



# Touchline

October 2014

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## Much More Rugby to Come over the Autumn

With this season's BT Premiership already 1/3 of the way through the match schedule, we are again witnessing a highly-competitive top league, with entertaining, attractive and attacking high-quality rugby in abundance. It is clear that any of the teams can beat each other on their day, and I am sure there will be many twists and turns before we reach the Premiership play-off stages in the Spring.

County have a series of key league matches in October and November, which will have a crucial bearing on our aspirations for this campaign. We also have a BT Cup 2<sup>nd</sup> Round tie against our neighbours Falkirk to look forward to, at Bridgehaugh in mid-November.

It's great to see three of our young players, Archie Russell, Matt Smith and Lewis Wynne, who have all played 1<sup>st</sup> XV rugby this season, selected for the Scotland Under-20 training squad, with our elite development player scrum half Ali Price deservedly getting his chance with Glasgow Warriors in the Pro-12, alongside our first-year professionals Adam Ashe and Rory Hughes, the latter also involved with the Scotland Sevens squad. Congratulations to all.

With good player numbers at the Club, our 2<sup>nd</sup> XV and 3<sup>rd</sup> XV are going well in their respective leagues, as are our Under-18s and Under-16s in their age-grade National Youth Leagues, with much rugby to play over the coming months. The Under-15s, S2 and S1 teams are also playing regularly, and our Minis have a mixed schedule of tournaments and matches across the country.

Our Women's Team are finding it challenging in their second season in the Premier League, but are improving week-on-week against the country's top teams.

All our teams' fixtures, results and reports are available on the Club's website at: [www.stirlingcounty-rfc.co.uk/](http://www.stirlingcounty-rfc.co.uk/)

This season we have introduced player sponsorship, which has already proved very successful. If you, or others, would like to sponsor a player, please let the player, myself or one of the committee know and we will be pleased to take this forward.

On the social side, our popular annual **Ladies Day Charity Lunch** will be held on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> October, raising funds for the cancer awareness charity **Coppafeel!** – a fun-filled afternoon is sure to be had, with all Ladies most welcome (details in this Newsletter).

We are also hosting **Pre-match Hospitality Lunches** before all our 1<sup>st</sup> XV home matches – forthcoming lunches are on 1<sup>st</sup> November (before Boroughmuir match) and 15<sup>th</sup> November before BT Cup tie against Falkirk).

Off the field we have opened our new permanent bar in our functions 'Marquee', part of a programme of on-going improvements to our facilities at Bridgehaugh, which will continue to provide a vital source of income to our Club.

On behalf of all at Stirling County RFC, I thank Millan Browne, our Rugby Development Officer over the past 6 years, who has been instrumental in successfully taking forward our junior and youth rugby development, as well as starting our innovative Rugby Academy. We wish Millan well as he leaves for pastures new. We are currently recruiting a replacement Rugby Development Officer, which is a key role in our Club. We also say farewell to our long-serving player Brian Archibald, as he jets off to a new job in Bermuda – we wish Brian all the best.

Finally, if you have renewed your annual membership – many thanks. If not, please do so as soon as possible – membership offers excellent value and your subscriptions are a very important part of your Club's income.

I hope you enjoy reading this Newsletter - as ever, your support is greatly appreciated.

**Kevin Robertson**  
President

## Ladies Day Lunch

supporting



and

Stirling County

Saturday 25th. October

Two-course Lunch and reception drink,  
plus games, music and raffle, and  
entrance to Match of the Day:  
**County v Edinburgh Accies**

Cost £20 per person – why not book a  
table for your party

**Wear a dash of pink and come along and  
catch-up over lunch with your  
girl friends!**

Bookings through **Becca** at the Club Office on  
01786-478866 or e-mail:

[office@stirlingcounty-rfc.co.uk](mailto:office@stirlingcounty-rfc.co.uk)

## County Trio in U20 Squad



Congratulations to County players Archie Russell, Matthew Smith and Lewis Wynne (l-r, pictured above) on their selection for the Scotland U20 squad which will take part in a training camp at BT Murrayfield from 13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> October. Well done!

## New Bar Facility in Marquee now open



As part of an on-going programme of improvements to the facilities at Bridgehaugh, a new permanent bar has been installed to serve functions in the 'Marquee'. This work, including a new extension to the Sports Hall to provide more storage capacity, has been completed over the summer months using in-house resources. The Club is also grateful to WS Dunsire & Sons who installed a new supporting beam to form the new bar opening and for the assistance of Brian Ireland and John Hope.

These improvements replace the 'mobile' bar (which required to be set-up and dismantled before and after each function), with a fully equipped and stocked permanent bar.

County President Kevin Robertson and Finance & Bar Director Ray Mountford toast the opening of the new bar facility.

## Match Day Volunteers

We are looking for volunteers to assist with a range of duties on 1st XV home match days. If you are able to help please contact Ian Brown, Lorne Boswell or any member of the Committee.

## County's 3<sup>rd</sup> XV roll back the Years



Stirling County's 3<sup>rd</sup> XV, who play in the Caledonian Midland Division Three West, have recruited a number of veterans to bolster their ranks. Former County 1<sup>st</sup> XV stalwarts Bob Wylie, Craig Sangster, Allan Imrie, Colin Eadie and Alex Moffat have all taken the field and added experience to the squad.

## Pre-match Hospitality Lunches



There will be pre-match hospitality lunches at Bridgehaugh before all home BT Premiership and BT Cup matches this season, when Members can enjoy lunch for the reduced price of £15 (non-members price is £25), which includes 2-course lunch, match admission, programme and seat in stand.

Next pre-match lunches are on:

**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> November v Boroughmuir (BT Premiership) at 12:45 pm**

**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> November v Falkirk (BT Cup) at 12:00 noon**

Please contact Alastair Cunningham ([alandishbel2@btinternet.com](mailto:alandishbel2@btinternet.com)) or the Club Office on 01786-478866 to reserve your place/table.

## Stirling County 200 Club

### September winners

£200	Jim Wilkie
£100	Gordon Linning
£50	Alan Rennie
£30	Kevin McKenzie
£20	Sheila Redpath

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](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.

## U15's Orthez Tour



Stirling County U15s make their annual pilgrimage to Orthez at Easter. This year there are 37 boys signed up for the trip, which will include games against local clubs in the Basque area, as well as the Orthez tournament. You will no doubt see the boys (and their parents) at various fund-raising events during the year. Thank you for your support and do come and try the fine burgers we are selling at 1st team matches! Without the help of club members and sponsors we would never be able to get the squad over to France.

If there is anyone you know who would like to sponsor the squad this year, then do please let us know. We are looking forward to continuing the excellent relationship that County has with the organisers in Orthez.

## Christmas Lunch



This year's annual **County Christmas Lunch** will be held on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December at Bridgehaugh before the BT Premiership match between Stirling County and Heriot's. Price is £20 for Members and £30 for Non-Members, which includes a 3-course festive lunch, match admission, programme and seat in stand.

Places will go quickly for this popular event - please contact Alastair Cunningham or the Club Office on 01786-478866 to reserve your place.

## County Women's Team on look out for new Players

Stirling County's Women's Team, who play in the top-tier BT Premier League, are looking to recruit players. Training is on Tuesday evenings 7:00 to 8:30pm and Thursday evenings from 7:45 to 9:00pm. If you want to give women's rugby a try – please contact Sarah Hogwood at [sarahhogwood@hotmail.com](mailto:sarahhogwood@hotmail.com)

## International Tickets

The SRU have extended the period for applications for tickets for the Autumn Internationals. Applications for these should be with Bob Buchanan by Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> October.

With regard to the 6 Nations Tournament, there is now a 6 Nations Pass available for all the home games. The cost of these varies, depending upon the quality of seat :

Adults	Under 18s and students
£225	£150
£210	£115
£130	£80
£95	£55

The application return date is 30th November. Anyone interested should contact Bob Buchanan by e-mail at [bobbbuch@gmail.com](mailto:bobbbuch@gmail.com)



## Presentation to Main Club Sponsor



Stirling County RFC's new main sponsor and partner, local company United Auctions, have been recognised by the Club. President Kevin Robertson presented United Auctions Joint Managing Director Neil McLean with a framed 1<sup>st</sup> XV Playing Shirt, with 'United Auctions' logo.

## Club Shop and online Store

**RAGING BULL**  
SPORTSWEAR



As all will now know, the Club's kit supplier is now Raging Bull. This change appears to be successful as sales from the Club Shop have increased by 27% so far this season to £6189. The shop stocks basic playing kit (strips, shorts, socks) together with items such as 'skins', head and body protection and gloves. A limited range of Raging Bull leisure wear is also in stock, including polo shirts, T-shirts, hoodies and tracksuits. A much wider range of leisure wear as well as items such as holdalls is available from Raging Bull's online store at <http://www.ragingbull.co.uk/Shop/Stirling-County-RFC/724.aspx>. The profits from online sales will accrue to the Club.

## Brian moves on to sunnier Climes



Long-serving County player Brian Archibald is making a career move to Bermuda. Brian, who works in the finance sector, has progressed from playing with County's junior and youth team to the 1<sup>st</sup> XV, where he was a regular for over a decade at stand-off, inside-centre and full-back. Brian also played age-grade rugby for Scotland.

Brian's service to Stirling County RFC was recognised with the presentation of a gift from the Club by Head Coach Graeme Young.



## Forthcoming Fixtures at Bridgehaugh

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup>.October**

**1<sup>st</sup>.XV v Edinburgh Accies (KO 3pm)**

2<sup>nd</sup>.XV v Edinburgh Accies (KO 3pm)

3<sup>rd</sup>.XV v Falkirk 3 (KO 3pm)

U18 v Madras (KO 2pm)

**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup>.November**

**1<sup>st</sup>.XV v Boroughmuir (KO 3pm)**

2<sup>nd</sup>.XV v Boroughmuir (KO 3pm)

**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup>.November**

Women v Murrayfield Wandies (KO 2pm)

U16 v West of Scotland (KO 2pm)

**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup>.November**

Women v Kirkcaldy (KO 2pm)

**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup>. November**

**1<sup>st</sup>.XV v Falkirk (BT Cup) – KO 3pm**

U18 v Dunfermline – KO 2pm

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup>.November**

U16 v Strathaven – KO 2pm

**Saturday 29<sup>th</sup>. November:**

U18 v Ayr – KO 2pm

See website for full updated fixtures for all teams at:

[www.stirlingcounty-rfc.co.uk/](http://www.stirlingcounty-rfc.co.uk/)