

STEWARTRY RFC

THROUGH THE POSTS

AUG
2023

 @Stewartryrugbyclub



RUGBY MATTERS

James Picken - Club President

Welcome to the latest edition of our newsletter.

Last season saw the club have our most successful season ever.

The first XV won the National Shield final at Murrayfield for the first time with a nerve-wracking victory over East Kilbride, on a day that will live long in the memories of everyone there.

The following week they travelled to West of Scotland RFC to play Ellon in a playoff for the remaining place in National 4 and managed to win by 6 points. By moving from regional to national rugby, we should see some very competitive games this coming season.

The Sirens won every game of their league campaign to gain promotion to the Premiership, which is the top tier in Scotland and will test the girls to the full. Some of these games will be on a Saturday, which should allow more fans to come and support.

The junior section continues to do well and looks forward to another successful season.

I look forward to seeing you all at Greenlaw!

Home Fixtures

August 26th - Sirens v
Garioch RFC

September 2nd - Men's 1st
XV v Strathmore

September 16th - Sirens v
Watsonians & Men's 1st XV v
Greenock

September 23rd - Sirens v
Hillhead Jordanhill

September 30th - Men's 1st
XV v Garnock

Get Involved!

Here at Stewartry RFC we are always on the look out for new team members.

If you would like to join the club as a coach/volunteer/player, please get in touch with one of our committee members - contact details for everyone at SRFC is available on our website!



Men's 1st XV

Season 22/23 will go down as one of the most successful in the club's history particularly for the Men's 1st XV. It finished 11 months after it started, with a winner takes all play-off success over Ellon RFC from the North/Caledonia region. The week before the same squad had played in a historic victory over East Kilbride at Murrayfield. For all the hype and buzz around the Murrayfield trip, I felt the victory over Ellon was the most important of the season as it secured our promotion into the national leagues - it was vital for the development of this talented squad. Due to the promotion bottleneck between the three regional and one national league, getting there is usually the hardest bit. Now we are there I am sure we will thrive at that level.

Due to the length of the 22/23 season, we delayed the start of training until the first week in August.

We have had pre-season fixtures against Wigton and Hartlepool, coming out on top in both games 26-5 and 29-5. We are also playing Dumfries on the evening of the 17th of August for the Jack Solley trophy and this will complete our round of pre-season games before the league starts on the 2nd of September at home to Strathmore.

Looking ahead to our season in the newly formed National 4, we should have nothing to fear. Of all the sides only Garnock and Dunfermline are really known to us. Whilst Garnock were deserved West league champions, we were chasing them all the way. We comfortably beat Dunfermline in our National Shield semi-final at home last season. It will be a year of new challenges - unknown opposition and increased travel distances chief amongst them. I am really looking forward to the challenge and I am confident the squad are ready for it.

Whilst we will no doubt lose some players to retirement, the early indications are positive for some young players coming through or returning from time away. The coaching team will remain the same with myself and David Borland taking the lead, David Armstrong assisting the backs and Ash Mathias doing the S&C work. We have a new leadership team with Angus Lindsay stepping up from vice to Captain, ably assisted by TJ McCarney as vice-captain

Lastly, I would like to say a huge thanks to all the supporters who turn out every week to cheer the boys on. To see so much red and black at Murrayfield was a special moment for us all. Seeing and hearing the support on a Saturday makes all the difference and I look forward to seeing you all on the touchline in a few weeks' time.

Women's 1st XV

The Sirens have been enjoying a well-earned rest for the last four weeks after a very successful summer 7s tournament.

Eight determined players made the trip to Cartha Queens Park for the first leg of the RugbyPeople 7s and made an excellent start in extremely warm conditions. Everyone worked hard and came away with a 5th-placed finish to take into the home leg.

The following round of the event was held at Greenlaw and everyone can agree it was a huge success. The committee, including Lauren Nicholson, Shannon Nicholson, Claire Manson, Hannah Sainsbury and Betti McGinnelly, organised, planned and implemented the whole day so a huge thank you must go to them for their hard work.

The focus of the day was the rugby and it did not disappoint. The teams were split into two pools of four, with everyone playing each other once.

The Sirens won all 4 of their matches within their pool, as did Corstorphine Cougars. With not enough time for a final, the winner came down to points and it could not have been closer - the same number of games won and the same number of tries scored. The difference came down to kicks, with Cougars just edging the win, giving the Sirens a very well-deserved second-place finish.

For the final leg in Edinburgh, another team of Sirens set off to complete the tournament, with another feisty performance. Again there was no showdown between Cougars and Stewartry due to pool splits. Cougars went on to claim the overall competition win. Our very own Phaedra Snailham stepped into the Captain's role and accepted the 3rd overall trophy.

With another trophy added to the cabinet, spirits were high heading into the preseason, which started last month. New recruits from the 'come and try' sessions, along with a number of returning players, have had 5 weeks to push themselves hard and get ready for the first Scottish Premiership game of the season game against Cartha on August 19th.

2023/24 is set to be a challenging but immensely exciting season for the Sirens First XV, with games against the likes of Watsonians, Stirling County and Hillhead Jordanhill to look forward to.



SRFC Youth

Stewartry Sharks had a fantastic 2022/23 season with lots of matches and tournaments throughout the year. During the course of the campaign, we hosted Wigtownshire, Newton Stewart, Dumfries, Carrick, Moffat and Annan.

The highlight of the season was without a doubt Silver Saturday with over 50 Stewartry Sharks availing of the generosity of the Club to travel by coach to Murrayfield to support the amazing 1st XV to win the Men's National Shield. It was a first visit to Murrayfield for many of the youngsters and some of them even got the chance to be on the pitch with their heroes as mascots, ball boys and guards of honour – a real dream come true.

Inspired by the trip to Murrayfield the Stewartry Sharks took part in the J Birrell tournament hosted by Moffat Rugby Club alongside teams from across the south of Scotland and the central belt including Newton Stewart, Biggar, Strathaven, Annan and Moffat. Both the Stewartry P7 team and the P3 team won their sections of the tournament and combined with the results from all the other sections came out as overall winners of the tournament and added the J. Birrell trophy to the already impressive haul of silverware for the club this season.

The Stewartry Sharks ended their very successful rugby season at Greenlaw with a fun training session with guest appearances from some of the newly promoted 1st XV. This was followed by the end-of-season awards kindly presented by 1st XV captain John Picken and then more fun on a slip and slide with the coaches showing they were the biggest kids of all.

Over the summer, players from across the age groups in the Stewartry RFC youth teams have been getting involved in rugby camps and training/touch sessions at Greenlaw. This has been a great way to get back into the swing of things ahead of what is set to be yet another exciting season for everyone involved in the club.

Membership

If you, or someone you know, would like to become a member, details and sign-up links are available on our website. The membership options for the 2023/24 season are as follows:

Adult Playing = £120 (or 10 months x£12)

Girls Playing Academy (S1-S6) = £40

Boys Playing Academy (S1-S6) = £96 (or 4 months x£24)


Playing Primary (P1-P7) = £40

Family (5 Members) = £300 (or 6 months x£50)

Community Member = £60

Supporter of Stewartry = £96 (or 12 months x£8)

Note: If you have previously taken out a membership, your subscription will automatically renew. Additionally, if your direct debit needs to be amended/changed, you will receive a request to do so by email.



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