

**Playing Rugby  
for  
Jordanhill College  
Rugby Football Club**

**1958 - 1966**

***John Henderson  
'The Boot' Remembers***

*First time for John Henderson to be selected for the Jordanhill Training College 1st XV after he had only been in College for three weeks and two days. The match was played on Sat. 25 October, 1958, and John kicked two penalties in the 9 - 0 victory.*

**Jordanhill Training College (v. Jordanhill School F.P. at Jordanhill)—R. L. Small; J. Henderson, J. Coletta, E. D. Saunders, and C. C. McLeod; J. H. Roxburgh and L. D. Beattie; C. Allan, H. Syme, A. Wright, J. Cross, R. Wilson, I. Cosgrove, J. D. Pryde, and J. Kelly**

# Playing Rugby for Jordanhill College RFC

## *'The Boot' Remembers*



When I first matriculated in October 1958 at the Scottish School of Physical Education, Jordanhill, Glasgow to undergo a three year diploma course of training in order to qualify as a teacher of Physical Education, I had no idea that some years later my senior rugby career would turn out to be as creditable as it did.

Although I knew then that I was a very accurate and lengthy instep place-kicker of a rugby ball, I was under no illusion that my getting a place in the Jordanhill College Rugby Football Club top squad would be easy, nor did I have any notion then that retaining a first choice spot in the 1st XV for a good number of seasons might possibly occur.

However, I was aware of the fact that graduating from College was not the end of the opportunity to play senior rugby for Jordanhill, as former students as players were not only considered eligible, but were also deemed essential in order to maintain a fighting chance for coach Bill Dickinson's side to compete at the highest levels possible in Scotland. Thus time was on my side, if only I was patient, and prepared to work hard at the game.

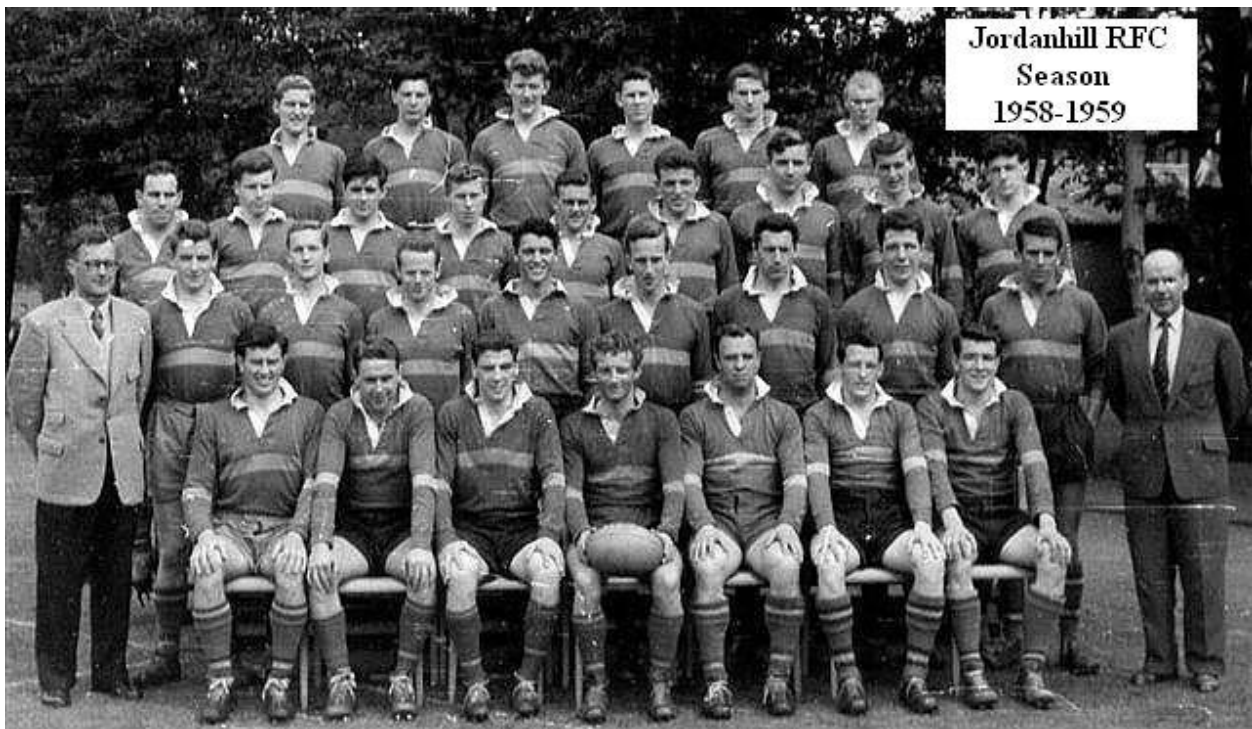
But first I had, during my student days, to convince mentors Bill Dickinson and George Orr of my potential, and then, if this was accomplished, to provide consistent proof thereafter of my continuing value as a full back/three-quarter and place kicker in the top side in its annual attempts to win the Scottish Unofficial Club Championship and the Glasgow District Knock-Out Trophy.

## 1958-59 Season

I now recall with great clarity, not so much the weekly diet of Swedish gymnastics, swimming and major field games at College from 1958 to 1961, but rather the excitement of going to the notice board on a Friday afternoon to find out for which Saturday rugby team I may have been selected.

I was not alone in this as ambitions ran high among most in the school, and, rightly, or wrongly, many viewed progress into the College 1<sup>st</sup> XV or 1<sup>st</sup> XI as ‘a passport to stardom’. Most of my peers had been accustomed to being 1<sup>st</sup> team boys while in their own ‘wee puddle’ at school. Now we were competing for places in ‘a lake awash with talent’. Imagine my horror when I saw that my selection for Saturday 4th October, 1958 was to play full-back for the College 3<sup>rd</sup> XV versus Craigmyle 2<sup>nd</sup> XV!

That match was indeed all too easy for us and I picked up a ‘barrowload’ of points from near and far with my trusty right boot. Mr Orr watched the whole game, and, with my selection on his recommendation for the 2<sup>nd</sup> XV v Gordonians 2nds the following Saturday, the first step on my ladder to senior rugby was on offer. I held my place for the Kilmarnock 2<sup>nd</sup> XV match on the 18<sup>th</sup> October, and then, **wonder of wonders**, I was chosen to play on the wing for the 1<sup>st</sup> XV versus local rivals Jordanhill School Former Pupils on Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> October, 1958. There I kicked two distant penalties in our 9-0 victory and, proceeded to hold my place for the November 1<sup>st</sup> encounter with Dunfermline where I kicked one long penalty in our 9-6 win that day.



Then, anti-climax! A gymnastically injured back intervened, and an enforced four week lay-off caused me to have to start again in the 2<sup>nd</sup> XV, and this was against Walkerburn on the 29<sup>th</sup> November. This was my first experience of rugby in the Borders and it was both a rugby and social education. It was also the first time (and thank goodness the last) that I had travelled so far in a 16 seater mini-van to play rugby! The game was a dour affair down by the river – the only score being my penalty from about fifty yards out. But the socialising with the opposition in the local pub thereafter was anything but a docile affair as the numbers of pints of ‘heavy’ beer consumed rose at an alarming rate. During our progress towards various states of happy intoxication, our captain for the day, Ian Thomson [a few years later Dr Ian Thomson of Stirling University] was soon responding graciously on our behalf, acceptance of his opposite number’s kind offer of SALMON FOR ALL to take back to Glasgow ... no questions to be asked about where, when and how the fish had been caught! At the normal ten o’clock pub closing-time back then, we all subsequently stumbled into the crush and smell of our mini-van to undisguised glowers from our obviously very impatient hired driver. “Sing as much as you like, he roared at us, but I want to get home fast, so there’ll be only one Pee Stop between here and St Enoch’s Square!” For those with weaker bladders than others, including me, one stop would never be enough ... but he was true to his word .... and to this day I am certain that that hang-on for the last thirty miles or so did permanent stretching damage to my and a few others’ vital organs of liquid disposal!

Then after two weeks of frost had cancelled fixtures, imagine my delight on being picked on the wing to face unofficial championship side Langholm, at Milntown, on the 20<sup>th</sup> December! For this important occasion, as our club eyed-up championship status, we were bolstered by the presence of the redoubtable Ron Glasgow – later to be capped by Scotland at the somewhat late age of 31 years – but we had a miserable day there in the Borders. We were out-gunned in the mud, and yours truly in particular, was out-classed in confrontations with Tom Elliot on the right wing and his internationalist brother Christie Elliot as his supporting centre. Then, in the dying minutes, I missed a tackle on Tom as he scored their winning try; our elegant full-back Ron Small broke his collar-bone trying to cover my error; and worse still, I had never even had a chance to kick at goal all day. I was promptly dropped, and did not return to that level of play, albeit briefly, until playing in a victory over Howe of Fife on the 21 February, 1959.

(1958/59)

1st XV				2nd XV			
Date	Opponents	F	A	Date	Opponents	F	A
1958				1958			
Sept. 10	Boroughmuir F.P.	A		Sept. 6	Rolls-Royce 1st XV	H	
" 13	Allan Glen's F.P.	A		" 13	Cambuslang 1st XV	H	
" 20	Stewart's College F.P.	A		" 27	Stirling County	H	
" 27	Edinburgh Wanderers	A		Oct. 4	Greenock Wanderers	A	8 6
Oct. 4	<del>Wigtonville</del>	H		" 28	R.N.A.S. 1st XV	H	6 14
" 6	Gala	A	5 14	" 11	Gordonians	H	8 0 2
" 11	Gordonians	A	12 13	" 18	Kilmarnock	H	
" 18	Kilmarnock	H	9 8	" 25	Rolls-Royce 1st XV	A	
" 25	Jordanhill Coll. Sch. F.P.	H	9 0 6	Nov. 1	Shawlands 1st XV	H	
Nov. 1	Dunfermline	A	9 6 3	" 8	Greenock Wanderers	H	
" 8	Ayr	A	2 0 1	" 15	Orkney 1st XV	A	
" 15	Leith Academicals	H	22 3	" 22	Perth Academicals	H	8 6
" 22	Perth Academicals	A	18 3	" 29	Walkerburn 1st XV	A	3 3 3
" 29	Carlisle	H	28 A	Dec. 6	<del>Queen's Park F.P. 1st XV</del>	H	
Dec. 6	<del>Perth City</del>			" 13	<del>Barr and Stroud's 1st XV</del>	H	
" 13	Greenock Wanderers	A		" 20	Liddington 1st XV	H	
" 20	Langholm	A	3 6 -	3rd 1959	R.N.A.S. 1st XV	H	11 - 0
" 27	Allan Glen's F.P.	H	20 3	20th	<del>Shawlands F.P. 1st XV</del>	A	
1959				" 10	Jordanhill Coll. Sch. F.P.	H	
Jan. 3	<del>Midlothian</del>			" 17	Barr and Stroud's 1st XV	A	
" 10	<del>Midlothian</del>			" 24	Rolls-Royce 1st XV	H	
" 17	Huttons' Crum F.P.	A		" 31	Aberdeen Gram. Sch. F.P.	A	
" 24	Glasgow Academicals	A		Feb. 7	Bellahouston	H	
" 31	Aberdeen Grammar F.P.	A		" 14	St. Mungo's F.P. 1st XV	H	5 0 2
Feb. 7	Greenock Wanderers	E		" 25	United Colleges 1st XV	H	
" 14	Edinburgh City Police	H	18 0	Mar. 7	Jordanhill Coll. Sch. F.P.	H	
" 21	Howe of Fife	H	19 11	" 14	Clarkston	H	
" 25	St. Andrews University	H					
" 28	<del>Malrose</del>	E					
Mar. 7	Bellahouston Academicals	H					
" 14	Panmure	A					
" 21	Aberdeen University	H					
" 28							
" 30	Jedforest	A					

As can be seen from the match cancellations noted in my rugby fixture card for 1958-59, the Scottish winter was harsh with temperatures well below freezing point from about the New Year until the middle of February. This placed severe limitations on many outdoor ball-sports, and indeed I only managed to play in thirteen matches during the whole season, when my normal calendar would have contained about twenty-five.

However, in the second week of April, I was selected at fly-half for the College 7 a-side squad to take part in the Gordonians Tournament at Seafield in Aberdeen. We travelled up to the Granite City early that Saturday morning train to be greeted on arrival by typically 'dreich cauld' weather that was far from ideal if you were not eliminated in Round One and able to escape to the warmth of some nearby hostelry! In the event, courtesy mainly of our 'flying-machine' Peter Connolly, we progressed remorselessly through three rounds and three excruciatingly bone-chilling intervals to reach the final against our hosts.

Despite all feeling the debilitating effects on our muscles from five hours or so in the damp and chill, this 10 minutes each way match was energetically contested ... until after about seven minutes, I was heavily tackled by the redoubtable Ron Glasgow. Unfortunately I was in full stride when he, quite legitimately, crunched his shoulder across my outstretched right knee. I swear to this day that the colour of the initial pain I experienced was bright red! It was little consolation that, as I was carried off to the touch-line, the agony was a mere pink mist! With no

substitution allowed in these days, victory for Gordonians became a formality ... or so I was later told in the wash-room where I was unsuccessfully attempting a knee-ligament-damage-limitation immersion exercise in a waist-high sink filled with cold water, when what I really yearned for was a piping hot shower! I was able to hirkle my way to the refreshment-room, but with appetite gone, all I managed was a glorious mug of hot tea, before we all got a lift down to the station to catch the 7pm express south.

By the time the train reached Stirling, I had stiffened up completely, but somehow managed to get to a pay-phone and SOS my father in Bannockburn. As usual he was ready to deal with what he often called 'John's propensity for injury-proneness', and thus promptly, yet again with the family car, did a rescue-act in my hour of need. After I had put up with relative incapacity, but with little sign of improvement over the three-week Easter break at home, I returned to Glasgow and there went to the Casualty Department at the Western Infirmary. The doctors diagnosed torn medial ligaments of the right knee, but tried to comfort me with the comment that a lateral tear would have been much more serious. Duly plastered from toe to hip, and armed with crutches to use once the restrictive, but supportive 'Paris stocking' had dried, I hibernated in my digs for the first week of the new term.



After two weeks in plaster, the crutches discarded in one, and with the sole of my foot worn through leaving a mush of dirty strands of bandage, I felt able to attend an international soccer match between Scotland and Austria at Hampden Park. This adventure only left the plaster in a worse state of disintegration, so I went to the Western Infirmary next day and had it removed. Lo and behold, I found that I could walk again unaided, and within days I was skipping around like a two-year-old.

## Season 1959-60

While making new domestic arrangements for my second year at College, I was also involved in September pre-season rugby training sessions at the College grounds, and so, with a few of the usual top players not returning early to College from their homes much more distant from Glasgow than my own, I found myself at least temporarily in possession in September of a 1<sup>st</sup> XV place at full-back for two of the matches to be played before term started in October.

Carlisle on a hot day at Southbrae Drive on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September was a severe test and it was one we failed to surmount, although we threequarters were not much to blame for the 11-15 defeat suffered. But the following Saturday, again in warm weather, and on a brick-hard surface, with a few novices like me still in the understrength line-up, we competed well at Meggetland against the massive Boroughmuir pack and squeezed home 9-6 in a try-less match.

I wasn't selected for the Border Holiday Monday evening match in Galashiels on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of October, our first day of the Autumn term back at College, when the 1<sup>st</sup> XV went down 0-15. I had to make do with a 'holiday romp', 31-3 in the 2nds over Greenock Wanderers 2nds.

*J.H. Played 16/259/60  
Scored 78 1st XV 2 Seasons = 87 in 20 games 2nd XV*

DATE	OPPONENTS	P	A	DATE	OPPONENTS	P	A
Sept 5	Trials			Sept 5	Trials		
12	Allan Glen's F.P. *	A	9 9	12			
19				18			
23				23	R.N.A.S. 1st XV	H	1 1
26	Carlisle	H	11 15	26			
Oct 3	Boroughmuir F.P. *	A	7 7	3	Greenock Wanderers	H	31 2
8	Gala	A	0 0	5			
10	Gordonians	A	0 0	10	Gordonians	A	9 11
17	Kilmarnock	A	11 11	17	Kilmarnock	A	11 11
24	Jordanhill Sch. F.P.	H	3 3	24	Rolls Royce 1st XV	H	0 0
31	Doncaster	H	3 0	31	Old Moystusians 1st XV	H	0 0
Nov 7	Musselburgh	A	3 0	Nov 7	Greenock Wanderers	A	12 3
14	Leith Accies	A	3 0	14	Craigieba 1st XV	H	3 3
21	Perth Accies	A	12 1	21	Perth Accies	A	3 3
28	Greenock MADRAS C.F.P.	A	3 10	28	Walkerburn 1st XV	H	1 0
Dec 2				Dec 2	R.N.A.S. 1st XV	A	35 8
5	Leith City			5	Queens Park 1st XV	H	
12	Greenock Wanderers *	H	6 0	12	Barr & Strouds 1st XV	A	
19	Ayr	H	17 13	19			
26	Allan Glen's F.P. *	H	20 37	26			
Jan 2				2	Shawlands 1st XV	H	22 9
9	Aberdeen University	H	9 0	9			
16	Hurricanes Gram. F.P. *	H	16 37	16	Hamilton Accies 1st XV	A	13 20
23	Glasgow Academicals *	H	11 0	23	Rolls Royce 1st XV	A	
30	Aberdeen Gram. Sch. F.P.	H	12 3	30	Aberdeen Grammar F.P.	H	
Feb 6	Greenock Wanderers *	A	3 0	Feb 6	Jordanhill Sch. F.P.	H	
13	Edinburgh City Police	A		13			
20	Leith City	A		20	St. Mungo's F.P. 1st XV	A	
27	St. Andrew's University	A	5 3	24	United College 1st XV	A	
Mar 5	Kilmarnock Academicals *	A	23 9	27			
12	Panmure	H	35 0	Mar 5	Jordanhill Sch. F.P.	H	
19	Leith	H	14 3	12	Shawlands F.P. 1st XV	A	13
26	Perth Accies	A	9 3	19			
30	Edinburgh Wanderers *	A		23			
Apr 3	Glasgow High Sch. F.P. *	A		26	Old Moystusians 1st XV	A	
				30			
				Apr 3			

As can be seen in the above Fixture Card, I scored a reasonable number of points in my eight games thereafter for the 2<sup>nd</sup> XV until the 28<sup>th</sup> of November, while, simultaneously, the 1<sup>st</sup> XV had been struggling by only recording four narrow wins, three defeats and one draw.



Changes to the ‘big’ team seemed likely and, after, what Mr Dickinson called a ‘trial type’ game midweek for contenders like my pal Struan McCallum and myself against the mature and worldly-wise sailors of RNAS Abbotsinch, we were both rewarded with places in the 1<sup>st</sup> XV against Madras FP in St Andrews three days later. This latter encounter, despite the narrow defeat sustained, proved to be the major and long-term up-turn in our respective rugby careers. Indeed, with great support from my very able and experienced fellow centre, Colin McLeod, I even managed to score a try against Madras ... but I was not first choice place-kicker on my return that day ... all that changed after the 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> of December when I firstly recorded 13 of our points with my boot in the 19-6 victory over Ayr, and 11 points [including another try] in our subsequent defeat of Greenock Wanderers. Thereafter, until the end of the season we recorded ten straight wins, to which I contributed fifty-one points out of the one hundred and thirty seven points that we scored while conceding a mere twenty-four. Amongst these were status-gaining victories over Hutchesons, Glasgow Accies and Kelvinside Accies (both first ever encounters) and Jedforest. Our pack was out-scrummaging the oppositions, if not out-jumping them at the line-out; and our aggressive tackling to turn defence into attack, our exploitation of loose ball, and our general high level of fitness plus great pace on the wings, were all paying off. Over the season, 17 wins, 6 defeats and 1 draw was a fairly satisfactory record for the players pictured hereunder ... and **my personal tally was 78 points from the 16 games in which I played.**



Ali Wright Alan Sproule Ian Baptie Jack Kelly Stan Ireland

Bill Dickinson (Coach) Harry Sydney Bob Clark Jim Wylie Bob Wilson Charlie Allan John Cross Struan McCallum

John Pryde Peter Connolly John Roxburgh Eric Saunders (C) Colin McLeod Ian Cosgrove John Henderson George Orr (Pres.)

## Season 1960-61 (Part 1)

Before returning to college during the first week of October to start my final year of teacher training at the SSPE, I was fully involved in four 1<sup>st</sup> XV rugby matches, of which a second encounter with the highly rated Glasgow Academicals on the 3<sup>rd</sup> September was clearly viewed as a significant hurdle for Jordanhill College to clear in order to further the club's ambition of achieving recognition as a 'Scottish Un-Official Championship' side playing in the 'competition' that the National Newspapers promoted weekly on the basis of quality of fixtures arranged.

*This was a curious situation if viewed in year 2007 terms and it arose from the then continuing policy of rugby's national body, the Scottish Rugby Union (SRU), of promoting the 'friendly' concept in almost all inter-club games played by member clubs. The only official relaxation of this so-called 'amateur' approach was the eventual permission given by the SRU to its four District Union Committees to organise Knock-Out Cup Competitions as a additional function to their selection of District teams to play in the District Championship that ran each December. This particular competition provided a showcase that was supposed to help the Scottish Selectors name players for the two International Trial Matches at Murrayfield in the weeks running up to the annual Five-Nations International Championship Matches. These latter matches were always played on chosen Saturdays every January, February and March. Thus, for players living and playing in Scotland with ambitions of eventually being 'capped' by their country, it was very important for them to firstly play for a Press-inspired Un-Official Championship side in order to catch the eye of District Selectors, and then possibly progress from there.*

*It was clearly un-democratic, because the obtaining of so-called quality fixtures ultimately rested with the likes and dislikes of the 'un-official' elite clubs' committee members. The Border clubs, it must be said, seemed on the whole to relish worthwhile emerging opposition, and clearly did their best to accommodate such in their already over-crowded fixture lists. But it was equally evident that the protectionist influences of the 'old-school tie network' in the cities for many years had been delaying the elevation of some 'high-flyers' like Jordanhill. However, in due course, a minimum of seventeen fixtures in a season with those in the previous year's Unofficial Championship as defined by the Glasgow Herald or the Scotsman newspapers, became the unofficial rule for recognition. Thus, apart from strength in the lobbying ability of ambitious club secretaries, favourable national press reports and publicity about contenders' matches, like those of my own Jordanhill, became essential. Even in these difficult times, the perceptive visions of how rugby might better develop were regularly penned by highly respected journalists like Bill McLaren, Norman Mair and John Downie. And their positive attitudes were indeed music to our ears in the late 1950s and early 1960s.*

The significant additions to our match list for this season, were - in Glasgow - West of Scotland and Glasgow HSFP - in the Borders - a first encounter with Hawick, to add to our previous fixtures with Gala, Jedforest and Langholm, and - in Edinburgh – Musselburgh. In the event, we gained a comprehensive 11-3 win over the Accies at New Anniesland, Glasgow and this promising start was followed by a further ten victories over ‘Championship’ opposition in the run up to Christmas.

1st XV.				2nd XV.			
DATE	Played	Score	Result	DATE	Played	Score	Result
29/9	Glasgow Academicals	11	3-8 W	Sept 3			
30/9	Allan Glen's F.P.	23	8-0 W	10			
17	Howe of Fife	0	3-4 L	17	Howe of Fife		A
24	Aberdeen Gram. Sch. F.P.	9	0-3 W	21	R.N.A.S. Abbots. 1st XV.		H
28	Dornochmuir F.P.	9	6-0 W	26	Aberdeen Gram. Sch. F.P.		A
29	Gala	16	10-0 W	Oct 1	Greenock Wanderers		H
30	Gordonians	9	6-0 W	8	Gordonians		H
15	Kilmarnock	9	0-0 W	15	Kilmarnock		H
22	Perth Accies.	6	0-0 W	22	Perth Accies.		H
23	Dunfermline	11	5-0 W	29	Old Aloysians 1st XV.		H
5	Stirling County	27	0-0 W	Nov 5	Greenock Wanderers		A
12	Perth Accies.	13	0-0 W	12	Grangelea 1st XV.		H
19	Hutchison Gram. F.P.	27	0-6 W	16	R.N.A.S. Abbots. 1st XV.		A
26	Greenock Wanderers	23	0-11 W	26	Walkerburn 1st XV.		A
3	Allan Glen's F.P.	19	3-10 W	Dec 3	Queens Park F.P. 1st XV.		H
7	Hutchison Gram. F.P.	14	5-3 W	10	Whitcross 1st XV.		H
21	Aberdeen Gram. Sch. F.P.	3	3-3 D	17	Millhead H.S.F.P.		
28	Greenock Wanderers	27	3-15 W	24			
5	West of Scotland	6	6-0 D	31			
12	Langholm	3	16-3 L	Jan 7	Shawlands F.P. 1st XV.		H
19	St. Andrews University	11	3-0 W	14	Hamilton Accies. 1st XV.		H
26	Kelvin-side Accies.	19	8-7 W	21	Aberdeen Gram. Sch. F.P.		H
31	Pannure	19	9-11 W	Feb 4	Jordanhill Sch. F.P.		E
7	Hawick	19	26-9 L	11			
14	Jordanhill Sch. F.P.	19	0-7 L	18	St. Mungo's F.P. 1st XV.		H
21	Musselburgh	3	11-3 W	25			
28	Carlisle	3	11-3 W	27	Col. St. Andrew's 1st XV.		H
5	Jedforest	3	11-3 W	Mar 4	Jordanhill Sch. F.P.		H
12	Glasgow High Sch. F.P.	3	11-3 W	11	Pannure		A
				18	Shawlands F.P. 1st XV.		A
				23	Old Aloysians 1st XV.		A

**Season 1960 - 1961**

The other two ‘Championship’ matches in September were - on the 10<sup>th</sup> when we easily disposed of Allan Glens FPs 23-8 at the College grounds, and - on the 24<sup>th</sup> at Rubislaw, Aberdeen, where, against Grammar FPs, I managed to record a try in our 9-0 winning of what was a dour game on a very windy day in the Granite City. However, hospitality, as usual up North, was first class, and this well befitted the return home of our club captain, Jack Kelly, to play against his ‘alma mater’. In between times, on the 17<sup>th</sup>, we came a cropper at Duffus Park, Cupar in a friendly against fellow ‘Junior’ club, Howe of Fife. There, with a considerably changed and weaker team than that chosen for ‘big’ games, we were out-muscled up-front by the renowned David Rollo’s pack and comprehensively out-manoeuvred behind by the often brilliant home fly-half, Danny Gough. In the end it was only our gutsy defence that kept the score down to a narrow 3-0 win for the Fifers.

The first day in October, against the recently accepted 'Championship' side, Boroughmuir, brought this equally ambitious outfit through to Glasgow on their first ever visit to our Southbrae Drive home turf. Like the previous season's encounter in Edinburgh, the outcome of the match was in doubt until near the end. But we again held on to thoroughly deserve our close 9-6 win in which two long-distance penalties from yours truly had as a significant bearing on the eventual result - as had my three successful efforts in the Glasgow Accies encounter four weeks previously. Then, to complete a very satisfactory long week-end for the team, and myself, we managed to come back from 12 points down in the Monday evening 'Championship' match at Netherdale, Galashiels where my contribution with the boot came from two penalties and two conversions in our thrilling 16-12 success. In particular, I have an almost video-replay memory of the Ian McLauchlan try that won this game for us - I picked up a loose ball deep in our own 25, but, instead of punting it away for a safe line-out, I decided to make my way across to, and then down the edge of, the grandstand touch-line. Then, just before I ran into deep trouble, I spotted Ian lumbering down the middle of the park, so I put up a speculative cross-kick towards a point some 15 yards or so in front of him. Lo and behold, the bounce was favourable and Ian collected the ball in full stride to run the remaining forty yards to the posts unopposed. The silence from the home stand was deafening!

Gordonians made the long trip South the following Saturday for the first of each season's regular double-header friendlies. As usual, their elusive International scrum-half Ian Macrae led us a merry dance. But despite his constant probing of our defences, his side only managed to record one typical try from him and its conversion and a penalty by Alan Lieper. Meantime continual strength-sapping bullocking runs by our already more than promising prop-forward, Ian McLauchlan took severe toll, and this, in addition to a typical try by our 'flyer' Peter Connolly, gave me the chance to kick two decisive penalties in our 9-8 win.

The following week it was Kilmarnock scrum-half Bobbie Hill's turn to torment us in yet another friendly at Jordanhill. We didn't play badly, but winning an adequate share of ball at the line-out throughout became a major problem for our less than giant jumpers. Kilmarnock's Bill Cuthbertson, later to be capped by Scotland when he moved down South to play for London Scottish, simply dominated this aspect of play, and half-back's Hill and Harrow revelled in the rich supply 'Big Bill' obtained. The only surprise latterly was that we only conceded one try, one conversion and one penalty in suffering an 8-0 beating. However, we bounced back in the following two weeks with equally close 'Championship' wins in Perth (6-0) and Dunfermline (11-8). Only 5 points coming from my boot in these two encounters lowered my then average match tally of 6 for the season down to 5.3! But at least the 5 that came in the latter game had continued the growth of my boot's fairly regular decisive influence.

The first Saturday in November brought another up-and-coming Junior club from Glasgow, Clarkston, to the College grounds to see if they were ready to compete, at the higher level. The team itself was totally unknown to us, but not so its coach, the renownedly knowledgeable, but irrepressibly voluble, Andy Williams! However Andy's usual noisy encouragement to his lads was of no avail as they were totally outclassed by us in taking a seven try drubbing to which I contributed one touch-down and three conversions.

For following Saturday, again at Jordanhill, another Junior club in search of the 'big-time', my own local home-team, Stirling County, had been invited by Mr Dickinson to test their metal against us. Shame on me! I scored 2 tries and kicked 2 conversions against them as they went down, 13-3 .... but I was only too happy to concede that, although defeated, they were due all credit from the skill and fighting spirit they had displayed.

Another dour wet-weather match against Perth Accies in the 'Championship' a week later was decided by my two penalties to their one. But seven days on, Hutchie at College promised to provide more enterprising competition as they would be attempting to avenge the previous season's 16-3 defeat that they had suffered in our first ever meeting.. This was not to be as we played with great flair, despite the wet conditions, to hammer them by 28 points to 8 and claim yet another 'Championship' scalp, this time with a virtually un-needed 6 points from my boot.

The first Saturday in December was, as usual, Inter-City Match day, and, with no fewer than eight of our players, but not me, in the Glasgow line-up, Mr Dickinson had wisely not arranged any 1<sup>st</sup> XV game for us that day. Then, back in business on the 10th, we thrashed Greenock Wanderers 28-0 at home in the 'Championship' where my tally was one try, four conversions and a penalty, before, on the 17<sup>th</sup>, we shared a dull, error-strewn friendly at a try and a penalty a-piece, down at Ayr. Hogmanay Saturday not only brought about another comprehensive win over Glens in the 'Championship' by 19-3, but also, from the 2 tries and 2 conversions I scored therein, I had raised my season's tally to 101 points from 17 matches .... thus averaging nearly 6 points per match .... as we all looked forward to the first four months of the New Year with hopes of maintaining our unbeaten record in the ten or so scheduled 'Championship' games remaining!

I. Barbour   A. Jack   D. McLachlan   A. Sproul   F. McFadyen   S. Paterson  
W. Dickinson   H. Smith   I. Douglas   J. Wylie   J. Findlay   H. Sydney   S. McCallum   J. Roxburgh   G.F. Orr  
P. Comelly   D. Duff   I. Baptie   I. Cosgrove   J. Henderson   I. Beattie   A. Wright



Season 1960-1961.

## Season 1960-61 (Part 2)

The January weather limited us to two matches – both return ‘Championship’ encounters - firstly a close 14-5 win over Hutchie at Auldhouse – never an easy venue for any side to come out on top; secondly Grammar FPs down from Aberdeen on a perishingly cold day with a barely playable bone of frost in the ground. All the current students in our side, including me, had been involved that morning in gymnastics displays in Central Station as our contribution to Glasgow Students’ Charities Day fund-raising activities, thus our tired performance in only drawing the afternoon match 3-3 was understandable ... as was the relief of all players surviving the threat of hypothermia before the referee brought the game to an eminently sensible premature end three-quarters of the way through the second half.

With my tally of only 5 points from the Hutchie game and 3 from the other, I was hoping for better things for both myself and the team in February. In the event, the month produced a mixed bag of results in ‘Championship’ matches but a fairly comfortable home win 11-3 in a friendly with St Andrews University. The 4<sup>th</sup> brought the expected return rout of Wanderers down at Fort Matilda, 27-3, in which I top-scored with 15 points. But on the 11<sup>th</sup> in the International Morning game at Peffermill, Edinburgh, I came out pointless from our 6-6 draw with city rivals West of Scotland. Then, in drenching rain on the 18<sup>th</sup> down at Langholm, the Borderers never allowed us to settle (except in the mud!), downed us to a first ‘Championship’ defeat by 16 points to 3, and brought no real consolation to me that they had allowed me to kick the 3. Thus, by the end of the month another 3 for me in the St Andrews game had raised my then current tally in all 23 matches to 128. But the team ‘Championship’ record stood less serenely at that stage with, Won, 13, Drawn, 2, Lost 1. – For - 218 points : Against – 82, and my points’ gathering amounting to 97.

Five matches were scheduled for March – two friendlies and three in the ‘Championship’. The Musselburgh game due to be played there under floodlights on the evening of the 29<sup>th</sup> fell victim to frost. But the friendlies on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> v Panmure and Jordanhill School FPs were won 17-9 and 19-6 respectively without any real difficulties and I duly collected another 18 points. That leaves two matches to account for, the latter particularly memorable. First, Kelvinside Accies were safely negotiated to the tune of 19-3 on the 4<sup>th</sup>. But it was quite a different story altogether down at Mansfield Park, Hawick on the 18<sup>th</sup> where the ‘Greens’, as current champions, awaited us city upstarts with obvious relish.

This was, and still remains in memory as the BIGGEST game of all our rugby lives. Why? Well at least half their team had played, or were still playing, for Scotland, including, Hughie McLeod, Billy Hunter, Adam Robson, Derrick Grant, Oliver Grant, Jack Heggarty and Doug Jackson, and they and all the others could boast of many representative appearances for the

South. “Fortunately for me,” I thought that morning before kick-off, “my hero, their renowned centre-three quarter cap, George ‘Stevie’ Stevenson, is injured and will not be my opposite number today.”



Mansfield Park, Hawick

But, as I record it in verse below, we were certainly given a salutary lesson about the realities of top-class rugby.

**‘Rugby Hammerin’ at Hawick in ‘61’**

Thon gemme at **Hawick** went oan-at a hunner’ mile an oor.  
 Oan Eichteenth Merch ‘61, an a wis playin’ there.  
 Nae quarter gien as baith-oor packs tirn’d hup-an-hup thur poo’er.  
 Baith sides fichtin’ fit an’ syne - a claisely focht affair.  
 Ma **Jordanhill** they tried sae hard tae match thon champee’n side.  
 Roon aa scrum fringes an fan they meeved the ba sae smeehtly far an wide.  
 Till much agin the rin o play there cam astonisher indeed  
 Fan A pit a penalty ow’er fur a welcome three point lead!  
 Thon sae doughty **Greens**,  
 Cudnae-be ootrun.  
 Sae mony caps int’ team,  
 Coonted by’t ton.  
 Seen focht back an gat reward,  
 An tookit lead afore tirn roon.  
 Second hauf they’d brish awa,  
 A’ frae Glesga’ toon.  
 Syne cam wee stramash,  
 A niver wull forget.  
 Ma fly-hack missin ba,  
 An catchin King instead.  
 Deep richt hup i’ his peer groin  
 Wis whaur it lan’d sae sair.  
 Ollie Grant syne lift’d me,  
 By sark coallar richt there.  
 The ref wis Doc McMahon an he got there richt soon.  
 ‘Now Oliver,’ quoth he, ‘put him gently down.  
 For maybe that small error was just an accident,  
 And thus no real need for you to get so all incensed.’  
 Ticht game doon at **Hawick** aye gaen-oan sae rough.  
 Late-int yaval-half, an me aye playin there.  
 Syne rubbin’ salt int saggar, faux-pas nae furgean,  
 A dived in fur a try syne pit penaal-ty ower.  
 Bit frae thit pint oan, **Greens** they upt a gear,  
 Ruck’d splendid-lik – takin’ ba an boady fair.  
 Three guid-tries cam fest tae pit them i’ the clear.  
 Sae Twenty-sax tae nine - the feenal tally there.



### Season 1960-61 (Part 3)

So, heading into our early April tour in Cumbria and the Borders, our 'Championship' record stood at, Won, 14, Drawn, 2, Lost 2. – For - 246 points : Against – 111, with my personal point gathering accumulating to 113.

Our opponents for the 'social' selection drawn from our midst for the Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> of April friendly fixture were Carlisle RFC. But, for the more serious 'Championship' clash with Jedforest RFC on the Monday, we tourists were to be strengthened by the direct arrival from Glasgow of more of our regular first choice players who had been unable to join the group for the two-day 'party' over the border.

As luck would have it, for the Carlisle match on the Saturday afternoon at Warwick Road, I was given responsibility for leading the motley fifteen fielded that day .... a doubtful honour!



**More recent view of the Warwick Rd. ground where we played - Sat. April 1st, 1961**

The opposition were no slouches on the field, and we were soundly thrashed 17-3 .... partly due to the unaccustomed heat of early spring in more southern climes, but mainly, as was all too obvious, from hill-weariness and the cramps subsequently suffered in Cairngorm stiffened legs by about a third of my team. Fortunately our opponents were no slouches either in their provision of after-match hospitality! Thus, following several pints of Cumbrian ale, a hearty meal, and then several more pints of thirst-quenching 'nectar', all were nicely primed to enjoy our hosts' regular Saturday night 'hop' in the clubhouse.

This dance followed the usual pattern of such semi-riotous and flirtatious affairs, despite which, as was witnessed to in the 'morning-after-the-night-before' breakfast head-count, all Scots appeared to have negotiated the route to the hotel, more or less in one piece some time, during the night. However, I do remember, if somewhat hazily, that, during the jollifications, I joined a group having their palms read, apparently genuinely and prophetically, by a certain lady,

who, as was averred later by one of my more amorous team-mates, also had talents other than the aforementioned. She predicted from my 'life-line' showing at least two partial breaks with immediate continuance, that I would survive two potentially life-threatening accidents in the years ahead; one before I was thirty, and another in middle age. I scoffed outwardly at this due to the nature of the rugby we all played, but inwardly I did wonder a little .... and rightly so .... because two such instances did occur, one in 1969 and the other in 1979!

A Sunday coach trip to Lake Windermere was undertaken, albeit somewhat reluctantly by the more alka-seltzer revived members of our party, and this proved to be a less boisterous outing than the previous day's shenanigans. Indeed the scenery was impressive despite the weather having turned cooler and duller. However, latterly, the more serious among us were already turning our thoughts toward the morrow, and the severe challenges to be met at Riverside Park, Jedburgh.



**Riverside Park, Jedburgh - 2006, with more flooding and modern amenities than in April, 1961**

In fact our meeting with Jedforest RFC was fated to add another feckless performance in defeat to what had been, until that Spring, a season of many triumphs. Our disappointment was all the more pronounced, when, as we were hanging on grimly to a meagre 8-6 lead in the dying seconds of the game, a speculative long-distance drop goal attempt by the home fly-half soared over the bar to bring them a 9-8 victory. My own 5 points came as no comfort to me either.

It was a down-cast coach-load of absolutely gutted losers who limped home to Glasgow that night. And, the expectation of harsh words from our revered coach Mr Dickinson before our

scheduled 'Championship' meeting with Glasgow HSFP at Southbrae Drive three days later, did not present a happy prospect to those of us dedicated to the cause.

The match with GHSFP turned out to be the one and only occasion to which my father travelled to watch me playing in a first-class rugby match. Unfortunately we were again far from our best, and personally I had by all accounts a mediocre game as we went down to defeat yet again. Indeed the ultimate 3-14 score-line strongly suggests that my trusty right boot did not take its usual toll on the opposition. However, that claim would detract from our local rivals' unexpectedly spirited performance. In fact the decisive influence on the outcome turned out to be their fielding of the previously retired highly skilled Scottish international JT Doherty. He so dictated the pattern of play when they were in possession that we were left floundering and indeed somewhat in awe of the majestic skill of that veteran so clearly still in a class of his own. What the eventual score-line might have been had he been playing with two good legs instead of one still gives me nightmares. Anyway, dad was no lucky mascot for us that day, but, typical of his philosophical views about sport, he was neither critical of, nor dismayed by, our demise.

At the season's end, Hawick remained champions, but helped by the many games we had played against inferior opposition within our programme of twenty 'Championship' matches, we finished among the top six clubs in the table... from, played 20, won 14, drawn 2, lost 4. The points scored in these games were, .... Against, 134... For, 257, of which I claimed 121. So, all in all, 'Championship' Season 1960-61 had gone fairly well for Jordanhill College RFC.

Taking account of friendlies, the total matches played were 30, in which the team scored 349 points and conceded 184 within an overall record of 22 wins, 2 draws and 6 defeats. My contribution to all this was, Played 30, Scored 167.

**This brought my total contribution from playing in  $(4 + 16 + 30) = 50$  games over the 3 Seasons to,  $(9 + 78 + 167) = 254$  points at an average of 5.08.**

## Season 1961-62

During this, our post-graduate year, I, and my flat-mate Struan McCallum, now an established tight-head prop and after-match entertainer, were still fully committed to helping put Jordanhill College on the map as a top class rugby club. Fellow centre and class-mate Ian Baptie became Club Captain with me as his Vice-Captain.



Ian Baptie



Thus, as an integral part of each Monday's selection committee, Ian and I became even more closely involved with the contributions and expectations of our rugby mentors, Bill Dickinson and George Orr and this became yet another great experience that I was later to value when I retired from playing in 1970 to join the administrative ranks of Stirling County RFC.

The Jordanhill Fixture Card for the 1961-62 Season reflects our relative success –

1961/62				1961/62			
Played 28				444 40 40.7			
Scorers 1st XV				387 27 27.1			
2nd XV				106 3 3.2			
DATE	OPPOSITES	F	A	DATE	OPPOSITES	F	A
Sept. 17	9 Allan Glens F.P.	A	24	6	12		
Sept. 18	Howe of Fife	H	14	0	2		
Sept. 23	Aberdeen Gram. Sch. F.P.	H	17	0	0		
Sept. 30	Bereghmuir F.P.	A	3	0	0		
Oct. 2	Cala	A	11	0	5		
Oct. 7	Gordonians	A	8	0	5		
Oct. 14	Kilmarnock	A	15	0	11		
Oct. 21	Perth Accies	H	17	0	11		
Oct. 26	Old Aloysians 1st XV	A	17	0	6		
Nov. 4	Greenock Wanderers	A	9	0	6		
Nov. 11	Craiglockie	H	3	0	6		
Nov. 18	Perth Accies	A	18	0	9		
Nov. 24	Walkerburn	H	18	0	6		
Dec. 2	Queen's Park F.P. 1st XV	H	6	0	6		
Dec. 9	Glasgow Accies	H	4	0	2		
Dec. 16	Hillhead F.P.	A	23	0	2		
Jan. 6	Shawlands F.P. 1st XV	H	40	0	14		
Jan. 13	Hamilton Accies (AM)	E	3	0	3		
Jan. 20	KELVINSIDE 3rd XV	H	24	0	12		
Jan. 27	Aberdeen Gram. S. F.P.	A	11	0	0		
Feb. 3	Jordanhill Sch. F.P.	H	12	0	6		
Feb. 10	Ayr	H	12	0	6		
Feb. 17	St. Mungo's F.P. 1st XV	A	19	0	3		
Feb. 24	Hillhead	H	20	0	8		
Mar. 3	Jordanhill Sch. F.P.	A	19	0	7		
Mar. 10	West of Scotland	H	5	0	3		
Mar. 17	Jedforest (AM)	E	9	0	6		
Mar. 24	Jordanhill Sch. F.P.	H	27	0	10		
Mar. 31	G. Accies	H	6	0	6		
Apr. 10	Hutcheson Gram. S. F.P.	H	19	0	7		
Apr. 17	BELLANDON STON (CUP)	H	14	0	5		
Apr. 24	KELSO 14/3/62 2nd XV	H	18	0	3		
Apr. 31	CLARKSTON	H	14	0	3		

30 matches – 25 victories – 1 draw – 4 defeats. I played in 28 matches, scoring 164 points, **bringing my points total for the 78 matches I had played in since 1958 to 418**, and my overall average to 5.3. The season's card also included 18 in the 'Championship' comprising 13 wins, 4 defeats, and 1 draw.

But you may note that I was 'dropped' from the side for two weeks after we received a thrashing at the hands of the champions, Hawick, on January 6, 1962. This game was somewhat marred by the loss of our fly-half John Roxburgh in the first half with a fractured cheek-bone. These were pre-substitute days, so, although defeat had seemed likely even at full strength, we had no hope when short-handed. I was later crestfallen by my being dropped, but not totally down-hearted, because my personal humbling had been at the hands (and twinkling-feet) of seasoned Scottish internationalist, George 'Stevie' Stevenson. Anyway, I had a strong feeling that the team probably needed more from 'the Boot' (*as I was called*) and that my return would not be long delayed!

By January 27<sup>th</sup> I was back in the side, but as winger rather than in the more demanding role of centre ... and my positional permutations, centre/full back/winger were thus extended, to be continued thereafter, as situations dictated, for the rest of my playing career at Jordanhill.

The only new fixture obtained during the season was with Kelso in the mists of Poynder Park on the evening of the 14<sup>th</sup> of March. Yes, a 7.30 p.m. kick off in March! Our innovative opponents had one of the first flood-lighting systems to be installed on a Scottish club ground and we were delighted with the prospect of such a novel experience. As it transpired though, the reality was not so pleasant, [except our 18-3 win] when, apart from the fog that drifted in early in the game, we discovered that the illumination from the rather low-hung lights, made clear vision tricky with any high ball, and refereeing decisions a bit of a lottery in the dark corners.

When the clocks went forward that Spring, we, along with several other 'Championship' sides in the area, participated in the Glasgow District Union Knock-Out Shield competition for the first time. We made expected early progress at the expense of 'junior' clubs Clarkston and Bellahouston but then fell to Glasgow Accies 6-11 in the semi-final, and, in the process, gave them their first ever victory over us in the short period since our initial encounter in January 1960.



**Struan McCallum – 'After-Match Entertainer'**

## Season 1962-63

My Autumn term of orientation into professional teaching as a very busy new member of staff of the High School of Stirling was dominated by rugby football much more than academic commitments – (a) taking the large group of enthusiastic but variably talented 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> year lads ‘by the scruff of the neck’ for practical field training sessions, and conducting regular after-school-hours ‘talk-ins’ about both the basic and finer aspects of the game .... particularly from my extensive knowledge and successful experience of defence in set-positions and open-play. .... and, (b) continuing to travel all over the country for Saturday afternoon matches for the College 1<sup>st</sup> XV.

I got tremendous support from High School 1<sup>st</sup> XV captain, John Innes in my coaching of his fellow players ... although, as it turned out, he had fairly moderate talent available to command that season. Taking a longer view, however, I kept up the knowledge pressure on many of the younger lads whom I had quickly identified as very, very, promising material indeed. That this group were the most diligent attenders at ‘talk-ins’ was very encouraging. But from Christmas 1962 until the middle of March, 1963, snow, ice and frozen grounds prevented any match-play over all but the milder SW of Scotland, the exception being Murrayfield - the international venue – courtesy of its under-soil electric blanket. This 1962/63 Jordanhill Fixture Card illustrates my Autumn commitments, and the frustrating story of field inaction.

Final Hurtle Bursae IP 6-4 3					20 <sup>th</sup> Oct. -463 35 429 350 70				
Replay Hurtle 1st XV IP26 13-0 7					1962/63 2nd XV 227 66 142				
Date	Opponents	F	A		Date	Opponents	F	A	
IP Sept. 8	Allan Glens F.P.	H	3	3	Sept. 29	Greenock Wanderers	H		
.. 15	Howe of Fife	A	6	0	Oct. 6	Gordonians	A		
3P .. 22	Aberdeen Gram. Sch. F.P.	H	13	0	.. 13	Kilmarnock	H		
2C .. 29	Boroughmuir Sch. F.P.	H	10	10	.. 20	Perth Accies	A		
IP Oct. 1	Gala	A	0	29	.. 27	Old Aloysians 1st XV	H		
.. 6	Gordonians	A	3	11	Nov. 3	Trinity Accies	H		
PIC .. 13	Kilmarnock	H	11	3	.. 10	Gordonians	H		
PIC .. 20	Perth Accies. (H)	A	17	3	.. 17	Perth Accies.	H		
IC .. 27	Dunfermline	A	5	0	IPIC Dec. 1	Hutcheson Grammar F.P.	H		
Nov. 3	Trinity Accies.	H	0	12	IP Dec. 8	Greenock Wanderers	H		
.. 10	Gordonians	H	3	3	IP .. 15	Ayr	A		
.. 17	Perth Accies.	H	11	3	3C .. 22	Greenock Wanderers	A		
IPIC .. 24	Hutcheson Grammar F.P.	H	5	3	IPIC .. 29	Glasgow University	H		
IPIC Dec. 1	Aberdeen University	H	11	0	Jan. 5	Hawick	H		
IP .. 8	Greenock Wanderers	H	6	0	.. 12	Hutcheson Grammar F.P.	A		
IP .. 15	Ayr	A	13	3	.. 19	Glasgow Accies	A		
3C .. 22	Greenock Wanderers	A	15	3	.. 26	Aberdeen Gram. Sch. F.P.	A		
IPIC .. 29	Glasgow University	H	X	X	Feb. 2	West of Scotland	H		
Jan. 5	Hawick	H	X	X	.. 9	Langholm	A		
.. 12	Hutcheson Grammar F.P.	A	X	X	.. 16	St. Andrews Uni. (am)	E		
.. 19	Glasgow Accies	A	X	X	Mar. 2	Kelvinside Accies.	H		
.. 26	Aberdeen Gram. Sch. F.P.	A	X	X	2PIC .. 9	Allan Glens F.P.	A		
Feb. 2	West of Scotland	H	X	X	.. 16	Panmure	A		
.. 9	Langholm	A	X	X	3C .. 23	Jordanhill Sch. F.P.	A		
.. 16	St. Andrews Uni. (am)	E	X	X	.. 30	Glasgow High Sch. F.P.	A		
Mar. 2	Kelvinside Accies.	H	X	X	IC Apr. 6	Ayr	H		
.. 9	Allan Glens F.P.	A	34	0	IPIC .. 18	Glasgow Accies. HUSHEDEN	A		
.. 16	Panmure	A	39	6	IPIC .. 15	Jedforest	A		
.. 23	Jordanhill Sch. F.P.	A	21	6	.. 15	Kelso (Floodlight as arr.)	A		
.. 30	Glasgow High Sch. F.P.	A	6	3	2PIC	HAMILTON 4			
IC Apr. 6	Ayr	H	19	0					
IPIC .. 18	Glasgow Accies. HUSHEDEN	A	23	0					
IPIC .. 15	Jedforest	A	19	3					
.. 15	Kelso (Floodlight as arr.)	A							
2PIC	HAMILTON 4		16	6					

Two matches for Jordanhill, the first at Galashiels on Monday evening, 1<sup>st</sup> October, and the second on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> December, stand out in my memory before the wintry storms and frosts set-in.

The Gala game was our traditional 5pm kick-off on the Border Autumn Holiday Monday ... easy for any College lads in the team to get there in the hired coach from Glasgow ... but for the teaching members of the side, it meant getting permission for leave-of-absence from about 2.15 pm and travelling by shared car, where possible, duly kitted out en route, ready to take the field at Netherdale at the last possible minute. Anyway, Struan McCallum came through from Falkirk Graeme HS in his MG Midget (!) to pick-up Ian Cosgrove and myself at Stirling .... But 'Cossy' was late getting away from Perth Academy, so we were eventually left with a mere two hours to get from Stirling and across Edinburgh [*no motor-way then!*] and slowly down the wending country border roads to our goal, with Ian and me taking turnabouts in the non-seater back-space of the two seater sports car! It was an appalling journey, scary to say the least, and we reached the ground 15 minutes after the scheduled start time to find that (despite our fondest hopes) because it got dark about 6.30, the kick-off had only been delayed for 10 minutes before our reserves had had to take our usual places. [No substitutions allowed back then] So the team, without their captain, 'Cossy', goal-kicker, me, and renowned prop Struan, thus weakened, went down to an unprecedented 28-0 defeat ... with us looking-on helplessly. It was a long, long, sad, and again uncomfortable, journey home that night ☹.

The 15<sup>th</sup> December, 1962 started and continued as an astonishing day of gale-force winds. Yet we set out just after lunch-time from Glasgow in our usual hired coach driven by Andy to fulfil our fixture with up-and-coming Ayr RFC. Andy battened down the glass-hatches on the bus roof before we ventured out over Fenwick Moor and, much more sedately than usual, wheeled us South West. Well! Out over the moorland highway we had our first hilarious experience of that never-to-be-forgotten afternoon. - Particularly those of us sitting near the front of the bus first heard Andy breaking wind very audibly from his rear-end ... *but wait for it* .... simultaneously there was a 'whoosh' as the central roof hatch flew off into the blue and landed, according to back-seat witnesses, away across a down-wind road-side field. To shouts of derision, Andy pulled-in about 100yds down the road ... and to further calls that there was no woodland for him to clamber into to relieve himself .. he jumped the dyke further back up the road, retrieved the hatch ... and returned triumphantly to continue the journey unabashed!

The game itself was rather farcical ... a typical game of two-halves .... we scored 15 points down-gale in the first and they 8 points after the turn-round. I scored a try and three conversions ... but my location for one conversion of a try near the corner-flag in particular was a never-to-be-repeated occurrence for me. The ball was held for me about two feet from the goal-

line about thirty yards out-wide from the posts. I then kicked it across and backwards into the wind with all my might and prayed that, if it reached the front of the posts, it might just hover and blow over the bar and between the uprights .... Mother Nature smiled on me ... and my prayer was answered!

Apart from these two episodes, I played in another fifteen matches before ice and snows began just before Christmas. Of the seventeen played by the club up to 22<sup>nd</sup> December, eleven were 'Championship games of which we won only six, drew three and lost two – including the disastrous Gala venture and then against the up-and-coming Trinity Accies from Edinburgh. The draws in the comparatively sterner encounters with Boroughmuir FPs and Hutchesons FPs in particular had tended to expose our lack of bulk and height up-front.



W Dickinson A Simpson A Normand S McCallum P Gallacher J Buchanan I Baptie J Henderson F McFadyen G Orr  
P Connolly I Barbour D McLachlan I Douglas I Cosgrove D Duff J Roxburgh I Beattie A Wright  
H Sydney C Forsyth S Paterson D Steele  
Jordanhill College RFC Season 1962-1963

However, on the return of Ian McLauchlan after his season with West of Scotland, the team's





physical strength, pace and mobility became even more its saving grace – especially the first, as typified by our soon to be much feared and respected scrummage front-row of the aforementioned Ian, Harry Sydney and Struan McCallum. Nevertheless the line-out jumping remained as an insurmountable problem on the oppositions' throws-in, where John Buchanan alone was tall enough to compete in attempted ball-winning with any likelihood of success. Even on our own throws we had to compromise a bit by mainly using the spring-heeled Harry Sydney at No. 2 to set up close-to-the-touch-line mauls from what share of ball he managed to secure. On the other hand, a then innovative ploy, long throws to Peter Gallacher and Ian Douglas at Nos. 6 and 7 to tap-feed Ian McLauchlan peeling round the tail of the line-out and his subsequent bulldozing charges, often paid great dividends, not only by breaching opponents' first line defence, but also, more often than not, their cover defence as well. Anyway, by Christmas I had amassed 64 points in the 16 out of the 17 games I'd played in. And this brought my total then to 482 from 94 matches at an average of 5.1.

The nine-week enforced lay-off ended on March the 9<sup>th</sup> with our disposal of Glens, 34-0, and this was followed by an equally impressive 7 try rout of Panmure from which I gathered 17 points. As the going got firmer underfoot, our generally superior mobility was encouraging more open play, and thus the handicaps previously exposed in the tight became barely visible at all. Thus it was no surprise that, from the 9<sup>th</sup> of March until the season ended in mid-April, we secured nine wins and a draw, and in the process registered a points balance of 195 to 23. I weighed-in with 81 to bring my season's tally to 145 and my overall total to **563 from 104 games at 5.3 per game.**

The highlight within this latter period was of course our first-time winning of the Glasgow GDU Shield. The one draw, (6-6), came from a fraught final played against captain/scrum-half [*later to be capped by Scotland*] Richard Allan's Hutchesons FPs at Burnbrae, Milngavie on a damp, miserable April evening. And miserable I was too, as, just before the final whistle blew, a crucial mistake by me took the match into a replay. How so? Well for the only time that I can remember in my career, I had missed a penalty right in front of the posts. However, all was forgiven the following week, when, at Hutchie's home ground, Auldhouse [*the only ground of note in Glasgow still with posts up and not reserved for the start of the cricket season*] we triumphed by two tries, two conversions and a penalty to nil, including 7 points kicked by yours truly. Was my previous week's sin forgotten? Well, almost, but not quite, as I was ragged about it for years thereafter ... better that though than 'eternal blame'! Such is ever the lot of the place-kicker.

Thus, what had started as a below par season, finished well with 20 wins, 3 losses and 4 draws – Points For = 335, Points Against = 123.



## Season 1963-64

Before this season started in September, 1963, I had married Olive Margaret Dale in Glasgow on the 11<sup>th</sup> of July, 1963. But, as Olive had long since shared my passion for rugby football, rarely missing spectating at Jordanhill matches since 1961, marriage did not interrupt my senior rugby career, nor her accompanying me as a supporter as often as possible. However, because of my continuing commitments to rugby organising and coaching in my professional capacity as an Assistant Teacher of Physical Education and Mathematics at the High School of Stirling, I did have to forego a few College games when Saturday morning school matches prevented my travelling to reach venues by kick-off time.



**Jordanhill R.F.C - Season 1963 - 1964**

I was in good form with the boot that Autumn as the following Fixture Card shows,

1963/64 1st XV				2nd XV			
Date	Opponents	F	A	Date	Opponents	F	A
Sept. 7	Allan Glens	A 11	8 3	Sept. 7			
20	Howe of Pife	H 16	0 4	21			
27/28	Aberdeen Gram. F.P.	H 34	9 19	28			
30/31	Broughmuir	H 39	6 3	Oct. 5	Greenock Wanderers	A	
30/31	Gala	A 19	16 10	12	Gordonians	A	
12	Gordonians	A 22	12 10	19	Allan Glens	H	
18	Kilmarnock	A 14	6 5	26	Perthshire Acas.	H	
26	Perthshire Acas.	H 20	0 6	Nov. 2	Shawlands 1st XV	A	
Nov. 2	Dunfermline	H 22	0 7	9	Greenock Wanderers	H	
9	Trinity Acas.	A 16	0 4	16	Gordonians	H	
16	Gordonians	A 9	0 3	23	Perthshire Acas.	A	
23	Perthshire Acas.	A 15	0 6	30	Victoria Dr. 1st XV	H	
30	Hutcheson Gram. F.P.	A x	x	Dec. 7	Aberdeen University	A	
7	Aberdeen University	A 15	x 9	14	Glasgow Acas.	A	
14	Greenock Wanderers	H 16	30 0	21	Hillhead H.S.F.P.	A	
21	Ayr	H		28			
28	Greenock Wanderers	H 16	3 1	Jan. 4	International		
10 Jan. 4	Glasgow University	E 11	6 2	11	Rolls Royce 1st XV	H	
11	Hawick	A 11	17 8	18	Stirling County	E	
18	Hutcheson Gram. F.P.	E 5	8 1	25	Old Grammarians	H	
25	Glasgow Acas.	A 0	15 x	Feb. 1	Aberdeen Gram. F.P.	H	
Feb. 1	Aberdeen Gram. F.P.	A 0	15 x	8	Victoria Dr. 1st XV	H	
8	Glasgow H.S.F.P.	H 14	9 7	15	Ayr	H	
15	West of Scotland	A 5	17 2	22	St. Mungo F.P. 1st XV	A	
22	Langholm	H x	x 0	29	Old Aloysians 1st XV	H	
29	St. Andrews Univ.	A 6	0 1	Mar. 7	Jordanhill Sch. F.P.	A	
30 Mar. 7	Kelvinside Acas.	A 18	0 6	14	West of Scotland	H	
14	Allan Glens	H 14	6 5	21	International		
21	Jedforest	E 13	0 5	28	Kelvinside Acas.	H	
28	Jordanhill Sch. F.P.	H 23	0 1	Apr. 4	St. Mungos F.P. 1st XV	H	
1 Apr. 4	Ayr	H 11	3 3	11	Old Aloysians 1st XV	A	
11	MARR	H 30	0 10				
18	HUTCHIE	H 9	16 0				

**Season 1963 - 1964**

Not only were there no defeats in the matches I played in up until I sustained an ankle injury on the 7<sup>th</sup> of December in Aberdeen, but also I acquired another 88 points **to raise my then tally to 651 points in 118 matches for the College since 1958.**

A highlight in this series of matches was revenge at Galashiels for the previous season's drubbing. This time, for the usual 5pm kick-off in the Border town, we managed to field a full strength team courtesy of key players obtaining leave of absence even earlier from their respective school duties and thus avoiding the fiasco of late arrivals and non-participation as in October, 1962!

Mind you it seemed unlikely during the first twenty minutes that we might have any hope of victory as Gala ran-in two goals and a try for a 13-0 lead before we had even shaken off the effects of our various modes of frenetic travel (fully kitted-out in cars or bus) to get to the ground in time! However, by half-time we had bounced back to equalise matters in like fashion thanks to some magnificent forward play in the tight and loose by McLauchlan, McCallum and Gallagher in particular, aided mightily by 'Big John' Buchanan gaining copious shares of line-ball. As usual, the second-half was a bit of a nightmare in the gathering Autumn gloom. But when I had kicked two penalties to the opposition's one by No-side, we had scraped home 19-16.

It so happened that my injury on 7<sup>th</sup> December side-lined me until the New Year. But it was probably just as well as Olive required an emergency appendix operation just before we were due to move from Bannockburn in the week before Christmas to our newly built semi-detached chalet on the edge of the High School playing-field in Torbrex, Stirling. Thankfully Olive was OK again before the New Year, but I had to deal with most of the removal and initial furnishing without her. Not being much of a handy-man, this was a sore trial for me ... but with family help, and the carpet-fitters working overtime, a reasonably cosy enough home was provided for her eventual arrival and convalescence.

After squeezing home 11-8 against a lively Glasgow University side at Peffermill, Edinburgh on the morning of the French International at Murrayfield on January 4<sup>th</sup>, 1964, we suffered a series of defeats at the hands of Hawick, Glasgow Accies and Aberdeen GSFP – [I was fortunate to miss the last two due to school duties]. We then surprised Glasgow HSFP 14-9 at Southbrae Drive, only to go down with a thump to West of Scotland 19-5 at Burnbrae. This latter match provided an epic contest between two former 1960-61 season team-mates at West .... Scotland's tight-head prop Sandy Carmichael and his later-to-be fellow British Lion, and great friend, Ian 'Mighty Mouse' McLauchlan. Or so we were told afterwards .... as nobody really knows, apart from the front-rows themselves, what goes on in that 'boiler-house'. However, aside from testing bouts of strength and technique, I doubt if there was anything

untoward in the said duel, as mutual respect between ‘Gentleman’ Sandy and Ian was very high indeed.

Another six victories in the run-up to April’s Glasgow KO Shield encounters were heartening. But the season ended with defeat by Hutchie in the Final 9-16 ... revenge for them by toppling us, the holders of the trophy.

My personal points tally for the season was encouraging – 144 from 26 games and thus that far I had gained **707 points over 130 matches.**



**“Two seasons more, I thought, and the ‘magic’ 1000 points might be attained.”**

## Season 1964-65

As I cast my eyes down the list of thirty-one fixtures played by my club, Jordanhill College in Season 1964-65, details of most of the twenty-five matches in which I played have escaped my memory. Perhaps I then had been more concerned about the welfare of my senior school side that I had been developing from 1962? They indeed were an impressive outfit – not only unbeaten at XV-a-side throughout the season – including a victory in a first ever fixture with Dollar Academy 1<sup>st</sup> XV [at Dollar] - but also winners of the Stirling County Schoolboy Seven-a-side ‘Lawson Trophy’.



<p>Stirling H.S. Rugby Club held its first-ever dinner in the Allan Water Hotel on Friday to celebrate one of the most successful seasons ever, in which the 1st XV completed its first undefeated season in the history of the School's rugby, while the 2nd and 3rd XV's only lost two games each, and the Lawson Trophy was regained after an absence of three</p>	<p>years. After an excellent meal, served in the Sun Lounge, Mr A. Miller proposed the toast, "The Senior XV," to which the respective captains, P. Weddell, R. H. H. Houston and I. S. Douglas replied, and Mr F. Parker, of Stirling County R.F.C. spoke on "Better Referee-Player Understanding." The company were then entertained by the more musically</p>	<p>inclined members of the club. The evening ended with two very fitting presentations:—the first, the award of "Player of the Year" to I. R. Robb, and the second, a presentation by P. Weddell, on behalf of the rugby-playing boys, to Mr J. Henderson who, unfortunately, is leaving at the end of the session, in recognition of all he had done to help the school rugby.</p>
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However, I do note from the fixture card below that on the personal front I had my highest scoring year to date at an average of just over 6 points per game, from 154 in 25 matches ... bringing **my total over 155 games to 861 points** ....while the club itself .... Played 31, Won 23, Drew, 2 and Lost 6. The significant defeats when we were at full strength were those from major sides in the unofficial championship, Hutchesons, Glasgow HSFP, Langholm and West of Scotland ... while our first ever victory over champion side Hawick came on the 9<sup>th</sup> of January, 1965 when they had five of their team representing Scotland in Paris!

Date	Opponents	F	T	A
28/4/65	✓ Hutchieson's A.S.F.P.	6	3	6
21/4/65	✓ Marist College XV	14	3	3
(154)				
2P Sept.	12 Allan Glens F.P.	H 18	6	6
1P "	19 Howe of Fife	A 29	3	11
2P "	26 Aberdeen Gram. F.P.	A 26	3	14
2P Oct.	3 Boroughmuir F.P.	H 21	3	6
1P "	5 Gala	A 14	14	6
"	10 Gordonians	H 0	6	6
"	17 Kilmarnock	H 29	3	1
2P "	24 Perthshire Acas.	A 16	3	3
1P "	31 Dunfermline	A 3	3	3
1P 30 Nov.	7 Trinity Acas.	H 30	9	9
"	14 Gordonians	A 3	6	11
2P "	21 Perthshire Acas.	H 25	3	10
3P "	28 Hutchieson Gram. F.P.	H 9	12	9
1P 20 Dec.	5 Aberdeen University	H 16	3	7
2P "	12 Greenock Wanderers	H 20	6	8
2P 10 "	19 Trinity Acas.	A 17	7	11
3P 10 "	26 Greenock Wanderers	A 1	1	1
Jan.	2 Glasgow University	H 1	1	1
20 "	9 Hawick	H 12	1	4
"	16 Glasgow H.S.F.P.	A 3	3	0
"	23 Glasgow Acas.	A 1	1	1
"	30 Aberdeen Gram. F.P.	A 1	1	1
30 Feb.	6 International Coll. O.B. E	H 27	5	6
"	13 West of Scotland	H 3	10	1
20 "	20 Langholm	A 10	22	A
"	27 St. Andrews Univ. (A.O.F.F.)	H 3	3	1
Mar.	6 Kelvinside Acas.	H 1	1	1
1P 17 "	13 Allan Glens F.P.	A 18	6	6
"	20 Ayr	H 11	0	1
10 "	27 Jordanhill Sch. F.P.	A 14	8	2
10 Apr.	19 Jedforest	A 14	6	2
Oct.	8 Old Aloysians	H 40	0	1
17 2P "	Old Spartans	H 48	6	9
2P 10 "	G.H.S.F.P.	H 11	3	8

Date	Opponents	F	T	A
707 + 154 = 861 pts. TOTAL NOW in 155 games				
1964/65	2nd XV			
Sept. 12	PLAYED 25			
" 19	SCORED 154			
" 26				
Oct. 3	Greenock Wanderers	H 16	6	
" 5				
" 10	Gordonians	H		
" 17	Allan Glens F.P.	A		
" 24	Perthshire Acas.	A		
" 31	Shawlands 1st XV	H		
Nov. 7	Greenock Wanderers	A		
" 14	Gordonians	A		
" 21	Perthshire Acas.	H		
" 28	Whitehill F.P. 1st XV	H		
Dec. 5	Aberdeen University	H		
" 12	Glasgow Acas.	A		
" 19	Hillhead H.S.F.P.	H		
" 26				
Jan. 2				
" 9				
" 16	Old Aloysians 1st XV	H		
" 23	Old Grammarians	H		
" 30	Aberdeen Gram. F.P.	H		
Feb. 6	International			
" 13	Ayr	A		
" 20	Victoria Dr. F.P.	H		
" 27				
Mar. 6	Jordanhill Sch. F.P.	H		
" 13	West of Scotland	A		
" 20	Hillhead H.S.F.P.	H		
" 27	Hutchieson Gram. F.P.	H		
Apr. 19		29P	51	
		29C	58	

Nonetheless, the Hawick match was a 'hum-dinger' as you can read from the account of it in the London 'Sunday Times'.

## Hawick go under at Jordanhill

Jordanhill Coll. 13 pts., Hawick 0

Playing Jordanhill for the first time, Hawick lost to the college XV, who, in difficult conditions, scored two goals and one dropped goal to their visitors' two penalty goals and a try.

After heavy rain, which had flooded other fields in the West of Scotland, the ground was rather soft and handling difficult. It was a day in which slips could make all the difference, and in fact they did.

Inevitably, the result of the match depended on the work of the forwards, and although Hawick could look the more dangerous, mounting through Whitaker and Granston, any number of attacks powerfully and speedily, too often a fumbled pass brought the movement to nothing.

More important, the home side tackled with spirit: if it seemed that there was even more fire, more enthusiasm than usual—and the college XV have been playing well all season—it is perhaps a fitting compliment to such distinguished visitors.

At full-back for Hawick, Gray fielded soundly but his kicking both for touch and for goal was not uniformly successful. He failed with three penalties before sending a 55-yard penalty kick between the posts.

Jordanhill had, meanwhile, gone ahead. Pressing from the start, they had forced two set scrummages almost on the Hawick goal-line within the first six minutes and though Paterson's hesitation lost them the first opportunity, from the second Gallacher went over for a splendid try which Henderson converted.

Paterson opened the second-half with a dropped goal, gaining the ball from a quick heel by forwards who had come more into the game and dominated the second-half.

Although Hawick had scored a second penalty through Gray to end the first-half in the lead, the Jordanhill forwards never allowed them to remain on top. There was splendid tackling from Rawlinson and Cosgrove in particular, and although the Hawick backs tried to get moving, it was the forwards who gave Whitaker a chance which he promptly took of scoring a first-rate try, which Gray was unable to convert.

But one always felt that anything could happen, and chasing a loose ball, badly fielded by Granston, Cosgrove kicked ahead and himself scored a try which Henderson converted. Try as they might, and in mounting excitement, Hawick were unable to increase their score.

Jordanhill Colleges: J. H. Roxburgh; J. Henderson, C. McLean, I. Cosgrove, P. M. Connolly; R. S. Paterson, B. Rawlinson; S. McCallum, J. Douglas, J. McLaughlan, C. Bissett, J. Buchanan, P. Gallacher, D. Turner, R. Bold.

Hawick: J. H. Gray; B. Kins, T. Lyall, E. W. Broatch, R. Welsh; D. Granston, H. Whitaker, P. Robertson, G. Hobkirk, R. McCallum; W. J. Hunter, R. Brydon, A. Amos, G. Lyall, T. Dawson.

Referee: Dr. W. A. Greig (Edinburgh Academicals).

The other high point came in April ... a fine climax to an otherwise mixed season.

Rugby 28/4/65

**SECOND JORDANHILL  
COLLEGE SUCCESS**

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**Penalty Goals Decide**

By JOHN DOWNIE

Hutchesons' Grammar School F.P. 3pts, Jordanhill College 6pts



Jordanhill College became the first team to win the Glasgow and District Inter-club Shield twice when they beat Hutchesons' Grammar School F.P. in the final at Auldhouse last night by two penalty goals to one.

The match, played with all the fierce intensity knock-out competitions inspire, contained more violence than elegance, but with never more than six points between the teams excitement was maintained at a high level until the end.

The player to whom Jordanhill owed most was their full back, J. Henderson, who kicked both their penalty goals—after five minutes and 40 minutes—from just inside the Hutchesons' half. In addition he gave, until he faltered in the closing stages, as fine an exhibition of positional sense, fielding, touch kicking, and tackling as either he or his more highly regarded Hutchesons' namesake has ever produced.

### Missed Chances

Indeed, on the night there was no doubt about which Henderson stole the show, for although A. T. Henderson also was a very fine full back he failed with penalty kicks from all sorts of positions so often that what proved to be the last attempt at goal was made by Steele who with only six minutes of ordinary time to go put his side within a goal of victory with a fine penalty place kick from within half a dozen yards of touch.

Immediately afterwards the same player, who was a Jordanhill centre in the equivalent match of a year ago, almost obliterated his

former clubmates' lead when he brought the stand to its feet with a tortuous run to the corner, where he disappeared under a heap of red jerseys. To the chagrin of the prematurely rejoicing home supporters, however, a scrum was ordered, two penalties cost Hutchesons' the gallantly won ground and Jordanhill were content to battle out injury time between the twenty-fives.

### All in Vain

The College, who had gone off with a bang at the start, a smash-through by McLauchlan in mid-field launching an attack that ended with A. T. Henderson touching down behind his own posts, were obviously happy enough to hold what they had throughout the second half. Hutchesons' on the other hand tried wheels, half-back breaks, diagonal kicks, crossfield passing, switches inside by the wings, and drop kicks by an advanced full back in an effort to get back on terms.

Jordanhill's halves, however, proved adept spoilers of any efforts to break near the scrum. Their threequarters marked fiercely, and Roxburgh and Paterson, as well as J. Henderson, produced kicks of a standard that must have been discouraging to a side six points down in a final.

**Hutchesons' Grammar School F.P. —**  
A. T. Henderson; R. A. Robertson, D. G. Robertson, D. P. Robb, and D. W. Steele; W. A. R. Wilson and R. C. Allan; J. M. Bulloch, J. M. Kerr, R. D. Jamieson, I. A. Green, A. P. Houston, J. G. Allan, G. H. Ramsay, and R. G. Sim.

**Jordanhill College—**J. Henderson; R. McDonald, J. Ellis, S. Paterson, and P. M. Connolly; J. H. Roxburgh and J. W. Rawlinson; J. McLauchlan, J. Douglas, S. McCallum, J. Buchanan, I. Glasgow, G. D. D. Manzie, R. Boyd, and S. Grant.

Referee—J. A. H. Blake (Kilmarnock).



JORDANHILL COLLEGE RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

*Season 1964—1965*

*Winners Glasgow Knock-Out Competition*

Front Row (Left to Right): W. Dickinson (Hon. Sec.) R. Boid, S. G. Paterson, P. M. Connolly, I. N. Cosgrove, J. H. Roxburgh (Capt.) J. Henderson, I. McLaughlan, E. J. Murray, R. Yule, G. F. Orr (Pres.).

Back Row (Left to Right): R. J. McDonald, A. Manzie, P. Gallagher, J. B. Buchanan, D. L. Turner, I. Glasgow, S. J. Grant, C. M. Maclean, J. Ellis, D Paul (Touch Judge).

## Final Season 1965-66

As was mentioned in the article written about the celebration dinner held by my senior school rugby teams in May, 1965, I was about to leave the High School of Stirling to take up an appointment as an Assistant in Physical Education at Glasgow University's Stevenson PE Building from September, 1965. I also intended, while at the university, to take a degree class in Higher Ordinary Statistics. In addition I decided to travel to my work/studies in Glasgow daily from our home in Torbrex, Stirling. Thus with all the various pressures this brought on, it is no surprise that 1965-66 turned out to be my last full season with Jordanhill College. Indeed, although I struggled to maintain adequate physical fitness for participation in first-class rugby as well as all my other commitments to family and sport locally, I had a remarkably successful final season .... As did my club with 23 wins, 1 draw and 4 losses.

I had always wondered if I would ever be seen to be good enough to represent Glasgow in the Scottish Inter-District Championship ..... and of course I dearly wanted to register 1000 points for the club before I retired. The latter target was clearly in sight as I started the season with 861 points to my name ... but what of the other ambition ... ?

W. O. S. Ansd. houg 0-11 -  
1st XV Final Run

Date	Opponents	1965/66	F	A
1 PAC Sept. 4	Keil O.B.	H	26	0 11
2 P .. 11	Allan Glen's F.P.	A	15	0 6
1 P 2 C .. 18	Howe of Fife	H	28	3 7
2 P .. 25	Aberdeen Gram. F.P.	H	6	3 6
2 P 1 C Oct. 2	Boroughmuir F.P.	A	14	3 8
30 Sept	<del>Greenock</del>	A	53	0 14
7 C 1 P 1 C 9	Gordonians	A	11	3 5
1 P 1 C 16	Kilmarnock	A	24	6 7
6 P 1 P 1 C 23	Perthshire Accies	H	23	3 5
5 P 2 P 1 C 30	Dunfermline	H	25	6 10
46 Nov. 6	Trinity Accies.	137 A	12	12 93
42 .. 13	Gordonians	H	16	3 4 97
.. 20	Perthshire Accies	A	C F F	
.. 27	Hutcheson Gram. F.P.	A	C F F	
Dec. 4	Aberdeen University	A	INTER CITY	
.. 11	Greenock Wanderers	A	UNAVAILABLE	
22 .. 18	Trinity Accies. 27, 2 P, 4 C	H	31	0 20 117
.. 25	Greenock Wanderers	H	C F F	
19 Jan. 18	Ayr	A	12	3 3 110
17 .. 8	Hawick	A	8	3 2 122
10 .. 15	Dundee XV (am)	E	18	0 7 129
.. 22	Glasgow Accies.	H	X	X
.. 29	Aberdeen Grammar F.P.	A	X	X
5 Feb. 5	Glasgow H.S.F.P.	H	20	14 5 134
.. 12	West of Scotland	A	X	X
.. 19	Langholm	H	X	X
3 .. 26	St. Andrew's University	A	11	0 2 141
+ 2 28 Mar. 11	Kelvinside Accies (1002) *	A	11	0 5 141
+ 19 2 P 1 C 12	Allan Glen's F.P.	H	32	9 17 158
+ 21 2 P 1 C 18	GREENOCK W	H	17	3 8 166
+ 21 1 C 19	Jedforest (am)	E	11	3 2 168
+ 24 2 P 1 C 22	(evening) KILMARNOCK	H	23	0 8 168
+ 24 1 P 26	Hillhead H.S.F.P.	A	3	5 3 171
+ 24 .. 30	Jordanhill Sch. F.P.	X	5	6 X
Apr. 30	Stirling County	A	36	4 2 P 4 C
2 P 1 C 31	Old Grammarians Dunbart	A	14	9 9 197

Well, by early November, I was being mentioned as a possible trialist for Glasgow as a full-back; and in due course my opportunity came with the unavailability due to injury of front-runners Geoff Allan (ironically one of my University students!) and Alan Henderson of Hutchesons FPs. The trial under the Hughenden floodlights was a farce .... Pelting freezing rain made decent

rugby, far less judgment of players' skills, impossible on the night ... and, as probably the only likely candidate for the position, I am sure the selectors took the precaution of sending me for an early hot bath to avoid catching pneumonia! Joining me in the scalding big tub, as others went on suffering out on the pitch, was a chap called Alistair McHarg from lowly Irvine RFC ... but he did not fancy his chances of selection as he cursed his bad-luck on having happened on an awful night to be compared with the likes of the experienced PC Brown and John Buchanan. Little did he know then about the subsequent illustrious international career the future held for him ... eventually!

Here is what transpired after I was selected for a further full-scale trial match v a Scottish Select XV as a prelude to the Inter-City v Edinburgh on 4<sup>th</sup> December, 1965

Rugby 23/11/65

## Decision This Morning on Hughenden Match

By JOHN DOWNIE

No decision will be made until this morning on the possibility of Hughenden's being playable for to-night's match between Glasgow and a Scottish Select XV. If the game goes on it will start at 7.30—not at 7.15, as was stated when the teams were announced.

It will, however, require a considerable change in the weather to allow play to start at all. There has been frost in Glasgow on the past three nights, and no thaw to speak of in the daytime, so there has been no opportunity to eliminate the cuts and ridges made in the pitch when it was soft on Saturday morning.

At the moment therefore the odds are on cancellation or, less probably, postponement, which is a pity as Glasgow showed good form when narrowly beaten by the South and so promised to provide a good test for the candidates set against them by the national selectors.

Those likely to be most

This match was not played because the ground at Hughenden remained frozen and thus the Glasgow Selectors picked an unchanged side to play in the Inter-City v Edinburgh at Hughenden on Saturday 4th Dec. 1966. In the event it snowed heavily on Friday night the 3rd Dec. and on the morning of the match we players took the train to Edinburgh to play the game at the International Ground, Murrayfield, courtesy of its under-soil heating system. It was an eerie business playing in the huge ground with its empty snow-bound terraces and a mere sprinkling of hardy folks in the equally large grandstand. Olive and Dad did not make it through the snow to Murrayfield and had to be content with hearing the radio commentary of our 3-14 loss on the day and I also had a dreadfully poor game!

disappointed are the members of the Scottish Select not at present in favour with their district selectors and consequently short of opportunities to prove their worth above club level. This, one would say, applies most forcibly to those in bad teams, as members of which they cannot concentrate on their own task as they would in better company.

The only changes in either side are those caused by the withdrawal from the Scottish Select of R. R. Keddie (Watsonians). D. J. Whyte moves from the left wing to the right and J. D. Jardine (Edinburgh Academicals) is brought in on the left.

**Glasgow**—J. Henderson (Jordanhill College); W. Dunlop, G. R. Greig (Glasgow High School F.P.), G. M. Simmers (Glasgow Academicals), and R. A. Speedman (West of Scotland); W. A. Burnet (West of Scotland), captain, and B. A. Lockhart (Glasgow Academicals); I. V. Douglas (Hillhead High School F.P.); J. Douglas, J. McLaughlan, J. Buchanan (Jordanhill College); P. C. Brown (West of Scotland); R. G. McCallum (Greenock Wanderers); F. H. D. Walker (West of Scotland); and P. Gallacher (Jordanhill College).

**Scottish Select XV**—H. H. Bain; D. J. Whyte (Edinburgh Wanderers); W. A. Mackintosh (Glasgow University); A. V. Orr (Royal High School F.P.); and I. D. Jardine (Edinburgh Academicals); R. H. Lamb (Edinburgh Wanderers) and H. Whitaker (Hawick); A. B. Carmichael (West of Scotland); R. J. Grievie (Hawick); D. M. D. Rollo (Howe of Fife); W. J. Hunter (Hawick); J. Douglas (Stewart's College F.P.); C. E. B. Stewart (Helsa), captain; W. Ingram (Dalkeith); and G. G. Lyall (Hawick).

Referee—D. L. N. Haultain (Edinburgh Academicals).

**Rugby**

# EDINBURGH TRIUMPH AT MURRAYFIELD

## Glasgow Hampered by Knee Injuries

By JOHN DOWNIE

Edinburgh 17 pts, Glasgow 3 pts

Edinburgh will no doubt be in favour of having more Inter-cities at Murrayfield, for in the first such match played at the Scottish Rugby Union ground they scored their best victory over Glasgow since 1961—by a goal, two penalty goals, and two tries to a try.

Yet it is difficult to assess the true merit of their win, for their eight-point interval lead was against the trend of play to that point if territorial gains and losses retain any significance, and for most of the second half Glasgow had a cripple at scrum half and their chosen No. 8 playing in the second row because of a damaged right knee that greatly reduced his mobility. A third right-knee injury was suffered by Dunlop, the right winger, who was not, however, so badly impaired as the others.

### Below Par

On the other hand Edinburgh's Internationalist centre B. C. Henderson, in action for the first time after injury, was far short of his usual rumbustious form all through the game.

But from the beginning Edinburgh looked the better co-ordin-

showed up in bursts of individual achievement, which were discounted by the errors of those who backed up. And far too often significant territorial gains were sacrificed through the concession of silly penalties. The wing forwards were particularly remiss in this respect, repeatedly breaking offside when the ball was still in the scrum.

One brilliant move, in which from Greig's inside pass Simmers beat two opponents, went for naught because Gallacher failed to hold the centre's pass and then McCallum broke offside.

Edinburgh by contrast seemed adept in the art of redeployment to support initial thrusts. One of their best attacks was made by a reformed threequarter line comprising right winger, stand-off half, and left winger. Only a fine tackle by Dunlop prevented Jardine from scoring in the corner.

ated team—a characteristic that seemed to owe most to their greater sharpness and adaptability at half-back and back-row forward.

Glasgow's pack started off extremely well in the line-out, Buchanan gaining a big share of possession at the front, and their props, McLauchlan and I. V. Douglas, contributed heroically to late efforts to save the match, but of the other forwards only Brown showed up well and there were times when the shorter Arneil beat him in the line-out.

All Glasgow's merits, however,

## Brilliant Try

Similarly their first try came through Orr's swift support of a brilliant break up the middle by Robertson, who received the ball from a line-out 20 yards inside his own half. Arneil's try came from a Robertson break from a scrum in the Glasgow twenty-five immediately after the stand-off had just failed to produce a try at the posts, where the eager White and Arneil may have impeded one another in their plunge for the ball.

Whereas against North and Midlands Connell had been Edinburgh's outstanding half-back, Robertson this time was clearly the dominant partner. There were times when he stood so far from the scrum that Connell's service seemed a shade overstretched, but the young Watsonian's speed off the mark caused Glasgow's defenders frequent worry. They, of course, had to keep an eye on Connell too, whereas Edinburgh knew in the second half that Lockhart was going nowhere. He could barely hobble round the scrum, and Shand scored the last try from the front of a line-out simply because the cripple could not throw himself on the ball, a task he normally performs so well.

## Kemp Shines

Edinburgh's other strong points were a rollicking display in the line-out and loose by Simpson, sound performances by John Douglas and the props, and another fine demonstration of full-back play by Kemp, whose sure fielding and several brilliantly timed fair catches frustrated Glasgow's attempts to attack with high kicks and fast following up.

Kemp also contributed eight points with a conversion and two penalty goals, all from in front of the posts.

His opposite number, J. Henderson, played with considerable dash and courage, bringing off at least one cracking tackle and clearing up other dangerous situations with wild-looking hacks to touch that brought hearts into Glasgow mouths but all achieved their immediate purpose.

Speedman, having been starved all afternoon on the left wing, snatched Glasgow's try six minutes from time when a well-controlled dribble by Burnet and powerful short-range thrusts by McLauchlan and I. V. Douglas took play to the Edinburgh line.

Overall it was an exciting, mobile match, and as two of Edinburgh's tries and Glasgow's one were scored in the last 11 minutes the crowd went away largely cold but contented.

## Great Pitch

Perhaps the most remarkable thing they had seen was the Murrayfield pitch. On the day of the Edinburgh v. North-Midlands match there were large pools on the track, yet the pitch was firm and green; yesterday the pools were frozen solid and rain fell during the match yet the pitch, cleared of snow and thawed by underground heating, remained perfect.

Edinburgh — R. Kemp (Edinburgh Academicals); D. J. Whyte (Edinburgh Wanderers), B. C. Henderson (Edinburgh Wanderers), A. V. Orr (Royal High School F.P.), and J. D. Jardine (Edinburgh Academicals); I. Robertson (Watsonians) and G. C. Connell (Trinity Academicals); W. A. M. Crow (Edinburgh Wanderers), G. Shand (Heriot's F.P.), J. M. Ross (Heriot's F.P.), captain, J. Douglas (Stewart's College F.P.), J. Simpson (Heriot's F.P.), A. C. McNish (Watsonians), R. J. Arneil (Edinburgh Academicals), and H. M. White (Edinburgh Academicals).

Glasgow — J. Henderson (Jordanhill College); W. Dunlop, G. R. Greig (both Glasgow High School F.P.), G. M. Simmers (Glasgow Academicals), and R. A. Speedman (West of Scotland); W. A. Burnet (West of Scotland), captain, and B. A. Lockhart (Glasgow Academicals); I. V. Douglas (Hillhead High School F.P.), J. Douglas, J. McLauchlan, J. Buchanan (all Jordanhill College), P. C. Brown (West of Scotland), R. G. McCallum (Greenock Wanderers), F. H. D. Walker (West of Scotland), and P. Gallacher (Jordanhill College).

Referee—H. B. Laidlaw (Hawick).



I knew from my Murrayfield experience that I was not quite good, or fit, enough for representative rugby ... perhaps selection two or three years earlier and I might have fitted the bill ? So I returned to playing my heart out for Jordanhill and achieving my 1000 points before it was too late. By Christmas I was only 22 points short of my target ... then by the 15<sup>th</sup> January I was only 10 points shy when bad weather intervened for two weeks .... Then another 5 on the the 5<sup>th</sup> of February got me closer ... then two more weeks of cancellations (including the Langholm match that Harry McArthur writes about in the Glasgow Evening Citizen below!



Then, 2 points more came v St Andrews University on the 26<sup>th</sup> February ... 3 more needed!  
 The 5<sup>th</sup> March, 1966 at Balgray v Kelvinside Accies became my day to remember, as, instead of **kicking** the necessary points, I scored a **try to raise my 1000** .... Then I kicked a conversion for 2 more ..... Whoopee! 1002 points from 174 games played ... an average of 5.75  
 The season went on for another 7 games and by that time I had reached 1062 points in 181 games at an average of 5.8.  
 I have three people in particular to thank for my achieving my ambition ... my two captains over the major part of my career, John Roxburgh and Ian Cosgrove who kept faith in my ability even when things weren't going too well ... and Ian McLauchlan who set up so many opportunities for me to kick goals.



John Roxburgh Ian Cosgrove Ian McLauchlan

**Kelvinside Academicals nil,  
Jordanhill College 11 pts**

Had any one not acquainted with the Rugby game watched the Kelvinside Academicals-Jordanhill College match at Balgray they would have been sorely puzzled as to its objective.

For all of 20 minutes there was incessant touch kicking and even when the ball was passed, which was seldom, the end result was the same. Subsequently College, who had considerably the better of the line-outs and set scrums, were

in command and won by a goal, a drop goal and a try to nothing, but it was poor reward for pressure.

Continually, Buchanan and Turner won possession from the throw-in and used the ball intelligently. A gentle and accurate tap back to a colleague, frequently McLauchlan, who had followed the course of the ball, set up explosive situations, but cross field running by the backs nullified the advantage against a defence who tackled soundly and brought down the man in possession.

The first score came when Turner made a high diagonal kick to the left-hand corner. Henderson, judging the fall of the ball perfectly and taking it in his stride, scored a try which brought his total of points for the club to 1000, a notable feat. Roxburgh's place-kick failed.

Kelvinside replied with a brilliant foot rush that carried play to the College line but were unable to press home their advantage.

The main feature of the second half was the steadfastness of Kelvinside's defence. Rarely were they out of their own half of the field.

Strangely enough the man who caused them most anxiety was the college full back, Rawlinson, one player who appreciated the value of straight running. He was bundled into touch a yard from the line when he supported a move by Henderson, and after Roxburgh had put his side further ahead with a drop goal it was Rawlinson who scored the final try, by changing the flow of play and going hard for the line. Henderson kicked a goal.

**Kelvinside Academicals**—B. R. Young; J. I. W. Parker, G. S. Drummond, H. Macdonald, and R. W. M. Boyd; W. R. P. Laing and W. A. Dalziel; R. W. Munn, T. P. Little, M. T. Craig, D. S. Munro, E. B. Weston, I. W. Russell, P. H. Milne, and K. Sommerville.

**Jordanhill College**—J. B. Rawlinson; J. Henderson, C. McLean, R. Money, and R. Yule; J. H. Roxburgh and J. Ellis; J. McLauchlan, J. D. Douglas, D. S. D. McCallum, R. Bold, J. B. Buchanan, I. Cosgrove, D. Turner, and P. Gallacher.

Referee—C. R. G. Reid (Allan Glen's School F.P.).

*Glasgow Herald*

Sat. 7th March, 1966

**WEST**

Glasgow H.S. F.P.	8	Glasgow Acad.	9
Glasgow Univ.	3	Greenockians	11
Allan Glen's F.P.	14	Greenock Wander.	8
Hutchesons' F.P.	11	St Andrew's Univ.	0
Kelvinside Acad.	0	Jordanhill Coll.	11
Ayr	6	Old Grammarians	6
Clarkston	6	Lenzie	18
Marr College F.P.	20	Surling County	4
Old Spicers	21	Warringtonians	0
Kiel Old Boys	36	Whitecraigs	3
Dairy H.S. F.P.	6	Whitcraigs	3
Cumnock	9	Uddington	4
Hyndland F.P.	31	Shawlands F.P.	5
Hamilton Acad.	11	Dalziel's H.S.	0
Queen's Park F.P.	43	Rosyth C.S.	3
Oban Lorne	6	Glasgow Police	6
Lanark	11	Bruntsfield	3
Carron	24	Victoria Dr. F.P.	21
Strathbungo F.P.	0	Whitehill F.P.	21
Irvine R. Acad.	11	St Mungo's Acad.	0
Belhaven Acad.	0	2nd Glasgow	

Old Aloysians	6	2nd Dunfermline	16
2nd Glasgow H.S.		Ardsman Acad.	16
F.P.	22		
H.M.S. Phoebe	11	2nd Old Aloysians	22
St Patrick's F.P.	5	2nd Surling Co.	3
Robin Royce	6	2nd Marr Coll.	
		F.P.	19
Airdrie	0	3rd Jordanhill	
		College	14
Glasgow Univ.		West of Scot.	
Freshers	21	Colts	3
Lanark	11	Bruntsfield	3

**EAST**

Edinburgh Wander.	6	Heriot's F.P.	14
Edinburgh Univ.	8	Edinburgh Acad.	13
Melville Coll. F.P.	19	Jedforest	3
Leith Acad.	22	Strathclyde Univ.	3
Royal (Dick) Vet.	8	Jordanhill S.F.P.	11
Watsonians	17	Royal H.S. F.P.	9
2nd Stewart's Coll.		Hawick Trades	0
F.P.	0		
Edin Dist Union	21	Midlands D. Un.	5
Corseperthine	9	Edinburgh North	3
Keamore	0	Ferranti	5

**BORDERS**

Gala	6	Keiso	3
Madros	24	Boroughmuir F.P.	3
Langholm	16	Hatfield H.S. F.P.	0
2nd Selkirk	14	North Berwick	3
Hawick Linden	24	2nd Langholm	3
Peebles	9	Edinburgh Bord.	3

# WEST WIN GLASGOW KNOCK-OUT SHIELD

*Glasgow Herald - 28th April, 1966*

## Beat Holders in Final

By C. D. STUART

West of Scotland 11 pts, Jordanhill College nil

West of Scotland won the Glasgow and District Rugby Union knock-out tournament for the first time when they beat the holders, Jordanhill College, at Auldhouse last night by a goal, a penalty goal, and a try to nothing in a hectic struggle.

Jordanhill had the advantage of the strong wind in the first half and made good use of it by touch-kicking. West replied in similar fashion, Burnet being particularly effective. After a return kick by Ellis which took College to West's twenty-five Henderson narrowly missed giving his side the lead from a penalty. The ball passed not more than a foot outside the far post.

At this time West were hard pressed, but they fought back bravely and forced College to touch down after a run by Black backed up by his forwards. A long kick then took play to West's twenty-five, but College lost their advantage twice in quick succession through scrummage infringements.

### Opening Score

Taking everything into consideration West have reason to be proud of themselves. Against the storm their forwards controlled their counterparts and their prospects of winning were greatly improved when after 25 minutes Burnet kicked a penalty goal from a wide angle.

College near half-time had a great chance to draw level. They were awarded a penalty in a kickable position, but Henderson's effort dropped well short of the posts.

The West forwards' magnificent form had much to do with their side's gaining the half-time lead. After the interval play followed a

similar pattern to what had gone before.

College did try to open out but made little progress against resolute tackling. Fierce scrummaging was the order of the day, one maul five yards from the College line being particularly violent.

This was the prelude to a further score by West. Bottomley made a brilliant run from 35 yards out, Meiklejohn took his pass in full flight, and sent Burnet over for a try. That was one of the most spectacular moves in the game.

West continued to press and gained another try, through their full back, Murray, who came up to finish a passing movement started by Bottomley. From the touchline Burnet kicked a goal.

College revived. McLean made a brilliant weaving run from his own twenty-five to West's before he was collared. A period of West pressure followed, but there was no more scoring.

Jordanhill College—R. Money; R. Yule, J. B. Rawlinson, C. M. McLean, and J. Henderson; S. R. Paterson and J. Ellis; J. McLauchlan, T. Hall, D. S. D. McCallum, R. Boid, J. Scanlan, P. Gallacher, D. Turner, and J. Douglas.

West of Scotland—H. Murray; R. A. Speedman, D. S. Shedden, J. D. Wallace, and J. Black; W. A. Burnet and T. Bottomley; T. E. R. Young, Q. Dunlop, A. B. Carmichael, A. J. McKeillar, P. C. Brown, T. C. Meiklejohn, Tom Young, and I. Pattison.

Referee—J. A. H. Blake (Kilmarnock).

### Other Results

Clarkston 5 pts. Falkirk Academics 8.