

## **NEWSLETTER - September 2006**

The Greens have made an impressive debut in National Division 2, with Caithness sitting in second place alongside Annan and just behind leaders Falkirk. Falkirk's results of late have shown we have nothing to fear when we meet them on Saturday. Our near neighbours, Highland, have had a more difficult start and currently lie in 8<sup>th</sup> place. We are due to play them at Millbank on 14 October.

Coach, Colin Sangster, has blooded some new youngsters to the team. Kris Hamilton, Sean Duff and Grant Anderson have all stepped up to National Rugby and have acquitted themselves well. Colin was actually caught with a rare smile on his face after the Glasgow Accies game but unfortunately not long enough to be caught on film by Alastair Foggo. Our home record remains good with only one defeat in 20 games, (against Grangemouth in the BT Bowl earlier this year)

Lorn Macnicol has taken on the role of 2XV Captain and is keen to get fixtures arranged and games underway. There has been some confusion within the SRU following regionalisation of the National Leagues below last year's Division 3, over the set up of a League in the Highlands. No fixture list was drafted in August. The 2XV will now play in a North Alliance League, formerly known as Highland District League. The Clubs have been left to arrange their own fixture dates among Stornaway, Highland 2XV, Skye and Craig Dunain. The only fixture so far played saw the Yellows thump Craig Dunain 55 – 0 at Culloden.

The U-18 team are still looking for their first game of the season in the North U-18 Development League. Call offs by the opposition teams have delayed their start. Many of the U-18 team showed their potential in the recent game against Craig Dunain.

The recent Touch Rugby Festival for P4 – P7 children from Primary Schools on the east side of Caithness, run by Caithness Mini RFC and Caithness Area Sports Co-ordinators, was a great success. Nearly 500 children took part in the two day event and congratulations must go to Ricky Coghill, his coaches, volunteers and sponsors for organising such an excellent tournament and attracting new faces to the game of Rugby.

### **Off – Field**

Our second stage submission to Sports Scotland for grant aid towards pitch improvements at Millbank, due on 1 September has been delayed. The

submission will now be made in December once we have all the relevant information in place. Funding from other sources has been pursued with some commitments for funding/aid already in place. Other avenues of funding are still being pursued by the Committee. The final approval on our application to Sports Scotland will not be made until January 2007.

The Committee agreed that the main pitch at Millbank should be for the sole use of the 1XV only. This was felt necessary to ensure the pitch remained in a playable condition for a longer period during the winter. The Committee decided to set in place the following guidelines for the pitches at Millbank:

- only the 1XV permitted to play on the main pitch
- Millbank Convenor, Gavin Younger, will decide whether games can proceed on the pitches during periods of bad weather. He can be contacted on 01847 821747.

Concern was raised at the recent Committee meeting over the state the changing rooms were being left in after games/training sessions. It was agreed that, for the meantime, it will be the responsibility of whichever team or individuals that are using the facilities to ensure the Pavilion is left in a tidy condition. Volunteers to help clean out the changing rooms on a regular basis would be the ideal solution. Anyone interested should contact Gavin Younger on 01847 821747 or any member of the Committee.

### **Fund Raising**

Gillian Coghill has had to cancel the Casino Night planned for October at the Ross Institute in Halkirk. This was due to the unavailability of the equipment for the night. Gillian has provisionally reorganised the Casino night for 27 January following the home game against Falkirk..

A reminder that Club merchandise can still be purchased from the Portacabin on match days or by contacting Jaime Begg on 07725441083 or [jaimebegg@googlemail.com](mailto:jaimebegg@googlemail.com)

### **International Tickets**

The 6 Nations games are as follows:

|        |                    |                   |
|--------|--------------------|-------------------|
| FEB 3  | England v Scotland | (Twickenham)      |
| FEB 10 | Scotland v Wales   | (Murrayfield)     |
| FEB 24 | Scotland v Italy   | (Murrayfield)     |
| MAR 10 | Scotland v Ireland | (Murrayfield)     |
| MAR 17 | France v Scotland  | (Stade de France) |

Application for tickets can be obtained from Peter Blackwood on 01847 831238 or [PJWB4639@aol.com](mailto:PJWB4639@aol.com)

The Club will benefit from any ticket sales and help maintain our ticket allocation from the SRU for future 6 Nations games at Murrayfield.

### **Membership**

A reminder that membership fees are due now. Please contact Peter Blackwood on 01847 831238 or [PJWB4639@aol.com](mailto:PJWB4639@aol.com) for an application form or download from the website.

The Captains and Coaches will be reminding players, who have not as yet paid their membership fees, that they are now due.

It costs the Club in excess of £1000 to insure all the teams for the season.

Players who are not members are not covered by insurance and are therefore not permitted to play.

Finally congratulations to Hamish Boyd and Joanna Bates on their recent wedding and to Willie and Pauline Mill on the birth of their daughter, Abby, on 12 September.