

Stewartry Rugby Club Development Plan

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Where are we now?

In 2020 the club celebrates its 50th Anniversary.

50 years ago, the club was formed to support individuals in the district of Stewartry to play Rugby Union locally, without the need to travel to Ayr or Dumfries.

The club formed with a small group of locals, with support from senior school pupils, to form a team that played local friendly matches before entering the formal leagues.

Stewartry RFC have a proud history of starting players on their rugby journeys and taking pride in watching players progress their careers at higher level clubs.

Recent examples include Alex Craig, Gloucester Rugby, and Stafford McDowell, Glasgow Warriors.

Membership numbers have increased in recent years with the inclusion of our gym facility. The current online membership boasts 699 individual contacts including Sponsors, Supporters Of Stewartry, Gym Members, non-playing and playing members as well as people signed up to receive our newsletter.

The club is reliant on our volunteer “work force” of committee (17), coaches (20) and helpers which are all greatly appreciated. The Club employ 3 members of staff including a full time Development Officer and a Bar Steward and Cleaner who are both part time.

The Development Officer has overseen the growth in our Youth Section, further developing our partnership with SRU and other external partners, our partnerships with local schools, increasing and developing our coaching volunteers and creating a professional, safe and fun environment for our membership.

Stewartry RFC are fortunate to own all 4 full size rugby pitches (1 with floodlights and 1 with planning for floodlighting), 1 half size rugby pitch, car park, clubhouse and gym facilities housed at Greenlaw in Castle Douglas. The club moved there from the old school in Rhonehouse after building a permanent home in the Hobdell Pavillion.

The Clubhouse has 4 team changing rooms, a referee changing room, two shower rooms, a medical room, men’s toilet and a disabled toilet on the ground floor. Kitchen, Function room, bar and female toilets on the upper floor.

The club currently operates within their means and annually post a small profit which is reinvested into the up keep of the grounds and the team budgets to continually improve the opportunities it offers our membership

VISION

“Rugby
at our Core,
Community
in our Heart”



Stewartry RFC Est 1970

VALUES

Ambition

“continually looking for Improvements and ways to develop”

Setting goals and targets that continually put SRFC at the front of amateur sport and rugby within Dumfries and Galloway.

Belonging

“being part of SRFC makes you our family”

Creating an inclusive, friendly and welcoming environment to anyone joining our rugby family. Encouraging a fun, sociable and vibrant club that promotes an ethos of positive wellbeing and resilience.

Commitment

“we are local people committed to our local community”

Proudly formed in the Stewartry to represent the Stewartry and develop every individual into respected and resilient members of the community and the future Scottish internationals.

MISSION

- To provide opportunities in Rugby to every individual living in the Stewartry.
- To create life long friendships and memories that last beyond the white lines
- Strive to ensure that our members are given the same Rugby opportunities as those in other parts of Scotland.
- Create a facility that our community is proud to show off – Socially, Commercially and Physically.

- Own all 4 grass pitches, clubhouse and gym.
- Full time Development Officer
- No debt or burdens on assets and financially sound
- Quality of gym.
- Location.
- Open friendly, sociable and family atmosphere.
- Connection with local community and goodwill toward club.
- Success on the pitch across club; a good youth section and link with local schools.
- Good membership base
- Heritage of club
- High level of local sponsorship.
- Partnership working e.g. SRU; CrossFit Castle Douglas & Hollywood Trust
- Good hospitality

- Expand membership in all areas to make club more inclusive and increase income.
- Develop facilities i.e new lights and extend gym.
- Establish 2nd XV and develop other teams in club e.g girls and vets.
- Improve clubhouse and increase its use for more rugby and social activity to increase income.
- Expand and market gym and CrossFit to increase membership with provision of social space and vending machine(s).
- Redesign club room/bar/kitchen to make them more user friendly and provide more space.
- Review and Increase level of sponsorship to improve what club offers and market sponsors services.
- Develop club as a sporting hub with provision of new assets such as a running track.
- Build partnerships with other organisations.



- Clubhouse in need of refurbishment in number of areas
- No planned maintenance
- Pressure on dressing rooms
- No seconds team.
- Communication, particularly with former players.
- Retention of former players and youth players.
- Committee structure and generational gap
- Suitability of gym for all users and lack of integration of them into any club activity.
- Diversity of membership
- Lack of Inclusive activities specifically for individual groups

- Uncertainty of Covid and its aftermath.
- Possible drop in income because Covid.
- Increasing costs: the more success the greater the cost.
- Loss of players – retirements / injuries /
- Pressures on facilities such as training pitch and dressing rooms.
- Losing sight of who/what club is.

Vision:-

Rugby at our core, community in our hearts

Aim	Who?	When?	Progress R / A / G
Develop and increase our partnerships within the local community – for rugby and non-rugby activities	President, Committee, Development Officer, External Partners	Ongoing	
Increase the diversity of current provisions offered to support the wellbeing of the community - Physical, Mental and Social	President, Committee, Development Officer, External Partnerships	2023	
Actively recruit non-traditional groups to use the facilities offered within Greenlaw to promote an inclusive environment	President, Committee Development Officer, External Partnerships	2023	
Create a Sports Hub within the Rugby Club while maintaining status as a Rugby Club	President, Development Officer, External Partnerships, Committee	2025	

Mission:-

To provide opportunities in Rugby to every individual living in the Stewartry

Aim	Who?	When?	Progress R / A / G
Increase playing / training opportunities	Development Officer Director of Rugby, Rugby Sub Committee	2021	
Improve player retention within the game	Director of Rugby, Rugby Sub Committee, Development Officer, Volunteers	2023	
Increase the diversity of our rugby club	Director of Rugby, Rugby Sub Committee, Volunteers, Main committee	2025	
Increase volunteer base	All	2025	

Mission:-

To create life long friendships and memories that last beyond the white lines

Aim	Who?	When?	Progress R / A / G
Formation of a social calendar with annual run events	Fundraising Coordinator, Social Committee, Team Captains,	2021	
Increase the number of non-rugby events for players	Social Committee, Senior Rugby Reps, Coaches/Administrators	2023	
Formation of "speciality" teams (7's, 10's, Over 35s, Vets)	Rugby Sub Group, Senior Rugby Reps	2025	
Increase availability of Team tours	Director of Rugby, Rugby Sub Committee, Fundraising Committee	2025	

Mission:-**Strive to ensure that our members are given the same Rugby opportunities as those in other parts of Scotland**

Aim	Who?	When?	Progress R / A / G
Improve the Strength and Conditioning provision within our Rugby Programme	Director of Rugby Rugby Sub Committee, Coaches	2022	
Increase the visibility of our club's top talent to Academy and Super 6 clubs	Director of Rugby, Rugby Sub Committee	2023	
Support the creation of a representative team(s) from Dumfries and Galloway	President, Committee, Director of Rugby	2025	
A clear and defined pathway to professional rugby (on and off field)	President, Committee, Director of Rugby,	2025	

Mission:-**Create a facility that our community is proud to show off – Socially, Commercially and Physically**

Aim	Who?	When?	Progress R / A / G
Improve the external image of the club through a maintenance Programme	Facilities Director, Grounds Manager, Buildings Manager,	2021	
Increase the number of external hires of the facility	President, Committee, Finance Committee	2023	
Improve the internal image of the club	President, Committee, Facilities Director, Facilities Committee	2023	
Improve Clubhouse and/or Gym capacities	President, Committee, Finance Director, Facilities Director	2025	

Current Provision

General Provision

	Children (U18)	Adults - Men	Adults - Women	Over 40s
Beginner	Club Training Session, School taster sessions, Come and TRY days	Club Training, Gym Access	Pre-Season Fit Camps Club Training Gym Access	Gym Access
Moderate	Club Training, School Fixtures Club Fixtures	Club Training, Club Fixtures Gym Access	Club Training Club Fixtures Gym Access	Gym Access
Advance	Club Training, Gym Sessions Pathway to Glasgow and West Academy	Club Training Club Fixtures Pathway to Ayr (Super 6) Gym Access	Club Training, Club Fixtures, Partnership with Ayr Ladies (Prem) Gym Access	Gym Access

Disability Provision

Impairment	<i>What opportunities does the club have for participation by people with this disability?</i>	<i>Are facilities suitable for people with this disability?</i>	<i>Do you actively offer opportunities/ recruit people with this disability?</i>
Blind or visual impairment	Gym, Clubhouse Facilities	Partially	No
Deaf or Hard of Hearing	Gym, Clubhouse Facilities	Partially	No
Learning disability or difficulty	Gym, Clubhouse Facilities	Partially	No
Mental health condition	Rugby Training, Gym, Clubhouse Facilities	Partially	No
Autistic spectrum disorder	Gym, Clubhouse Facilities	Partially	No
Physical impairment	Gym, Clubhouse Facilities	Partially	No

Club Health

Membership (online only)	Children (U18)	Adults - Men	Adults - Women
Playing	126	45	23
Non-Playing members	0	14	0
Supporters of Stewartry	0	5	0
Newsletter Sign Ups	0	157	89
Gym (excluding players)	0	57	25

Workforce

Area / Level	Unqualified	L1	L2	L3 (or above)	Total
Coaches	8	3	8	1	20
Referees / Officials	0	3	0	0	3
Team Managers					4
Committee Members					17
Mental Health 1st Aiders					6
Other volunteers with specific roles					7
Total					57

Facilities

Facility Name	Facility Type <i>(e.g. 5 a side pitch, 4 court hall etc)</i>	Usage <i>(e.g. training/matches)</i>	Day(s) Used Per Week	Hours Used Per Week	Notes <i>(E.g. level of usage, issues, opportunities)</i>
Greenlaw	Grass Pitches	Training/Matches	6	19	All internal Club usage
	Gym	Training/Public Access	7	168	Gym Access to everyone 24hr a day
	Clubhouse	Pre and Post Match Private Functions	2	7	Normally Saturday/ Sunday. Occasionally for private hire

Areas to Expand

Target Groups	Area to Extend Provision
Women and Girls	Rugby, Gym and Non Playing Memberships
Over 40s	Rugby
Mental Health Provision	Rugby & Gym
Inclusion Programmes with Elderly	Gym
Inclusion Programmes with Disability Sport	Rugby & Gym
Increase number of Volunteers	All Areas