



Touchline

Easter 2015

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Premiership Survival is Aim for County as Season Draws to an Exciting Close

After a challenging season, County's 1st XV must win their final **BT Premiership** match at Glasgow Hawks on Saturday 4th April, to ensure their status in the top-tier of club rugby. Our lads are well-prepared for this season-defining match, and I would ask for a large and vocal travelling support to make the short journey to Old Anniesland for the 3pm kick-off – your encouragement will be greatly appreciated.

The loser of this match will face GHA, who finished second-top of National One, in the relegation play-off decider on Saturday 25th April at a neutral venue (to be announced).

As we reach the final weeks of this rugby season, our 3rd XV have a number of home league matches during April (11th, 18th and 25th) as they conclude their BT Caledonia Division Three Midlands schedule. Our **Women** also play their final BT Women's Premier League match against Hillhead-Jordanhill on Sunday 5th April at Bridgehaugh, having secured their place in the top-flight next season – our Women's team are looking for a new coach for next season. Our 2nd XV finished fourth in National Reserve League One. See Club website for details of all remaining fixtures.

Our **2015 Sevens Festival** will take place on Saturday 25th April, and again promises to be a feast of non-stop, fast and exciting rugby action. The Stirling County 7's is well-established and this year our Men's and Women's tournaments will be played on the same day at Bridgehaugh, providing an afternoon of great entertainment - further details in this Newsletter.

Our Mini Rugby section have arranged their **P3 Rugby Festival** for Sunday 26th April, with the end-of-season **County Mini Rugby Tournament** (for P4 – P7 teams) to be held on Sunday 24th May - both events attract teams from across Scotland. Before that, our Mini Section are embarking on their annual tour, this year to Northern Ireland. Going further afield, our Under-15s playing in the prestigious Orthez International Tournament over the Easter weekend in south-west France. Thanks to all who have generously sponsored or donated to junior tour funds.

It was pleasing to see our County Under-16s become joint-holders of the National Youth League Cup after drawing with Ayr in a closely-contested final at Murrayfield, and the Under-16s also finished runners-up in the Under-16 National Youth League. Our Under-18s also competed well in the Under-18 National Youth League, and have progressed to the semi-final of the **Under-18 Caledonia Cup**. Our Under-15s have already reached the final of the **Under-15s Caledonia Cup**, which will be played on Sunday 26th April at Madras RFC (St. Andrews). Our S1s and S2s are also playing matches over the coming month, with the S1s also going on a weekend tour to Aberdeenshire in May.

Thirteen of the County's Under-16s played for the Caledonia Under-16s who won their age-grade District Championship, with forwards Cameron Blakemore and Connor Clark selected for the Scotland Under-16 squad competing at the Wellington Festival. Three of our Under-18s also represented the Caledonia District in their age-grade competition. Congratulations to all the boys on their achievements.

Well done to senior County players Fraser Lyle, Ali Price, Rory Hughes and Adam Ashe who all played for Glasgow Warriors in this season's Guinness Pro 12 competition, with Adam going on to play impressively for Scotland in the Autumn tests and latterly in the Six Nations. Earlier Shaun McDonald played for Scotland Under-20s in the IRB Junior World Championships 2014 in New Zealand, while Archie Russell, Matt Smith and Lewis Wynne played for Scotland Under-20s in the 2015 Six Nations, with Cammy Fenton also in the Under-20s squad. Matt Smith along with Ed Howgate also recently featured with Scotland Under-19s. It was also great to see four of County's Women in the Scotland Women Under-20 squad – Heather Davies, Jodie Hutton, Megan Kennedy and Lucy Winter - well deserved ladies. Our Club Physio Lesley McIlwraith also assisted the Women's Under-20 team.

On behalf of all our players, coaches and officials, I would like to thank you all for your support throughout the season. I also thank our volunteers who tirelessly help keep our Club going – your involvement, commitment and time is greatly appreciated.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to all our sponsors and advertisers for their continued valuable support. Particular thanks to **United Auctions**, in their first year as main sponsor of Stirling County RFC.

Kevin Robertson
President



County Under-16s Are Joint Winners of National Youth League Cup



Stirling County Under-16s drew 17 - 17 with their Ayr counterparts in a closely contested National Youth League Cup Final at Murrayfield, to share the trophy. County were trailing 6 - 3 at half-time but took the lead early in the second-half with a try finished off by joint player of the match winger Ben McIlwraith, who also kicked four penalties. Ayr also scored a try and tied the score with a successful last minute penalty.

County Team: Logan Trotter, Ben McIlwraith, Andrew McLean, James Gibson, Charlie Dineen, Jono Ross, Cameron Moore; Connor Clark, Bryce Robertson (capt.), Daniel Morrison, Cameron Blakemore, Ross Bundy, Bradley Clements, Gordon McGregor, Wallace Nelson. Replacements: Jack Cowie, Ross Murray, Marshall Cuthbertson, Dubcan Hendry, Cameron Pender, Tommy Johnson, Lisle Halkett.

Congratulations to Fraser



Congratulations to Fraser Lyle on his selection for the Scotland Sevens squad. Fraser took part in the Hong Kong tournament where Scotland won the Bowl trophy. As the SRU report said "Fraser Lyle impressed in the forwards on his first outing in a Scotland rugby jersey. He marked the occasion with tries against New Zealand and Wales." Well done Fraser and good luck in Tokyo.



Stirling County Sevens Tournament

A Festival of Men's & Women's Rugby

Saturday 25th. April



The Stirling County Sevens Festival will take place on Saturday 25th.April, with both men's and women's tournaments. The action starts at 12.00 and entry is £5.00. Table hospitality is available – the members' price is £15.00 and includes a 2 course lunch, entry to the ground and stand and a tournament programme. To reserve your place/table, please contact Alastair Cunningham at alandishbel2@btinternet.com or the club office on 01786 47866.

What's On at Bridgehaugh in April/May

Sunday 5 April:

Women v Hillhead-Jordanhill (BT Women's Premier League) – KO 2pm

Saturday 11 April:

3rd XV v Crieff & Strathearn (BT Caledonia Division 3 Midlands) – KO 3pm

Saturday 18 April:

3rd XV v Dundee University Medics (BT Caledonia Division 3 Midlands) – KO 3pm

Saturday 25 April:

3rd XV v Falkirk (BT Caledonia Division 3 Midlands) – KO 3pm

Saturday 25th April - Stirling County Sevens Festival

– action starts 12 noon

Mens and Womens Competitions - Premiership, local and guest sides compete in afternoon of non-stop rugby action.

Sunday 26th April - Stirling County P3 Festival – starts 11am

P3 teams from across Scotland (free admission)

Sunday 24th May – Stirling County Mini Rugby Tournament - starts 12 noon

Teams from all over Scotland competing at P4, P5, P6 and P7 levels (free admission)

Another Successful Sportsman's Dinner at Stirling County RFC



Stirling County RFC's annual Sportsman's Dinner held on 6 March was another resounding success. The evening, held in the Bridgehaugh 'Marquee' function suite, was attended by over 200 guests who were thoroughly entertained by renowned after-dinner speakers John Gahagan and Joe Camay, with master of ceremonies Tam Paterson keeping the evening in fine order. Thanks to Gogar Logistics for sponsoring the event, to all table sponsors and companies who generously donated auction and raffle prizes, and to all who attended and again made this year's Sportsman's Dinner such an enjoyable event.

Club Shop

The Club Shop will be closed on 4th April and 18th April as shop staff are unavailable. It will next be open on Saturday 11th April. Anyone who requires anything from the shop and who cannot come to the Club at normal opening times should contact Alastair Cunningham at alandishbel2@btinternet.com to arrange a suitable time to purchase the items needed.

Looking ahead to next season, help is sought with serving in the shop on Saturday mornings and Wednesday evenings. The shop provides a valuable service to members, especially for both the Mini and Midi sections, selling playing and leisure wear at exceptionally competitive prices while, at the same time, helping to raise funds for the club.



200 Club

The latest winners in the 200 Club are :

February

£200 Tim Cullen
£100 Alastair Redpath
£50 Iain Herbert
£30 Ted McRae
£20 John Henderson

March

£200 John Wright
£100 Easton Roy
£50 John Jarvie
£30 P.A. Donald
£20 Kevin McKenzie

We are keen to increase participation in this key fundraising initiative, and encourage all members, players, supporters and parents of junior members to join the 200 Club, which costs only £5 per month paid by bank standing order.

To join the 200 Club, please e-mail or phone **Derek Young** at derekyoung54@hotmail.com or 01324-822513.

Go on join the **Stirling County 200 Club** now - you know this is a great way to support your local rugby club.



U20 Winners

Congratulations to County's players who were involved in victories over Ireland and Northumbria University for Scotland U20 and Scotland Women U20 respectively. Archie Russell was in the squad which defeated Ireland 17 – 10 while Megan Kennedy, Jodie Hutton, Heather Davis and Lucy Winter took part in the women's 34 – 0 victory. Well done to all.

Come along to Old Anniesland and support the team in this vital BT Premiership match



Thank you to all our sponsors and supporters for Season 2014-15

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