

President's Message

Good afternoon and welcome to Bridgehaugh for our first home BT Premiership match of the season. I hope you had an enjoyable and relaxing summer despite the weather and are looking forward to what I am sure will be another exciting and action-packed season of top class rugby.

At the AGM I committed to strengthening our Squad with not only extra players but players that have a Pedigree, we have brought in 12 such players to complement the existing Squad which I'm sure will make us stronger across the Club starting today.

This afternoon we host the Green Machine from Hawick, I extend a warm welcome to their new President John Thorburn, his committee, coaches, players and supporters who have travelled from the Borders. I'm personally delighted that John's first game as Hawick President is at Bridgehaugh, John works tirelessly for the Bill McLaren Foundation. The 3 main aims of the Foundation are to develop and promote the sport of rugby union and its values, to encourage and provide sporting opportunities for young people, to create an educative centre which will include the Bill McLaren Archive, we at Stirling plan to have a Foundation event in the near future.

<http://www.billmclarenfoundation.co.uk/>

I also welcome our match officials. I hope you all enjoy your day at Bridgehaugh.

I expect an exciting clash this afternoon, there will be errors on both sides as early league matches traditionally deliver highs and lows as teams scramble to put pre-season behind them and produce all they have worked on in the close season. Hawick did the double over us last year and have won on their last 2 visits to Bridgehaugh.....ouch!!

At Youth level the Conference kicks off with games against West and Ross Sutherland on Saturday 27th August and then the West fixtures for the U 13's and U 16's on Sunday 28th August. All fixtures are on the club web site. The U 18's will have two squads playing on Saturday 27 August at Bridgehaugh, against West of Scotland, KO at 2.00 pm and Ross Sutherland, KO at 1.00 pm, in their respective Conferences....yes you heard correctly that's two U18 teams.

After starting their Saturday morning training sessions earlier this season to make the most of the better summer weather, the boys and girls in Micro and Mini rugby start their games away to Ayr on Sunday 28th August. Following on from one of the most successful Tackle Rugby camps to date and with encouraging number down over the last few weeks the decision to start back earlier has been the right one. Good luck to all heading to Ayr

Many of you will already have paid your membership subscription for the coming season – thank you. If you have still to do so please can you return your membership form and remittance as soon as possible. Membership fees are an important source of income to your club and without it we may as well close the doors. Full members gain free admission to all home BT Premiership matches and can access discounted bar prices and other Club promotions – great value!

John Wright
Club President

