

Match Programme:

Saturday 25 October 2014 : Stirling County v Edinburgh Accies (BT Premiership)

President's Message

A very good afternoon and a warm welcome to you all for this afternoon's BT Premiership match between Stirling County and Edinburgh Accies.

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

Edinburgh Accies have had a challenging start to this season's BT Premiership, and after coming very close in recent weeks, the Raeburn Place team deservedly gained their first win of this league campaign last weekend. In recent seasons, matches between Accies and County have been very closely contested, and Accies' Head Coach Phil Leck will have his team well-prepared for today's encounter, which I am sure will be another highly-competitive and entertaining contest, as has been the case with the majority of BT Premiership matches this season.

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

Following two successive away matches, with a win at Hawick and the narrowest of defeats at Currie, it is good to be back at Bridgehaugh for our next two league matches, starting this afternoon against Accies, which also marks the half-way point in the league (and it is still only October!). Our Head Coach Graeme Young will be looking for the same determination and commitment from his team as they showed in last weekend's match at Malleny Park.

This afternoon we are hosting our annual **Ladies Day Charity Lunch**, a special welcome to you all, I hope you will enjoy the company, fine fayre and entertainment on offer, and we look forward to hearing your vocal encouragement of the lads – I know they will appreciate your support. Today's lunch is in support of **Coppafeel**, the cancer awareness raising charity – a most worthwhile cause.

Today we are also recognising the commitment and efforts of our many **volunteers** who carry out a range of essential duties at our Club, much of which goes on unseen. On behalf of our committee, players, coaches and members, I would like to express our appreciation and gratitude for your commitment to our Club – without you the Club would not be where it is today.

Thanks also to our main sponsor **United Auctions**, and our sponsors and advertisers, whose financial support is vitally important in the furtherance of rugby in Stirling.

This afternoon our 2nd XV host Edinburgh Accies in BT National Reserve League One and our 3rd XV are scheduled to be at home to Falkirk in BT Caledonian Midland Division Three West. Tomorrow (Sunday) our Women's team travel to RHC Cougars in the BT Premier League, while our Under-16s are away to Boroughmuir in the BT National Youth League. On Friday evening (31st October), our Under-16s play West of Scotland at Scotstoun (as a curtain-raiser to the Glasgow Warriors v Treviso Pro-12 match).

Eight of our youth players have represented Caledonia in the recent Age-Grade Inter-District matches against the Borders – Bryce Robertson, Cameron Blakemore, Grant Hughes, Charlie Dineen and Connor Clark at Under-16s, and Keir Hale-Brown, Liam Brymer and Harry Henderson at Under-18s – well done to all the boys. Congratulations also to former

County youth and senior player Grant Gilchrist, who has been named Scotland captain for the forthcoming Autumn internationals.

Next Saturday (1st November) County entertain Boroughmuir in the BT Premiership, when we will be hosting our next pre-match lunch – you can reserve your place by contacting Alastair Cunningham or the Club Office.

I hope you all enjoy your rugby and your afternoon at Bridgehaugh.

Kevin Robertson
President