

President's Message

Welcome to our last home league match of the season, our home form has been a bitter disappointment to me, 4 losses, a draw and just 3 wins is why we are in a 3 way fight to avoid the dreaded play off. The last defeat to Boroughmuir is particularly disappointing as we are so much better than our performance that day.

There is no better way to get back on the horse than to square up to the league leaders Ayr, we have it in us to win this match but we really need to up our game and play smarter rugby than we have done of late.

I welcome Ayr President Billy McHarg his committee and supporters to Bridgehaugh, Ayr are not top of the league for nothing as they are a fine well balanced side with quality throughout their squad, we cannot turn off for a second as they really can hurt you on the scoreboard.

The game this afternoon will see the Càirdeas Quaich on offer to the victors. United Auctions Neil McLean will present the trophy at the end of the match.

Congratulations go to Callum Hunter Hill and Adam Nicol on their deserved selection for the Scotland U20's, these 2 lads joined us this year and have been a real asset to our young squad.

Another game cancelled last week at Heriots due to frost this time and not water cast my mind to our Juniors who have hardly played of late and training has been 'a challenge', I cannot believe that a country like Scotland with our climate hasn't at least tried Summer rugby for the kids.

Today's Mascot is David Kyle of the P7's, let's cheer him onto the pitch with Struan and the team.

John Wright

Club President

Adamson's Analysis

Following another postponement of one of our games, we go into our final home game of the season, a week after the league programme should have finished. Postponements help no one. They halt any momentum that a team may have created, reduce cohesion in a team's style of play, and can affect a team's match fitness levels. Additionally, the amount of clubs that will have lost important revenue due to club lunches be cancelled and there being a lack of bar takings, over the past few months, will not be insignificant.

However, and this is potentially the most important area, our junior section's training and games have been non-existent since early November. Our Club President has already alluded to this in his own notes, but what good can come of trying to develop and grow a sport with the future of the game in conditions that you'd be reluctant to walk your dog in. I sound like a broken record, but when the season runs from and to, for junior rugby, needs to change as soon as possible.

(Another) rant over. To today's game. The much desired and sought after consistency has been our biggest failing this year. The only consistent thing we've shown is our inconsistency. Our home loss to Boroughmuir two weeks ago, was a particularly hard one to

take. It was a game we needed to win, and should have won comfortably; yet it appeared we were making it as difficult as possible to get the win. As I said to our players at the end of the game, we always want to be positive and play a style of rugby that enthuses us, yet there comes a time to put boot to ball and play a style of rugby that gives us the best chance of winning.

Against Ayr, the standout team in the league this season, we will need to be at our very best to get any kind of result. Despite Ayr already having (pretty much) secured top spot in the league prior to the playoffs, they will want to continue their good form and finish the league programme strongly. We too, are wanting to do the same, but for differing reasons. A win is a must, and I wouldn't care if it was a game for the purists and ended up 3-0.

Needs must, and this is a game we very much need to win.

DWA