

Match Programme:

Saturday 23 November 2013 : Stirling County v Edinburgh Accies (RBS Premiership)

President's Message

Good afternoon and a warm welcome to Bridgehaugh for our RBS Premiership match with Edinburgh Accies.

An especially warm welcome to Accies' President John Wright, his committee, coaches, players and supporters, I hope you enjoy our Bridgehaugh hospitality.

In recent seasons, matches between Accies and County have been very close, and with so much at stake I expect this afternoon's encounter will be no different.

With the focus on Premiership survival, we need to put last week's disappointment behind us and regain that 'winning' habit. I ask our home support to get right behind our lads this afternoon as we look to produce a good performance and hopefully a result that will start to see County rise up the table.

I also welcome today's match officials, and ask that you treat them with good humour and most importantly respect.

It is particularly pleasing to see our Under-18s and Under-16s progressing in the inaugural National Youth Leagues, with both sides, through their league positions, qualifying for the forthcoming National Youth Cup. Today our Under-18s entertain Hamilton while tomorrow our Under-16s host Perthshire (kick-off 2pm). Also tomorrow our Women's team visit Murrayfield Wandies in the Women's Premier League. Best of luck to all our teams in action this weekend.

Today we also welcome pupils from Raploch and Cornton Primary Schools, who will play a match against each other as part of our successful rugby outreach programme facilitated by County's Rugby Development Officer Millan Browne. It is encouraging to see these youngsters taking part and enjoying our sport and hopefully we'll see future players emerge from this worthwhile initiative.

Next Saturday, our 1st XV are at home in another crucial RBS Premiership match against our Caledonia rivals Aberdeen Grammar – make sure you are here at Bridgehaugh to lend your support.

May I also remind you that our annual Christmas Lunch is only two weeks away, on Saturday 7 December before our home match against Nottingham in the British & Irish Cup – there are a few tables remaining, so please book as soon as possible to avoid missing out on this most popular event.

My thanks to this afternoon's match sponsor **Anderson Strathern**, who have generously supported County in recent seasons, and also to our table sponsors.



I hope you all enjoy your rugby and your afternoon at Bridgehaugh – your support is greatly appreciated. After the match why not stay on in the clubrooms and watch Scotland take on Australia.

Kevin Robertson
President