

# The essential men in the middle

We have been fortunate to receive the services of a number of ex-players as referees for the many home games played over the years. However some of these club-men, and Fred Parker, in particular, have also officiated with distinction further afield.

Fred is an exceptionally good referee — His authority and sensitivity are the products of his appreciation of the spirit of rugby, his dedicated study of the laws and constant practice.

When a serious injury, received in the early 60's whilst propping for Glasgow District Union, forced him into early retirement, he decided to channel his passion for Rugby into refereeing and committee work.

His standards have always been high, and he drove himself with singular purpose to become a fit, vigilant and decisive official.

The path to the top is not easy when you are forced to spend many years controlling low status matches. The interruptions or the lack of them so necessary at the highest level, are seldom given qualified approval by the less able.

Fred made steady progress through these difficult days and in retrospect sees this schooling as essential perspective for his current efficiency.

His recognition, as an Englishman living in Scotland, in being graded A1 by the R.F.U. at Twickenham was quite remarkable, but ironically this residential factor may well have cost him his selection to the International Panel.



Teamwork again . . . as Stewart Hamilton gets a hand from 'Muff' Scobie at a line-out.



**Doctor Fred Parker . . . a string of success and achievement of which Stirling County Rugby Football Club are very proud.**

However before stepping down from the pressures of competitive football, he took charge of 'B' International, County Championship, Inter-Service, Inter-District and Division I matches.

The following landmarks in his playing and refereeing career will indicate the extent of his achievements and the honour he has brought to the club:—

**THE PLAYER:** Wing forward — Liverpool University, Bridgewater and Albion, Rochdale; Loose head prop — Stirling County, Glasgow District Union.

**THE REFEREE (1960-80).**

**1960-62** — Referee for local schools in Stirling District.

**1962-67** — Junior Referee with Glasgow District Panel.

**1967-68** — Senior Status: First District Schools match.

**1968-69** — Touch Judge — Scotland v Australia at Murrayfield. Referee — Midlands (U-23) v North (U-23) at Montrose.

**1969-70** — Hawick v Edinburgh Wanderers at Mansfield Park; Royal Navy v Army at Twickenham.

**1971-72** — France 'B' v Wales 'B' at Stade Colombes, Paris; Edinburgh v Anglo-Scots at Meadowbank; Scotland v Wales (Touch Judge) at Cardiff; Scottish Schools v Welsh Schools (Referee).

**1973-74** — Awarded International Grading A+ by S.R.U.; Division I Official for S.R.U.; Scottish XV v Holland at Hughenden.

**1974-75** — Awarded English County Panel Grading A1; Leicestershire v Warwickshire; Gloucestershire v Cornwall; England (U 23) v North of England; England Colts v Wales Youth at Twickenham.

**1977-78** — Retired from S.R.U. League refereeing Division I.

He was proud to represent Stirling County in this way and we are equally proud of his endeavours for the club.

Home players in the 50s and 60s will also remember the fine efforts of Roy Petrie, George Wotherspoon, Barney O'Sullivan, Frank Irvine and John Kennedy whilst more recently first-class assistance has been rendered by Ted Huggan, John Henderson, Ian McMillan, Bruce Jamieson, Noel Perry, Charlie Coll, Ralph McNaught, Sandy Bryce, Ted McRae, Roger Brewster and Chic Allardye.

Sandy of course was honoured as a referee at District and 'B' International level as a representative of the Dunfermline club. His recent contribution to 1st XV coaching at Bridgehaugh in co-operation with Wallace Christie is well known to all who have watched players progress under their authoritative guidance.

## Nobody's friend . . . but

After a match the referee was asked to settle an argument between two players concerning an incident which had resulted in a penalty being awarded. On listening to the first player's version of why they were penalised the referee said "You're right."

"That's not how I saw it." said the second player and gave his account, "You're right," said the referee, "R" . . . chief club critic of referees, overhearing this apparent contradiction, blurted out "But ref., about that penalty they both cannot be right." Unabashed the referee replied, "My good man, you are right too!"

"R" . . . retreated completely non-plussed . . . but then rugby is a funny game at times.

# The art of coarse Wolfhound Rugby

The Wolfhounds XV ventured abroad to the western outskirts of Edinburgh in one of their early sorties last season. Now let it be known that the said Wolfhounds generally comprise players over 30 years of age who play the game "rather nostalgically" as one selector put it.

Indeed attendance at training, if leaked to the wrong ears, is likely to jeopardise future selection to this hoary elite.

However their skipper 'White Fang,' aware of the necessity of making a favourable impression on this first visit to Currie, rejected the majority view that the usual pre-match pint should be taken in a local Shish Mahal, and indeed decided that stricter disciplinary measures than usual should prevail until he tired (which might, or might not be before he got onto the pitch).

So approaching the home club's rustic pavilion at the head of his pack, he accepted directions to their dressing room and passed them on with unusual precision and alacrity.

"First left, second on the right." Then muttering something to himself which sounded like, "Start off as you mean to continue" he strode into the dimly lit interior.

As the smell of linseed, wintergreen, nicotine and sweaty socks eventually infused the players with some enthusiasm for the day's game, or perhaps just to get out of the room, 'White Fang' cleared his throat to present the team talk. His timing was better than usual — Harry was between toilet visits, Charlie had found his jock strap, Bob had nipped back in after stashing his hip flask under a stone near the halfway line and fortuitous window opening minutes earlier was clearing the increasingly impenetrable smoke screen.

Pulling himself up to his full 6' 2" of ageing magnificence he stroked the remnants of his grey mane into obedience with an imperiousness that startled all into silent wonder.

"Today's plan," howled the leader, "is to deceive the opposition and the

referee for as long as possible. To that end, we will for once try to look like the team that we know we are not. For a start, we will leave this room together and trot, not amble, onto the field TOGETHER — UNDERSTOOD."

Knowing that to issue more than one command at a time was tempting providence beyond normal bounds of comprehension he snapped out, "Await further orders on the pitch."

With a flourish of practised ease, he removed his teeth and spectacles, stuffed gumshield into its cavity and signalled the likelihood of imminent departure. No fewer than ten other Wolfhounds removed their everyday lenses and reluctantly prepared to follow their leader.

"Mirst deft, decond on the dight" he mumbled through the impediment to articulation and trotted off in temporary blindness down the exit corridor.

With the thunder of 26 boots and a pair of sannies in his ears, he pulled open the door to exhibit his cohorts in all their martial splendour and charged into a ball cupboard with half his followers in hot pursuit.

The subsequent mass of heaving bodies in various states of helpless laughter was not a pretty sight, but master of the situation as ever, the corpulent skipper managed to gasp, "I had you all fooled that time."



Cheers! The Wolfhounds are suitably happy as they pose for this picture on a 'famous' trip to the Isle of Mull.

# Fixture fluctuations in the 70s

Since the National Championships started in the '73-74 season the 1st XV fixture list has endured many changes. Promotion, and relegation, not only affects league opposition, but also interferes with the playing of traditional friendlies.

Moves towards playing clubs once only per season in pre-arranged fixtures, committee decisions about quality of opposition needed to sharpen the readiness for competitive fixtures, and status changes of many clubs, all influence fixture secretaries' programming.

The last few weeks of the league programme are crucial times for clubs on the move and the various secretaries' 'phones become 'red hot' as they set up possible combinations for the following season.

The only fixtures to survive the 1974-80 shifts in the County's 1st XV list were Panmure, Garnock, East Kilbride, Kirkcaldy, Hamilton, Cartha/Q.P. and Perthshire.

However the variety of opposition seems to have been a good diet for the club and not only at the 1st XV level. The consequent opportunities to engage new opposition at lower XV levels were seized and the compilation of the club's lists for seven XV's was thus made easier.

Comparison between clubs played in 1974-75 and '79-80 makes this point clearly: 1974-75 Contacts with 59 clubs; 1979-80 Contacts with 67 clubs; Contact lost with 24 clubs since 1974-75; Contacts maintained with 35 clubs since 1974-75; New contacts number 32. The full list is below.

## 1974-75

Aberdeen Wanderers/Accies  
Alloa  
Aberdeenshire  
Ardrossan Accies

Broughton  
Bellahouston

Cumbernauld  
Corstorphine  
Cambuslang  
Craigielea  
Cumnock  
Clydebank  
Cartha/Q.P.

Dundee University  
Dalziel H.S.F.P.  
Drumpellier

East Kilbride

Falkirk  
Garnock  
Grangemouth  
Glasgow Accies  
Greenock Wanderers

Hyndland F.P.  
Hamilton Accies  
Howe of Fife  
Helensburgh  
Hillfoots

## 1979-80

Aberdeen University  
Allan Glen's  
Aberdeen G.S.F.P.  
Ardrossan Accies  
Ayr  
Alloa

Broughton  
Bellahouston  
Boroughmuir

Clarkston  
Cartha/Q.P.  
Corstorphine  
Clydebank  
Carnoustie  
Crieff

Dunfermline  
Dundee H.S.F.P.  
Dalziel H.S.F.P.

Dumfries  
Dalkeith  
Drumpellier

Edinburgh University  
East Kilbride

Falkirk  
Garnock  
Grangemouth  
Glenrothes  
Greenock Wanderers  
Gala  
Glasgow High  
Glasgow Accies  
Glasgow University

Hutchesons'  
Hillhead  
Hamilton Accies  
Harris Ac. F.P.  
Howe of Fife  
Hillfoots



The crunch . . . as Matt Stevenson closes for a vital tackle in the 1979 match against Edinburgh University.

## 1974-75

Jordanhill  
Kirkcaldy  
Kilmarnock  
Kelvinside

Lanark  
Lenzie  
Lasswade  
Linlithgow

Morgan Academy F.P.  
Marr

Old Aloysian  
Oban Lorne

Paisley Grammarians  
Panmure  
Preston Lodge  
Penicuik  
Peebles  
Perthshire

R.D.V.C.  
Renfrew & Bute Police

Stirling University  
St. Andrews University  
Strathclyde University  
Strathbungo  
St. Mungo F.P.  
St. Augustine F.P.  
Stobswell  
Stewarts/Melville  
Uddingston  
West of Scotland  
Whitehill F.P.

## 1979-80

Jordanhill  
Kirkcaldy  
Kelvinside  
Kilmarnock  
Lampeter Town  
Linlithgow  
Leith Accies

Marr  
Musselburgh  
Murrayfield  
Mid Argyll  
Morgan Ac. F.P.  
Montrose

North Berwick

Old Aloysian  
Oban Lorne  
Perthshire  
Portobello  
Panmure  
Preston Lodge  
Paisley Grammarians

Redcar  
Royal High  
Stirling University  
Stewarts/Melville

Waysiders  
Waid Ac. F.P.  
West of Scotland  
Whitehill F.P.

# The hopeful squad of '74 . . .



Back Row: M. Halliday, R. Gilchrist, A. Wallace, I. Knox, T. Cullen, J. Paterson, A. Cunningham, D. Kennedy, H. Maskill.

Middle Row: K. Crichton, D. Neilson, D. Tulloch, H. Logan, J. Kennedy, I. Mackay, P. Stevenson, R. Allbrooke, A. Munn, D. Ogilvie, D. Cannon, N. McKinnon, J. Muirhead, C. Bevan.

Front Row: J. Ward, N. Bott, A. McCulloch, C. Bennet, Mr. D. M. Kennedy (President), J. Brown, J. McAndrew, R. Brewster.

# . . . the runners up of 1977/78



Back Row: M. Stevenson, G. Wilcock, B. Parry, G. Scott, J. Hope.

Second Row: E. Pollock, K. I. Crichton, E. Welsh, A. Cameron, M. Ridely, J. Hanson, J. Henderson, A. Redpath, J. Mitchell, J. W. Christie, J. Martin, W. D. N. Miller, D. Neilson.

Front Row: J. Scobbie, J. Ward, C. Rasey, W. McLaren, A. Munn, N. Mackinlay, I. Mackay, I. MacDonald, F. Morrison.



- D.A.** is a photographer who plays rugby.  
**J.B.** would like to rename the game "Rugby switch ball."  
**D.C.** plays all his away games at Bridgehaugh.  
**C.C.** once turned up on time.  
**Ch. C.** seriously he could be an Irish joke.  
**H.F.** is Barry McGann's godson.  
**J.H.** would be a good player if he had his brother's side step.  
**A.H,J,K.L.** they may not know the meaning of being extro-vert but . . .  
**W.McL. & N. McK** are Siamese twins separated at Berwick but reunited at Stirling.  
**D.M.** was a practical joke.  
**C.R.** dinner after speaker eloquent is he.  
**E.H.B.R.** will make a comeback.  
**W.S.** has more scars from rugby than a careless lion-tamer.  
**J."M" S.** owes his wit to fish suppers.  
**M.St.** is not a hypochondriac or is he?  
**D.T.** broke his ankle to get onto the selection committee.  
**J.W.** did not just take the laws into his own hands — he throttled them.  
**M.W.** felt the knock on adjustment law was specially introduced to end his years of frustration.  
**E.W.** has a head for any situation including lounge walls.

**SUPERB TIMING** . . . John Logan was selected for the 1st XV to play Paisley Grammarians in an evening match a few years ago. Having an appointment out of town that afternoon and no 'wheels' he arranged to get to the ground direct and on foot.

He arrived at Penilee a good half hour before kick off only to find the place deserted save for the old groundsman. "They're no playin' here laddie" said he. "ye'll hiv tae git awa doon tae Crookston."

Pointing out the general direction, the old boy said, "It's about 3 miles, but if ye rin ye'll jist about dae it in time." Having rehearsed for this moment with previous car abandonments due to stagnated traffic on the Alloa and Causewayhead Roads, John picked up his bag with an unconcerned shrug and went off at the trot . . . but it was a long way in unfamiliar territory.

Eventually after several attempts to communicate with local 'sherpas,' only one of whom succeeded in overcoming the language barrier caused by John's growing oxygen debt and Blairmains' dialect, our by now overwrought hero sprinted triumphantly through the gates into the ground.

With superb timing and blissful unawareness, the coach's impatient voice drowned John's expletive blessings of the match secretary's doubtful knowledge of the geography of Paisley — "Come on, John, You're just in time for the warm up"!!

**EDUCATION** was when Hamish Fulton was told of delightful Irish customs like Brandy Breakfasts, Liqueured Lunches, and Drambuie Dinners that would get him into the Guinness Book of Records . . . and he tried to.

**ANGLOCLISM** is the good fortune of the Club to have had five willing Englishmen as captains in the 70s.



**Wolfhounds D. Tulloch and K. Carter get down to some serious training!**