

SMRFC

President's Report

As delivered to SMRFC AGM on 11th May 2017

The club is indebted to the following people for all their efforts this season and we thank them for their hard work enabling the club to function efficiently -

Medical Officer / Club Doctor - Dr Jamie Robertson Head Physic - Ruth Wyllie Physio - Richard Worrell Physio - Vanessa Chiropractor and sponsor - Dr Ross Macdonald Referees Officer - Ian Hanlin Statistician - Colin Rigby Webmaster and V/P - Bill McNie and groundsman Willie Purdie - who along with his hard working staff provide some of the best playing surfaces , both for matches and training in Scotland which are the envy of many other clubs and greatly appreciated also by Inverleith RFC - our near neighbours .

Much appreciation also to Phil Waine the Ground Convenor who took over from Bobby Clark opening and locking up on a Saturday , updating the signage and working the scoreboard and to our wonderful bar team Denise Mitchell and her staff and the excellent caterers and to Colin Rigby in another of his many roles as lunch club host and also gratitude to Don Rolls for organising international tickets for members , and also thanks to Lindsey Geddes in her role as Referee and Fixture Secretary and to Laura McIntosh as Treasurer .

The club would not be able to function without sponsors and we are very grateful to all of our main sponsors - Baillie Gifford , Fiscal Technologies , Pollocks , DJ Alexander , Crane Wear , Discover Chiropractic and Ronaq Restaurant- and all of our other sponsors .

An essential fundraiser for the club is the Autumn Ball held at BT Murrayfield last November - Nick McCashin did a great job ensuring that the ball was very enjoyable and a very successful fundraiser .

How the club faired this season -

1st XV -

After a shaky start much credit must go to coaches Gordon Henderson and Graham Inglis and all of the players in successfully turning around the 1st XV into a winning team , finishing in 8th place in National League Division 1 with 47 points , 9 wins and 13 losses .

2nd XV -

The 2dXV coached by Gavin Sharp , greatly assisted by Fin Calder , finished in 5th place in BT National Reerve League Division 2 with 37 points , 7 wins and 11 losses .

3rd XV -

The Mighty 3rd XV , coached by a consortium of Fin and Jim Calder aided by Simon Scott , Lawrence Reilly , Bert Hutchison and Richard Hughes finished the season in 6th place in BT East Reserve League Division 2 with 47 points , 7 wins and 12 losses and 1 draw.

Match Reports - The callers and Lawrence Reilly have produced many enjoyable and highly entertaining , much anticipated and factual reports this season - many thanks indeed !

The End of Season Awards - at a very enjoyable Awards Night Dinner after the 1st XV league match against Falkirk FRC organised by Nick McCashin the following awards were presented -

Joint top try scorers - James Ferguson / Sean Murchie 2nd XV player of the year - David Devlin 3rd XV player of the year - Graeme Mitchell most improved player - Craig Willis club person of the year - Graham Inglis player of the year - Sami Paulson

Lions Report - courtesy of Alistair Stewart

Stew Mel Lions

The Lions, covering kids from P1 to P7, continues in strong health with around 230 kids and 55 coaches participating regularly. In addition to regular training sessions at Inverleith the Lions participated in 21 events this year, ranging from full-scale tournaments to round robins and friendly "development fixtures". These tournaments see the boys play against some really stretching competition from teams such as Merchiston school, Currie, Stirling Accies, Ellon and Melrose, as well as our local Edinburgh rivals.

In addition the club ran 2 successful tours to the North of England for P4 to P6 and the P7 tour to Italy in May. In all of these tournaments the Lions are highly competitive with our squads almost always making semi-final stages and often running out as winners.

However the numbers only tell part of the story - the Lions guiding principles of Fun, Teamwork Respect and "Learning life's lessons along the way" are bought into by all at the club. There is no "streaming" - all of the kids are encouraged to play in tournaments and this helps us to ensure that they all enjoy it and therefore keep coming back.

Communication with the Senior Club, the Academy section and Stewart's Melville school is working extremely well to the benefit of all concerned, thanks to a concerted effort on all sides. The Lions have asked me to express their gratitude to all at the Senior club for their ongoing support, and to thank Willie Purdie, Joyce Waterston and Denise Mitchell for their positive working relationship.

On a final note Simon Baig has done a tremendous job with the Lionesses, who won their Under 12's league.

Academy 2nd Year Report - courtesy of Bruce Ruthann and Ross McNulty

The Stew Mel Academy has further developed this season with over seventy youngsters involved from S1 to S5. Over and above our regular core training sessions, the players have participated in Specialist Skills sessions and Performance workshops with top coaches / players such as Henry Edwards, Sean Lineen, Bryan Eason, Tony Stanger, Grayson Harte, Adam Ashe, Scott Riddell and Frank Hadden. The Academy has also worked hard to provide a challenging fixture list to supplement school games. Some of these games have provided the players with the opportunity to test themselves against the best opposition available, whilst others provide an opportunity to play good fun rugby and to express themselves. Some of the teams we have played against include - Melrose, Currie, Madras, Stirling County, BAT's Glasgow Hawks, Borroughmuir and Ayr.

A players lunch was arranged during the season, which again helped to encourage the players to experience the club atmosphere and understand the benefits of making friends through rugby.

The season highlight was a mini tour to Aboyne for a weekend of 7's rugby with Deeside & Mackie and outdoor pursuits in conjunction with Horseback UK and the Marines . The playing highlight was the U14's winning the Greenyards Shield at Melrose for the 7's . Plans are well underway to make the Academy programme even better for next season whilst continuing to work closely with Stewart's Melville College and ensure the players are developed and nurtured in a friendly environment with an emphasis on fun , growth and respect. We also hope to recruit further players from other schools , helping to foster our agenda of making the Academy a real club for all .

School -

Thank you to the School Principal David Gray and his staff for the interest , support and advice that they continually provide the rugby club with .

Committee - The club thanks all Board and Committee members for their fine efforts during the season

Board - Ralph Campbell has resigned from the Board .

Coaches - all of our coaches - Head Coach Gordon Henderson , Graham Inglis Gavin Sharp , Nick McCashin and the Mighty 3's consortium have put in a lot of effort this season - please accept our gratitude .

Future President - V/P , Webmasster and longterm club supporter Bill McNie will be standing for President assisted by Simon Breeze standing for V/P - and I am very confident that they will both do a great job and wish them well in their future roles .

At the end of every season some players will move on - some to other clubs and we wish them well and thank them for their service to Stewart's Melville and would be very glad to welcome them back should they wish to return - Btyan Easson and co will be trying hard to recruit quality replacements tenable us to progress up the league and hopefully beyond .

Nick McCashin has been a superb asset to the club , both on and off the pitch and the club wishes him well for the future and he would be made most welcome should he wish to return to Inverleith at any time .

Our Chairman - Colin Rigby has done an immense amount of work for Stewart's Melville and deserves a huge amount of credit for his tireless work over many years both as President and now Chairman and for the countless other roles he has undertaken - I doubt that the club could have functioned without him .

We wish him great success in his future role as National I Council Rep for the SRU.

Finally I would like to thank the Club for the honour of being President for the last 2 years .

Thank You ,
Lindsay Ross

Rugby Club Report – Autumn update
25th September 2017

The rugby club recruited well over the Summer, while (unlike last season) the number of players leaving the club was comparatively small. Most outgoing player movements were driven by a desire to play in the Premiership or work commitments.

We began our season with a freescoreing 47-31 victory over Gordonians in the new National League Cup, then faced Edinburgh Accies at Inverleith in our first league fixture. The Accies game was preceded by a memorial lunch and minute's silence for Gavin Calder, whose sudden death had come as a major shock to everyone connected with the Club. A memorial trophy in Gavin's name was commissioned by the rugby club and played for at the Accies game.

The game ended in a 38-26 win for a strong Accies side, although we finished the match strongly and were by no means outclassed. We did, however, pick up a large number of injuries during the game which left us missing key players for our subsequent league games.

Two trips to Glasgow saw a heavy loss to GHA (83-19) and a narrow loss to Cartha Queens' Park (24-22). While the GHA game was very much a disastrous day at the office, we should have beaten Cartha, who scored the winning try with the final play of the game.

We then returned to Inverleith to play a strong Jed-Forest team on Saturday past; this ended in a 48-0 win for our visitors, although we dominated possession for much of the game.

We now embark on a run of eminently 'winnable' games, starting with a trip to play Musselburgh at Stoneyhill on 30th September. The injury list is starting to return to more manageable proportions, and our players and coaches are raring to go against a Musselburgh team who are also winless in the league and only sit above us in the table due to their superior points difference.

The 2nd XV have also been hit by the number of injuries at the club, but have recorded one win from their four fixtures to date. Unlike many clubs in Scotland, we've still managed to field a 3rd XV this season, with Fin Calder motivating the troops as only a Calder can!

Bill McNie
President