



# Touchline

August 2014

UnitedAuctions  
Scotland's Leading Livestock Auctioneers

## New Rugby Season Upon Us

Following on from a most enjoyable summer of top class sporting action, we now turn our full attention to the forthcoming rugby season, which we look forward to with renewed enthusiasm and optimism.

Our 1<sup>st</sup> XV are raring to go in the re-vamped top-tier BT Premiership (starting on 30 August away to Boroughmuir), which for the first time will see the top-four placed clubs at the end of the regular season compete in an exciting new-look play-off format to decide who will be champions. County will also compete in the knock-out National Cup. Pre-season preparations have gone well, with the final warm-up match against Aberdeen at Bridgehaugh on Saturday 23 August.

We welcome a number of new additions to the senior squad including Alex Black (who can play scrum-half or stand-off), Jamie Urquhart (full-back), Matteo Minari (back row) and Cammy Hughes (centre), along with a number of players stepping up from our Under-18s including forwards Matthew Smith and Lewis Wynne, who have both been called-up to the Scotland Under-19 squad along with James Couper (wing) who has joined County. Matthew is also now an elite development player with Glasgow Warriors. Congratulations to them and also to Adam Ashe who made his Scotland debut against South Africa in June, and along with Rory Hughes are now first-year full-professionals with Glasgow Warriors.

Best wishes to Struan Robertson who has been selected as County's new club captain, succeeding the retiring Alex Moffat, with Garry Mountford as vice-captain.

County's first home match in the BT Premiership is on Saturday 6 September when we entertain current champions Melrose. On that day we will be hosting our first pre-match hospitality lunch of the season, with a reduced lunch price of £15 for Full Members – come along and make a day of it at Bridgehaugh and get the season off to a rousing start. A full list of all 1<sup>st</sup> XV fixtures is included at the end of this Newsletter.

Our Women's Team will be playing in the top-flight Premier One, and have also strengthened their squad over the summer. Our 2<sup>nd</sup> XV will be challenging in National Reserve League One and our 3<sup>rd</sup> XV in the Midland League. Our Under-18s and Under-16s will play in the National Youth Leagues, which have extended match schedules into 2015. Our Under-15s will play in the Caledonian League, while our thriving midi and mini rugby sections have a schedule of matches and tournaments throughout the season, along with end-of-season tours. Our highly successful Stirling County Rugby Academy is into its second year, and is a key component in the continuing development of our young talent.

A list of our team's fixtures and results are updated on the Club's website at: <http://www.stirlingcounty-rfc.co.uk/>

We are also planning a full calendar of social events throughout 2014/15, including dances, speaker's dinners, fundraising events, party nights and pre-match lunches. Our first members and guests evening will be held on Friday 29 August at 7:30pm on the eve of the new season – all welcome. An initial list of key social events is enclosed with this letter for marking on your calendar – more details to follow. I would encourage you and your friends to come along to Bridgehaugh and enjoy as many events and functions as you can, and in turn help raise valuable funds for your Club.

I am delighted that prestigious local firm United Auctions are our new main sponsor of Stirling County RFC. United Auctions have been great supporters of our club over many years, and we look forward to building on the success of this partnership in the years ahead. Thanks to all our sponsors and advertisers who continue to provide valuable financial support in the furtherance of our rugby. If you know of any companies or individuals who may wish to support the Club, please let me know and I will be delighted to discuss further sponsorship opportunities with them.

Finally, if you have already renewed your annual membership – many thanks. If not, please can you do so as soon as possible – membership subscriptions are a very important part of your Club's income, and offers great value, with Full Members continuing to gain free admission to all BT Premiership matches – worth more than the cost of membership. Please remember to show your Membership Card at the turnstiles. In addition, for Full Members who are over the age of 18, the Membership Card is also a 'loyalty card' which enables access to discounted bar prices and Club promotions. Why not introduce a family member, friend or colleague to the benefits of Club Membership - application forms are available to download from the Club's website or from the Club Office or Bar.

I look forward to seeing you at Bridgehaugh and further afield throughout the season – your support of our teams and club is greatly appreciated.

**Kevin Robertson**  
President



**Stirling County v  
Aberdeen  
Grammar Rugby**



**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup>.August**

**KO 3.00pm**

**Pre-season Friendly at Bridgehaugh**

## Struan is County's New Captain



Struan Robertson has been selected as Stirling County's new Club Captain for 2014/15. Following a players' vote, Struan was chosen to replace retiring long-serving skipper Alex Moffat. Garry Mountford is vice-captain.

## Mini Rugby



In the Mini Rugby section (P1 to P7) the head coaches for the groups are Al Wilson (P7), Graham Mackin (P6), Deon van Schalkwyk (P5), Conal Mooney (P4) and Mike Izon (P3). Each Head Coach is fully supported by a group of coaches and a team manager.

The Mini Rugby Easter Tour this season is planned for Ireland departing on the 16th April 2015. This will be a great event and the Tour Committee is again being led by Roy Smith. Further details will be available soon. Organisation and fundraising for the tour will be starting soon to give everyone time to assist and work towards a successful tour. There are a number of fund raising events planned, including the Ceilidh in late January or early February 2015 – it is hoped that this event is as well supported as in previous years.

Mini Rugby Convenor is Joey Crozier and he can be contacted on [scrfcminis@gmail.com](mailto:scrfcminis@gmail.com) or 07803627862. The Mini section (P1 to P7) trains on a Saturday morning 9.30am -11am with games most Sundays.

## United Auctions Team Up with County



United Auctions are stepping up their support of club rugby by becoming the new main sponsor of Stirling County.

Scotland's leading livestock auctioneers, who have recently been named as one of Scotland's top SMEs by the London Stock Exchange, have completed a three-year deal to partner with County.

The deal recognises the long-term association UA has in Stirling and with their local rugby club as well as its rural and farming connection. The company's sales manager and auctioneer Matt Stevenson (above centre) is a former 1st XV player with Stirling County who went on to referee at the highest level.

Neil McLean (above left), Group Joint Managing Director of UA, said: "The company has operated in Stirling for many years and has always had a strong link with Stirling County. We are very proud to be the new main sponsor for Stirling County as it reflects our local and rural connection with the Club and builds on our support of their British and Irish cup campaign."

Kevin Robertson, President of Stirling County in welcoming the Club's partnership with United Auctions said: "We are absolutely delighted that such a well-known and respected local company has taken over as main sponsor of Stirling County. This support from United Auctions will allow the Club to further build on its successful rugby development programme across all levels and enable Stirling County's teams to compete at the highest levels. We look forward to working with United Auctions to bring further success to Bridgehaugh Park."

## Olim Cives

It is with great sadness that we note the deaths of Duncan Tulloch, Graeme Wilson and former club captain Alex Wallace during the summer months. The sympathy of all at Bridgehaugh is extended to their families.

## Stirling County 200 Club

### May Winners

£200	PJ Kidd
£100	B Burman
£50	N. Perry
£30	A McAllister
£20	W. Miller

### June Winners

£500	R. Brewster
£100	T. Wilmott
£50	PS Murdoch
£30	S. Addison
£20	D. Cassells

The July and August winners will be announced on the website.

To join the 200 Club, please e-mail or phone **Derek Young** at [derekyoung54@hotmail.com](mailto:derekyoung54@hotmail.com) or 01324-822513, who will be pleased to provide you with your unique '**200 Club Membership Number**'. You should then fill out the **Bank Standing Order** form which you can download from the Club website, adding your allocated '200 Club Membership Number', and send the completed form to your Bank.

## Congratulations to Adam, Finn and Gordon



Congratulations to County and Glasgow Warriors player Adam Ashe (top) and former player Finn Russell (above right) who won their first Scottish caps in the summer internationals. Congratulations also to former player Gordon McRorie (above left) who was capped by Canada against Scotland – well done to all!

## Midi Rugby

Welcome to the Stirling County RFC Midi section and the 2014/2015 season. Listed below are the Head Coaches and managers for each of the four age groups within the midi section. Stirling County has a great reputation for junior rugby, both mini and midi, with a strong midi rugby programme going forward this season. The Academy will continue with its focus on developing players for the future however we welcome all those players who would like to join us and develop their rugby skills. Parental involvement and interest in the section is always welcomed so if you have any queries and would like more information on junior rugby at Stirling County please do not hesitate to contact me or one of my colleagues listed below.

Midi Convenor: John Gibson (UKCC Level 2)  
Mobile: 07702 795 213  
Email: [johnhgibson52@gmail.com](mailto:johnhgibson52@gmail.com)

### S1

Head Coach: Davie Dempster  
Team Manager: Kenny Craig (UKCC Level 1)

### S2

Head Coach: Derek Busby  
Team Manager: Mark Ward

### U 15

Head Coach: Stuart Keys (UKCC Level 2)

### U16

Head Coach: Chris Faill (UKCC Level 1)  
Team Manager: Ewan McIlwraith

## County Women ready for New Season



County's women's squad have been in training in preparation for the start of their Premiership season in September. Having maintained their presence in the Premiership last season, the targets for 2014-15 are to build upon this and to strengthen the squad.

The first home Premiership match is on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> September against RHC Cougars. Kick-off is 2.00p.m.

## Table Hospitality



Table hospitality is available for members before home league matches. The special members' price for a 2 course lunch is £15.00 while the Pre-Christmas and end of season lunches (before the Heriot's and Currie games respectively) will cost £20 – these will be 3 course meals. The dates of all the home matches may be found on the following page. To reserve your place/table, please contact Alastair Cunningham on 07718 922284 or at [alandishbel2@btintrenet.com](mailto:alandishbel2@btintrenet.com) or the Club Office on 01786 478866 by the preceding Wednesday.

## New Kit Supplier and Club Shop News



The Club is pleased to announce that the kit supplier for season 2014-15 will be Raging Bull, a sister company of previous supplier Halbro. Playing kit and some leisure wear such as hoodies, tracksuits and rain jackets will be available from the Club Shop. Members are reminded that the shop is open after Mini Training on Saturday mornings from 10.45 until 11.30 as well as before and after home 1<sup>st</sup>.XV matches. The shop will also be open on selected Wednesday evenings from 5.45 until 6.30 before Midi Training. The shop will also stock kit such as headguards, mouthguards, gloves and body protection from our other partner Gilbert.

A new development sees a wider range of Raging Bull playing kit and leisure wear available from **Raging Bull's online club shop**. This may be accessed at <http://www.ragingbull.co.uk/Shop/Club-Shops/33.aspx> On accessing the shop, you will then be able to click on the tabs shown below :



As most members will probably know, BT now have the naming rights to Murrayfield through their sponsorship. This also extends to club rugby and club competitions which will now be sponsored by BT.



Stirling County RFC  
Seniors  
(28 Products)



Stirling County RFC  
Juniors  
(19 Products)

It should be noted that the prices of items stocked by the club shop are the same as those in the online shop. Profits made by the online shop will accrue to the club. However, it should also be noted that goods ordered online may not be changed at the Club Shop.



Stirling County RFC  
Seniors Leisure Shorts  
£19.95



Stirling County RFC  
Seniors Ladies Fit Polo  
£20.95

## County Pro Draft

101 professional players from Edinburgh Rugby, Glasgow Warriors and Scotland 7s have been drafted to the clubs in the BT Premiership for the new league campaign.

All ten Premiership clubs participated in the draft, with six of the clubs aligned to Edinburgh Rugby and four to Glasgow Warriors. Elite Development players are not part of the draft, while first year professionals are automatically linked to the club from which they were signed.

County's draft is :

Adam Ashe, Rory Hughes, Lee Jones, Fraser Brown, Leone Nakarawa, Ryan Wilson, Rossouw de Klerk, Robert Harley, Tommy Seymour, Colin Shaw and Josh Strauss



## Stirling County – Social Events Calendar - 2014/15

Month	Date	Event	Time **
<b>2014:</b>			
<b>August</b>	Friday 29 <sup>th</sup>	Members' Social Evening	7:30 pm
<b>September</b>	Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Pre-match Lunch	12:45 pm
	Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Pre-match Lunch	12:45 pm
<b>October</b>	Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup>	Pre-match Lunch	12:45 pm
	Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup>	Ladies Day Lunch	12:30 pm
<b>November</b>	Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup>	Pre-match Lunch	12:45 pm
	Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup>	Players' Halloween Party	7:30 pm
<b>December</b>	Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Pre-match Lunch - Christmas Lunch	12:00 pm
	Wednesday 31 <sup>st</sup>	Hogmanay Party * ( <i>organised by The Scribblers' Picnic</i> )	7:30 pm
<b>2015:</b>			
<b>January</b>	Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup>	Pre-match Lunch	12:45 pm
	Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup>	Pre-match Lunch	12:45 pm
	Saturday 31 <sup>st</sup>	County Fund-raising Race Night	7:30 pm
<b>February</b>	Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Pre-match Lunch	12:45 pm
<b>March</b>	Friday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Sportsman's Dinner *	6:45 pm
<b>April</b>	Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup>	County Sevens' Lunch & Entertainment	12 noon

- Notes: 1. Further social events to be added to above - full and updated list of social events on website at: <http://www.stirlingcounty-rfc.co.uk/>
2. Events marked with \* will be by ticket admission.
3. Pre-match lunches available must be pre-booked in advance by the preceding Wednesday at 5pm through Alastair Cunningham (07718 922282) or Club Office on 01786-478866.

## 1<sup>st</sup>.XV Fixtures – 2014-15

Date	Opposition	Home / Away	Competition	Kick-off	Pre-match Lunches Available
<b>2014:</b>					
Friday 1 August	Perthshire Tournament	Away	Pre-season	7pm	
Sat 9 August	Glasgow Hawks	Home	Pre-season	2pm	
Sat 16 August	Stewarts Melville	Away	Pre-season	2pm	
Sat 23 August	Aberdeen	Home	Pre-season	3pm	
Sat 30 August	Boroughmuir	Away	BT Premiership	3pm	
<b>Sat 6 September</b>	<b>Melrose</b>	<b>Home</b>	<b>BT Premiership</b>	<b>3pm</b>	✓
Sat 13 September	Heriot's	Away	BT Premiership	3pm	
<b>Sat 20 September</b>	<b>Ayr</b>	<b>Home</b>	<b>BT Premiership</b>	<b>3pm</b>	✓
Sat 27 September	Gala	Away	BT Premiership	3pm	
<b>Sat 4 October</b>	<b>Glasgow Hawks</b>	<b>Home</b>	<b>BT Premiership</b>	<b>3pm</b>	✓
Sat 11 October	Hawick	Away	BT Premiership	3pm	
Sat 18 October	Currie	Away	BT Premiership	3pm	
<b>Sat 25 October</b>	<b>Edinburgh Accies</b>	<b>Home</b>	<b>BT Premiership</b>	<b>3pm</b>	✓ (Ladies Day Lunch)
<b>Sat 1 November</b>	<b>Boroughmuir</b>	<b>Home</b>	<b>BT Premiership</b>	<b>3pm</b>	✓
Sat 15 November	Cup: 2 <sup>nd</sup> Round	TBC	BT Scottish Cup	TBC	
Sat 29 November	Melrose	Away	BT Premiership	2pm	
<b>Sat 6 December</b>	<b>Heriot's</b>	<b>Home</b>	<b>BT Premiership</b>	<b>3pm</b>	✓ (Christmas Lunch)
Sat 13 December	Ayr	Away	BT Premiership	3pm	
<b>2015:</b>					
Sat 3 January	Cup: 3 <sup>rd</sup> Round	TBC	BT Scottish Cup	TBC	
<b>Sat 10 January</b>	<b>Gala</b>	<b>Home</b>	<b>BT Premiership</b>	<b>3pm</b>	✓
Sat 17 January	Glasgow Hawks	Away	BT Premiership	3pm	
<b>Sat 24 January</b>	<b>Hawick</b>	<b>Home</b>	<b>BT Premiership</b>	<b>3pm</b>	✓
Sat 14 February	Cup: Quarter-Final	TBC	BT Scottish Cup	TBC	
<b>Sat 21 February</b>	<b>Currie</b>	<b>Home</b>	<b>BT Premiership</b>	<b>3pm</b>	✓
Sat 7 March	Cup: Semi-Final	TBC	BT Scottish Cup	TBC	
Sat 14 March	Edinburgh Accies	Away	BT Premiership	3pm	
Sat 28 March	BT Premiership: Play-off Semi-Final	TBC	BT Premiership	TBC	
Sat 4 April	BT Premiership: Final	TBC	BT Premiership	TBC	
Sat 11 April	Melrose Sevens	Away	Melrose Sevens	11:30am	
Sat 18 April	Cup: Final	M'field	BT Scottish Cup	TBC	
<b>Sat 25 April</b>	<b>Stirling County Sevens</b>	<b>Home</b>	<b>Stirling County Sevens</b>	<b>12 noon</b>	✓ (Sevens' Lunch)

- Notes:
1. Full and updated fixtures list on Club website at: <http://www.stirlingcounty-rfc.co.uk/>
  2. Pre-match lunches available before all home Premiership matches – must be pre-booked in advance by preceding Wednesday through Alastair Cunningham ([alandishbel2@btinternet.com](mailto:alandishbel2@btinternet.com)) or the Club Office on 01786-478866.