

President's Message

October has been kind to us...unbeaten and up to 7th, it's not enough for this club, we need to kick on again.

It felt good to beat the Champions last week with a Bonus point victory in a good performance in terms of effort, our Set Piece however fell apart....this should keep us grounded but at the same time we really should have hurt Heriots on the scoreboard if we had competed better in these areas. Lot's to work on. We are a team with confidence and belief, lot's more to come.

Today we extend a warm welcome to Currie, their committee and supporters who have made the trip through from Mallyen, Currie like ourselves are in a good spell of form, they gave us a bit of a hiding in the opening League match earlier in the season but we are a different team now from that imposter of a Stirling side who pitched up that day, this will be a blockbuster of a match as both teams will play positive rugby.

I also welcome our match officials who will be given the utmost respect this afternoon.

Today we have the Annual Ladies charity lunch, our chosen charity this year is local, Town Break provides person-centred services to support people with dementia and their carers using the skills of trained, supportive and committed staff and volunteers, I've had first-hand experience of this service in action (I don't have dementia yet!) and can vouch for their incredible worth to the local community, we have to thank Linda Wright, Lorraine Robertson and Carole Logan for pulling this together, I'm sure the decibel level will be up a notch come kick off time! Enjoy your day Ladies.

John Wright
Club President

Adamson's Analysis

What a difference a month makes. Since my last entry to this column, the 1st XV has taken 17 points from a possible 20. A 21-21 draw at home to Melrose was followed by three bonus point victories away to Gala and Boroughmuir, and at home to champions Heriots. We have been fortunate to have called upon Glasgow Warriors' players, Sam Johnson, Chris Fusaro, Hugh Blake and former County player, Fraser Lyle; but the difference in our performances has come from a steely determination from the core of the team, those that have been here the past number of seasons.

Prior to the Melrose game, the team were sitting second bottom with 6 points. However there was no panic, no bashing of heads, and certainly no one was getting flogged at training. The players and coaches had confidence in what we were doing and we knew that the team would eventually click. The players could have begun to question what the other coaches and I were doing, but at no stage did anyone go off task and everyone was fully focused in what we were looking to achieve.

The difference in victories has come from a resilience and never say die attitude. This was epitomised in our victory over Boroughmuir where the diminutive Paddy Nicol, tackled the rampaging Boroughmuir prop into touch with the try line at his mercy. With our style of play being able to open up even the most meagre of defences in attack, it is the type of defence that won the game against Heriots that will carry us through tight games. You can't coach heart and fight, but fortunately this team has plenty in abundance.

Moving on, Stirling County has always been about more than just the 1st XV, and this is something that everyone within the 1sts has been made aware of the past number of weeks. Last Saturday saw Jonny Hope, Vaka Manu, Shaun Treweek and Dylan Taikato-Simpson head down to help out at club's mini training. By all accounts this was a resounding success and something that will hopefully inspire the young players in attendance to one day pull on a 1st XV jersey. As well as involvement with the Minis, the 1st and 2nd XVs now undertake part of their training with the U18s every couple of weeks. Again, this is to hopefully inspire the U18s to play for the senior club and aspire to be 1st XV players in a few years' time. It has worked incredible well so far, and hopefully Matt McGrandles and his players get as much out of it as the senior players do.

Last Thursday saw close to 100 players from the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, Women's and U18s XVs train under the lights at Bridgehaugh. It was a sight to behold and one that everyone at the club should be proud of. With results on the pitch improving game by game, matched with the increasing numbers at training and a renewed sense of identity being engendered each week, Stirling County is a great place to be just now.

DWA