

## Match Programme:

### Saturday 10 January 2015 : Stirling County v Gala (BT Premiership)

#### President's Message

Good afternoon and welcome to Bridgehaugh for our first home match of 2015. May I also wish you all a very healthy, prosperous and happy New Year.

Last Saturday we *first-footed* our friends from Gala in the BT Cup, in the first of our two back-to-back matches. This afternoon it is our turn to host the officials, players and supporters from Netherdale, led by Gala President Scott Dalgleish, who have made the trip from the Borders for this crucial BT Premiership match. You are most welcome and I hope you enjoy our Bridgehaugh hospitality.

We are now rapidly approaching the business-end of the season with only five league matches remaining. County, like Gala and a number of other clubs, are striving for a top-four finish in the BT Premiership and a place in the Championship play-offs, so an enthralling finale to the season is guaranteed.

Gala, under the guidance of local lad George Graham, have talent in abundance, but have been hampered by injuries in several key positions and have found league wins harder to come by in recent matches. The Netherdale side will be keen to get back on track and make a positive start to the final phase of the BT Premiership programme.

We started 2015 with an encouraging display at Netherdale last weekend, and our Head Coach Graeme Young will be keen to build on this performance in the key league matches to come. With so much at stake for both Clubs, I am sure we will be in for another highly competitive and entertaining match this afternoon.

I also welcome our referee and touch judges, please treat them with good humour and respect throughout, as any abuse of match officials will not be tolerated.

Next Saturday (17<sup>th</sup> January), County play Glasgow Hawks in another vital BT Premiership match – I hope many of you will make the short journey to Old Anniesland to add your support.

This afternoon County's 2<sup>nd</sup> XV entertain Gala 'A', with both sides having aspirations to win the BT National Reserve League One (kick-off is 2pm); while our Under-18s host Dumfries Saints in the National Under-18 League. Also today, County's 3<sup>rd</sup> XV are away to Kirkcaldy in the BT Caledonia Midlands Division Three, while tomorrow (Sunday) our Women's Team also head to Fife to play Kirkcaldy in the BT Women's Premier League at Beveridge Park.

I am pleased to welcome Stewart Milne to the post of Club Rugby Development Officer / Academy Manager. Stewart, who is widely experienced, will play a pivotal role in progressing our rugby development programmes across the Club.

Thanks to our main sponsor **United Auctions** and today's table sponsors - your valuable support is greatly appreciated. Our next pre-match lunch is in a fortnight on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> January, before our home BT Premiership match against Hawick.

I'd also like to remind you of our annual **Race Night** on Saturday 31 January. This is always a most enjoyable evening's fun and entertainment and a key fundraiser for the Club – come along and have a wee flutter, there are places still available – please contact Ally Logan.

Enjoy your rugby this afternoon.

**Kevin Robertson**  
**President**