



Touchline

February 2015

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Key Matches to Come

We are approaching the final stages of the season with very important matches to be played by County's teams over the coming weeks.

In the National Youth League Cup semi-final, our Under-16s travel to the Borders to play Hawick Albion for a place in the final at Murrayfield. Our Women's team make the journey to the north-east to play Aberdeenshire Quines in the quarter-final of the Sarah Beaney Cup, while County's 1st XV return to Meggatland on 14th February where they will meet BT Premiership rivals Boroughmuir in the quarter-final of the **BT Cup**.

In the **BT Premiership**, County have three key matches remaining as we strive to retain our place in the top-flight league. County play Currie in their final home league match of the season on Saturday 21st February, and also visit Glasgow Hawks and Edinburgh Accies. Please come along to these vital matches and add your support and encouragement – which is greatly appreciated by our players and coaches.

Our 3rd XV have a full schedule of matches in the BT Caledonian Midlands Division Three, while our 2nd XV will complete their programme in BT National Reserve League One. Our Under-15s and Under-18s are all competing in their respective age-grade Caledonia Cup competitions, and the Under-16s and Under-18s complete their remaining fixtures in the National Youth Leagues. Our S1s, S2s and Mini teams continue to play matches and tournaments across the country, and our Women's team have two matches remaining in the BT Women's Premier League.

With the wintry weather affecting fixture lists, please check our club website for revised and up-to-date match schedules.

Congratulations to County youngsters Cammy Fenton, Archie Russell, Matt Smith and Lewis Wynne who are included in the Scotland Under-20s Six Nations squad – well-deserved boys!

Off the field, we have a number of social and fund-raising events at Bridgehaugh. Our final **Pre-match Hospitality Lunch** of the season is on **Saturday 21st February** in the Bridgehaugh 'Marquee' before County's last home BT Premiership match against Currie. Over 160 places are already booked for this very popular end-of-season event – don't miss out!

We are hosting our annual fund-raising **Sportsman's Dinner** on **Friday 6th March**, hosted by Tam Paterson, with renowned speakers John Gahagan and Joe Camay – there are still a few tickets remaining for this fantastic evening of entertainment - please contact Ally Logan to book your place.

Our Mini Rugby section are holding a **Ceilidh** on Saturday 7th February to raise funds for their Easter 2015 Tour to Northern Ireland. Please support our Mini Rugby Section's **Prize Raffle** and our Under-15s' '**sponsored journey**' to the Orthez International Easter Tournament 2015 in France.

If you are not going to Murrayfield, Paris or London, come along to Bridgehaugh and watch Scotland's **Six Nations** matches on the large-screen TVs in the Club-rooms – details in this Newsletter.

Enjoy your rugby.

Kevin Robertson
President



Former County Coach to take over at London Irish



Former County coach Tom Coventry has been appointed Head Coach at Aviva Premiership club London Irish with effect from the start of the 2015-16. Tom is currently assistant coach with Waikato Chiefs in New Zealand.

He said of his appointment "It is a challenge I am immensely excited by and I cannot wait to get stuck in when I join. I have enjoyed my time with the Chiefs and will continue to do so until it is time to go, but I think to stay fresh as a coach it is important to immerse yourself in new challenges and experiences, which is what I am going to do". Tom - who was part of the Chiefs' coaching set-up that won the Super Rugby title in 2012 and 2013 - will join the club after his commitments in his native New Zealand are completed.



Stirling County – Scottish Champions 1995

It is 20 years since Stirling County won the Scottish Championship. This was sealed with a 13-9 win over Boroughmuir.



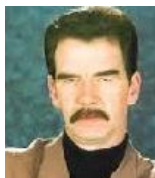
Stirling County Sportsman's Dinner Friday 6th.March in the Bridgehaugh Marquee with

John Gahagan



Tam Paterson
(MC)

Joe Camay



Tickets £45.00

**To reserve your place / table:
contact Ally Logan or the Club
Office on 01786-478866**

County's Support for Connor's Journey

Stirling County's players and supporters have generously raised £1000 for Connor Hughes, a 19 year-old rugby player who was seriously injured earlier in the season playing for Stirling University RFC, which has left him paralysed. Connor's family are fundraising to send him to the 'Project Walk' rehabilitation centre in the US and to buy the necessary equipment for Connor – you can donate at the 'Connor's Journey' web-page at <http://www.connorsjourney.com/> . We wish Connor well....

Fundraising – Under-15s Tour to Orthez Easter 2014

In April 2015, County's Under 15 rugby team are travelling to France to play in the annual Orthez International Rugby Tournament. You can help support this tour by sponsoring the journey at £10 per kilometre. Please visit the tour website at <http://www.stirlingorthezrugby.com/> .

Stirling County 200 Club

January winners

£200	Margaret Neilson
£100	Bob Buchanan
£50	R.Cooper
£30	J.Stewart
£20	Eddie Pollock

200 Club prize draws are made at rugby club events or home matches each month, with winners receiving cash prizes of £200, £100, £50, £30 and £20. There is also a Christmas Bonus prize of £1,000 and a Summer prize of £500. All proceeds from the 200 Club go directly into supporting the development of rugby at all levels within your club, thereby continuing to ensure that through developing our own rugby talent, Stirling County remains at the forefront of the game in Scotland.

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, 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.

Come and Support County at last home BT Premiership match of the season



Stirling County
V
Currie
21st.February



Pre-match Lunches available.
3-course lunch in the Bridgehaugh Marquee, match programme, admission to match and seat in stand
Cost: Members £20 / Non-Members £30
To reserve your place/table, contact Alastair Cunningham at
alandishbel2@btinternet.com or the Club Office on 01786 478866



No Tickets ?
Watch Scotland's 6 Nations Matches in the Club

DATE	TIME (LOCAL)	(GMT)					
07/02/2015	18:00	17:00		FRANCE	V	SCOTLAND	
28/02/2015	14:30	14:30		SCOTLAND	V	ITALY	
14/03/2015	17:00	17:00		ENGLAND	V	SCOTLAND	
21/03/2015	14:30	14:30		SCOTLAND	V	IRELAND	



Spring Fling in aid of U-15 Orthez Tour



**Saturday 21st.February
in Stirling Court Hotel
(Stirling University Management Centre)**

Tickets £45.00

Ticket includes

**welcome drink, 3 course dinner, band
and disco**

Evening hosted by Dougie Vipond

Tickets are now on sale from the **Spring Fling** team: Deb Keys, Suzanne Collins, Trish Duncan, Mandy Vipond, Jennifer Sneddon, Suzanne Collins and Morven Reid-Kay.

Rugby at Bridgehaugh in February/March



Saturday 7 February:

3rd XV v Arbroath – KO 3pm

Sunday 8 February:

U16 v GHA – KO 2pm

Saturday 14 February:

U18 v Dunfermline – KO 2pm

Saturday 21 February:

1st XV v Currie – KO 3pm (BT Premiership)

2nd XV v Aberdeen Grammar – KO 3pm

3rd XV v Bannockburn – KO 3pm

U18 v Boroughmuir – KO 1pm

Saturday 28 February:

3rd XV v Kirkcaldy – KO 3pm

Saturday 14 March:

3rd XV v Waid Academy – KO 3pm

Mini Rugby Easter Tour to Northern Ireland – Fundraising

County's Mini Rugby section are selling raffle tickets to raise funds for their tour to Northern Ireland in April. There are fantastic prizes on offer – raffle tickets available from Mini Coaches. There will also be a Family Ceilidh in the club on Saturday 7th.February.

Coach wanted for County Women

SCWRFC are currently looking for a coach. Any members interested in helping out with the women's team please contact Sarah Hogwood at sarahhogwood@hotmail.com.

Match Day Volunteers Sought

We are 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.

New Faces

Emma Dey has joined Stirling County RFC as Club Manager and Stewart Milne has taken up the post of Rugby Development Officer.

Emma will be in the Club Office on Monday / Wednesday / Thursday / Friday between 8:45am and 12:45 pm, and can be contacted on 01786-478866 or at office@stirlingcounty-rfc.co.uk.

Stewart is the Club's full-time Rugby Development Officer, with responsibility for overseeing the rugby development programmes for our players and coaches at Bridgehaugh, and will manage our Rugby Academy. Stewart will also further foster relationships with local schools and will link in with Scottish Rugby's new regional academies approach. We wish Emma and Stewart every success in their new roles.

County Trio in Scotland U20's



Congratulations to the County players who have been selected in the Scotland U-20 squad to face their French counterparts in Gueugnon on Saturday 7th.February. Archie Russell and Lewis Wynne are named in the starting XV at outside centre and blind-side wing forward respectively while Matt Smith is on the bench.