



Touchline

December 2014



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Season's Greetings from Bridgehaugh

As we approach the festive season, on behalf of all at Stirling County RFC, I would like to thank our volunteers, sponsors, members and all connected with the Club for their support during the past twelve-months, and wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and prosperous 2015.

Looking forward, County's 1st XV are still in the running for a top-four finish in the **BT Premiership** and a place in the end-of-season championship play-off, with key matches in the coming weeks against top-sides Heriot's (home – 6 December), Ayr (away – 13 December) and Gala (home – 10 January). We also first-foot Gala in the **BT Cup** – 3rd round match at Netherdale on 3 January.

County's Youth sides are also completing their National League programmes, with our Under-18s in contention to win their league, and the Under-16s on course for a top-three finish, a highly credible performance by both squads. Both our Under-18s and Under-16s also have the National Youth Cup knock-out competitions to look forward to in the New Year.

County's Women also have a quarter-final tie away to Aberdeenshire Quines in the Sarah Beaney Cup in January, and will complete their Women's Premier League campaign in the same month.

Our junior S1, S2 and Under-15 teams continue to compete against clubs from across the country, and our Under-15s are busy fundraising for their annual Easter tour to Orthez (in France) in April. Our Mini rugby section is thriving, and following their winter break, the primary age-group teams will continue to play in tournaments and matches, extending to the end of May, and with an Easter tour to Northern Ireland to look forward to.

In senior rugby, our 2nd XV are among the leaders in BT National Reserve League One and our 3rd XV having finished top of the regional BT Caledonia League Three - Midland West, now move forward to the combined Division Three - Midlands.

As ever there is much rugby and silverware to be played for at all levels in the Club over the remainder of this exciting season. You can find the updated fixture lists and results for all our teams on our website at: www.stirlingcounty-rfc.co.uk/

It is pleasing to see Stirling County players continue to progress in the national and professional teams, with Adam Ashe putting in solid performances for Scotland in the Autumn internationals against Argentina and the All-Blacks, with more than a few former County players also featuring in the re-freshed national team. County youngsters Archie Russell, Matt Smith and Lewis Wynne are part of the Scotland Under-20s squad. We also have players from our Under-18s and Under-16s representing Caledonia in the age-grade inter-district matches, which

are used for selection to the national youth squads. County's Rory Hughes and Ali Price have played for Glasgow Warriors in the Pro-12, and Fraser Lyle has also joined the professional ranks at Scotstoun. We wish all our players well in their ambitions to play rugby at the highest levels; they are a credit to our Club and our rugby development programme at Bridgehaugh.

Off the field, the take-up of Pre-match Lunches before our 1st XV home BT Premiership matches has been very encouraging, with the Christmas Lunch a sell-out. We have two Pre-match Lunches in January on Saturday 10th (v Gala) and Saturday 24th (v Hawick). If you don't want to miss out, please book early.

Please also support the fund-raising efforts by our Minis and Under-15s for their respective tours – details on how you can contribute are in this Newsletter. Also if you are not already a member why not join our **200 Club** – a great way to support your club - with cash prize draws every month!

Follow all our social events and fund-raising activities on our website and Facebook.

I hope you enjoy reading this Newsletter, which will bring you right up-to-date on the latest happenings at your Club.

Your support is greatly appreciated.

Have a great Christmas!

Kevin Robertson
President



ALAN ARMSTRONG SCHOLARSHIP

Alan Armstrong Scholarship

Established in memory of

Alan Armstrong
(1952 - 2008)

SCRFC Player (1982 - 1986)

SCRFC U18 Coach (1999 - 2003)

28th November 2009



Matt Smith is the latest young rugby player to benefit from the Alan Armstrong Rugby Scholarship. Matt is a member of County's 1st.XV squad and is also involved with Scotland U-20's.

Thanks to all our Volunteers and Best Wishes for 2015

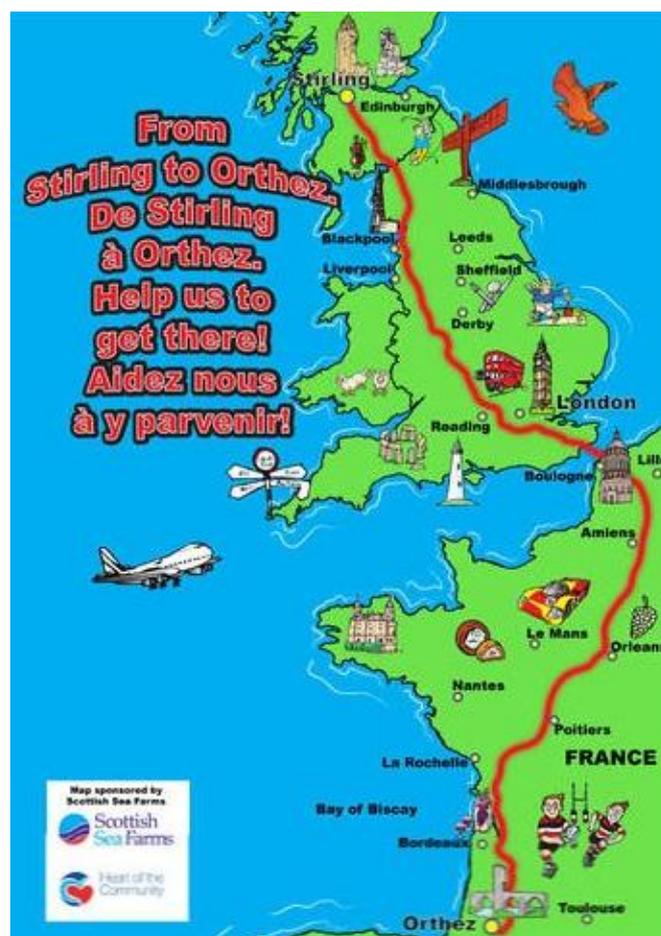
Thanks to all who have helped around the Club in the last year – we are grateful to the many volunteers who give of their time coaching, helping with grounds and facilities, setting up the marquee, working in the Club Shop and many other things besides. We wish you a very merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

Match Day Volunteers

The Club is looking for volunteers to assist with a range of duties on match days, while being able to watch all the action. If you are able to help please contact Lorne Boswell at the Club.



Orthez 2015



In April 2015 Stirling County under 15 rugby team is travelling to Orthez in France to play in the annual Orthez rugby tournament. Stirling County has been represented at this tournament for over 25 years and it is a fabulous opportunity for our young team to represent club and country and learn the culture of a foreign country.

The tour is an expensive undertaking and a website has been set up as a vehicle to attract and thank sponsors as we make our way on our journey to France. A novel part of this website is a virtual map (see above) on our "Sponsor Us" page. Sponsorship is sought at £10 per kilometre of the journey – this can be done on the website. A donation of £250 can also be made – for this sum, the sponsor's name may be put against their home town, or any other town they choose, on the website. To view the website, visit <http://www.stirlingorthezrugby.com/>.

Sponsorship Opportunities

The operation of a club such as Stirling County requires a great deal of financial support : sponsorship plays a vital role here. All members can act as ambassadors for the Club. If you know of any potential sponsors or if you yourself wish to discuss rugby sponsorship opportunities which may suit your business needs, or if you would like further information concerning advertising or corporate hospitality, please contact Kevin Robertson or any member of the Committee.

County Women in Scotland U20 Squad

Congratulations to 4 of County women players who have been selected for the Scotland U-20 squad. They Jodie Hutton, Heather Davis, Lucy Winter and Megan Kennedy. Well done girls.

County Ladies Charity Lunch raised £1200 for Cancer Awareness



The annual County Ladies Day Charity Lunch (held on 25 October) raised £1200 for the Coppafeel breast cancer awareness charity – thanks to all for their generosity.

Mini Section Fundraising Ceilidh



Saturday 7th. February
For further information, contact the Club Office on 01786 478866.

Pre-match Lunches - Table Hospitality



Stirling County v Gala : 10th.January
Stirling County v Hawick : 24th.January

Members £15 Non-members £25

Includes 3 course meals, entry to ground and stand + match programme

To order your place/table, please contact Alastair Cunningham at alandishbel@btinternet.com or the Club Office (01786 478866)

Stirling County Race Night Saturday 31st.January



Tickets - £7.50

Horses - £20.00

Race sponsorship includes 4 tickets and a drink in the hospitality tent

To reserve your place/table, buy a horse or sponsor a race, contact Ally Logan or the Club Office.



Support for 3rd.XV



Thanks you to Allied Surveyors Scotland and Strand Paper and Board for their generous support of the 3rd.XV through which squad members will be provided with club polo shirts.

Thank You to all our Sponsors



Rugby at Bridgehaugh in December and January



Saturday 6 December:

1st XV v Heriot's – KO 3pm

2nd XV v Heriot's – KO 2pm

Sunday 7 December:

Women v Hillhead Jordanhill – KO 2pm

U16 v GHA – KO 2pm

Saturday 13 December:

U18 v Boroughmuir – KO 2pm

Sunday 14 December:

U16 v Boroughmuir – KO 2pm

Sunday 21 December:

U16 v West of Scotland – KO 2pm

Saturday 10 January:

1st XV v Gala – KO 3pm

2nd XV v Gala A – KO 2pm

U18 v Dumfries Saints – KO 2pm

Saturday 24 January:

1st XV v Hawick – KO 3pm

2nd XV v Watsonians – KO 2pm

Please note – 3rd.XV fixtures will be announced in due course.

Former County Player a Canadian International



With former County players such as Adam Ashe becoming Scottish internationalists, it was interesting to see that former County scrum half Gordon McRorie was touring the UK with the Canadian squad. He made his international debut for Canada when he came on as a replacement for Canada against Scotland during the Scots' summer tour of North and South America : he then started in the No.9 berth in the match against Japan. Gordon scored 2 tries in the Canadian XV's defeat by an English Championship select. He is pictured below on his way to scoring his first try in that game.

Congrats to Fraser



Congratulations to Fraser Lyle who has signed a contract with Glasgow Warriors until the end of the season. Fraser stated: "I'm very grateful for this opportunity to play professional rugby. I know I have to keep working hard and hopefully I'll get as much game time as possible. I want to learn from all the players and coaches at the club and make the most of this move."

Glasgow Warriors head coach Gregor Townsend added: "We've been watching Fraser for some time and he's been in great form for Stirling County this season. Fraser trained with us a few times last season and played well in our 'A' fixture with Edinburgh Rugby. He has worked extremely hard to earn this full professional deal and he'll add to the competition in the back-line, increasing our depth primarily at 10 and 12."