	-
28/3/20	Lasswade (Cup Semi)	3 pm	Hawthornden	-
4/4/20	Hamilton	3 pm	Laigh Bent	-
11/4/20	Glasgow Accies (R)	3 pm	(Home)	-
25/4/20	Falkirk (R)	3 pm	(Home)	-



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Tennent's National League Division 2

Pos	Team	P	W	L	D	BP	PT
1	Stewart's Melville	16	13	3	0	9	61
2	Dumfries Saints	17	12	5	0	12	60
3	Peebles	16	12	4	0	11	59
4	GHK	15	11	4	0	12	56
5	Kirkcaldy	17	10	7	0	11	51
6	Newton Stewart	17	9	7	1	9	47
7	Preston Lodge	15	9	5	1	11	46
8	Hamilton	16	6	10	0	12	36
9	Glasgow Accies	18	6	11	1	6	32
10	Gordonians	18	4	14	0	5	21
11	Falkirk	14	2	12	0	10	18
12	Whitecraigs	15	1	13	1	4	10

Tennent's East Reserve League Division 1

Pos	Team	P	W	L	D	BP	PT
1	Hawick	16	15	1	0	16	77
2	Musselburgh	15	11	4	0	11	58
3	Selkirk	16	10	5	1	9	56
4	Stewart's Melville	17	9	8	0	12	55
5	Edinburgh Accies	15	7	7	1	14	51
6	Heriot's	14	7	6	1	10	44
7	Biggar	15	6	9	0	8	40
8	Currie	15	5	10	0	8	37
9	Boroughmuir	15	3	9	3	5	32
10	Jed-Forest	16	1	15	0	3	15



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Many thanks to all of our Player Sponsors this season

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