



Scotland Rugby League



U23 Commonwealth 9s

In February 2018, a squad of 14 players and 5 staff travelled to Moreton Bay in Australia to participate in the U23 Commonwealth Championships.

The U23's had a tough opening to their Commonwealth Championships at a rain hit Dolphins Stadium in Redcliffe.

Scotland opened up with a narrow loss to Fiji, with the scores tied at 10-10 with the full time hooter sounding Fiji slipped through the Scotland defence to dot down and take the win 14-10.

Next up was Australia in game 2, the conditions played a factor in the first half and the score was Australia 8-0 Scotland, in the second half Australia's experience showed and ran out 36-0 winners.

The final group game started with a bang with Niall Sidney sliding in at the corner, Matt Hogg scored shortly after and converted to give a 10-0 half time score. Following a scuffle on the stroke of half time which saw Wales reduced to 8 players and Davey Dixon sitting out the first 3 minutes of the second half in the Sin Bin. The second half saw

Scotland find form and ran out 24-0 winners over Wales.

Scotland opened up day 2 with a Shield Semi-Final against Papua New Guinea.

Day 2 started off with a nervous match against Papua New Guinea, Scotland trailed 4-6 at half time, the second half Scotland came out all guns blazing to win 16-14 and book a place in the Shield Final against the winner of the England v Wales semi-final.

In the second semi-final Wales edged out England 10-8 to set-up a rematch of game 3 on Day 1. Wales started the



stronger and opened up the scoring with some well worked play where Liam Silver set up Paul Edwards who ran under the sticks and converted himself.

Scotland hit back straight away when Matt Hogg broke through to ground but failed to convert. Direct from the kick-off again, Wales scored their second when Karlin Claridge dived over to make it 10-4 at half-time.



A Davey Dixon try converted by Hogg with three minutes to go, levelled the scores at 10-10, and a mistake at the play-the-ball gave the Bravehearts the opportunity to score the winner, one that they didn't waste, Luke Westman grounding just before the hooter with Hogg converting to secure a 16-10 victory and the Shield.

Following the end of the Championships Luke Westman was named in the world 9s Team after impressing in all 5 games for the Bravehearts.



Preparations for the 2018 Students 4 Nations

After a very successful trip to Sydney last summer for the Student World Cup, the 2018 student programme has now started.



The students are again led by Head Coach Nathan Graham, supported by Assistant Coach Gary Smith. The 2018 Student 4 Nations is in Pontypridd, South Wales from Monday 16th July to Monday 23rd July, with games taking place on Tuesday 17th July, Thursday 19th July and Sunday 22nd July against England, Ireland and Wales (with the order of games still to be confirmed).

The 2018 programme started on Saturday 31st March with a trial session at Peffermill Playing Fields in Edinburgh. A number of members of the Student World Cup squad were in attendance together with a good group of other players, some of whom have already played Under 19's and/or Student rugby league for Scotland, whilst others were putting their hand up for the

first time. The standard was very encouraging.

The squad will have 2 more training sessions and 2 warm up matches before meeting up in South Wales in July"

Under 19s

Coming off the back of a successful 2017 season which saw the under 19s side win 3 of our 4 games, the U19s got straight back into training in preparation for the European Championships taking place in August in Serbia with nine countries competing (England, France, Ireland, Italy, Russia, Scotland, Serbia, Ukraine and Wales).



Anthony Atherton has stepped aside from his role as head coach of the U19s to continue with his role with Wigan Warriors U16s and recently being included in the England set up. In his place, Scotland RL have appointed Danny Addy – current Scotland international and Super League player for Hull Kingston Rovers for the remainder of the season while he recovers from a knee injury.

We've had a number of new players in the U19s this year with our player pool increasing to about 50 from our development days with a significant amount moving up from the U16s Development pathway.

Scotland U16 Development

2018, got off to a great start for the U16 Development programme. The first session of the year took place on Sunday 7th January. This session welcomed some new players on to the programme from across the country. The players were able to develop previously learned skills as well as learn new techniques. Mike Wallace, Head Coach, took the players through various skill-based sessions in the morning and then provided game like situations and small sided games in the afternoon to allow players the ability to put into practise the skills and techniques worked on throughout the day.

The following session was due to take place on Sunday 18th February at Strathmore Rugby Club, Forfar. Unfortunately, the weather resulted in



the pitch being unplayable moving the session to Sunday 4th March.



Once again Mother Nature was not on our side and covered the area in Snow. This meaning coaches and players alike were snowed in. To ensure player, coach

and parent safety this session was also postponed.

A new date of Sunday 15th April was confirmed and we welcomed 17 players along on the day. We also welcomed along Conall, a newly qualified level 1 coach, and Matt 'Jim' Bowen, new SRL volunteer and head of women's Navy rugby league, to the session. Along with Dave Vernon, the three coaches split the lads into different groups and rotated around three drills, including handling, tackling and effective PTB. Following lunch, the players were taken through specific plays and game plan for the upcoming fixture. Followed by running this against an active defense.



The following weekend, 21st April, Scotland U16 Development were drawn to play Yarm Wolves away from home in the first round of the North East cup. This was the first game some of our players have played as a competitive game of Rugby League.

A squad of 14 players travelled to Yarm and played in a hard fought match, with Yarm coming out on top with a score of 52-30. Every player gave 110% effort and done themselves, parents and SRL proud.

The game started well with our organisation and our core skills of running hard and tackling hard. We got caught out a couple of times with lazy defenders which was exploited by a good rugby league savvy team. The defence was ran a little ragged, depending on a scramble defence and assisted by some colossal hits in the

midfield by Mason. We got also exposed by kick offs where Yarm were able to bounce it into touch. I think this was not known to most of our players. The team was very competitive bearing in mind we had one rolling replacement the ground was hard and it was hot.

There were some enthusiastic ball carries by our players running hard against the opposition, Yarm frustrated us by actually staying on top of the tackle until instructed to move, we were more eager to get off the tackle too soon. This enabled them to play the ball quicker and keep our defensive line in the red zone. The reverse for us until the second half we were mostly running at a set defensive formation. That was alleviated in the second half with the hooker running from the ruck created opportunities. we only had a few scrums throughout the game and unfortunately we passed back too deep and the backs, ran from very deep style. Even though there was some union habits creeping into the style of play, there is definitely great potential in the squad.

Alan Cameron (Players Parent & Coach for the day) said 'This was a very good game to see the boys playing together, this was the first time some had played rugby league and the first time together as a team. They show some excellent potential I was speaking to the RL debutants who said they really enjoyed the game and it was the hardest workout they have had that season. I really enjoyed watching the game, I hope the other parents did as well.



Scotland U16 Development vs Yarm

- 1 Cameron Young (c)
- 3 Finlay McCartney
- 4 Fraser Whyte
- 5 James Hogg
- 6 Ross Forrest
- 7 Euan Duguid
- 8 Mason Cullen
- 9 Spike Birkett
- 10 Nathan Kosbab
- 11 Euan McLean
- 12 Alistair McCallum
- 13 Callum Garrow
- 14 Jamie Young
- 15 Aaron McCall

**Player of the Match (chosen
by coaches)**

Mason Cullen



Primary School Delivery Programme

Scotland Rugby League are pleased to be working along side Glasgow City Council and their Active Schools team to provide primary school pupils the opportunity to experience the game of Rugby League. A 4 week block of delivery was planned for the All Saints Secondary School cluster primaries. The delivery seen over 120 pupils taking part in a 4 week block of delivery on a time suited best for the school. Peter Lewis, led these sessions and provided all pupils the opportunity to learn the skills and techniques to play a game of touch rugby league.



Following the delivery all pupils came together at the local high school, All Saints, to have a fun morning playing many games of touch rugby league at the end of block festival. Pupils were split into teams and played a number of games throughout the morning.

To ensure the festival ran smoothly, 7 Sport Leaders from All Saints High School volunteered their time to be game coaches. Prior to the festival the sport leaders had two sessions with the Scotland Rugby League development officer, where they learned how to play the game of touch rugby league and how to successfully game coach. Throughout these sessions, the sport leaders learned how to use their voice and whistle to control certain situations. They also gained the knowledge of how to create a fun environment for players who would be playing on the pitch they were controlling. Each leader done themselves and their school proud through out the festival. Without the leaders the festival would not



have been as a great success as it was, massive thank you to each sport leader for their time

and great effort throughout the day.

We look forward to the next block of primary school delivery in Glasgow and Aberdeen after the Easter Break, as well as the Secondary School Delivery in Craigoyston High School and Montrose Academy



UKCC Level 1

During March and April, two UKCC Level 1 Coaching courses took place, Edinburgh and Aberdeen. These courses have resulted in 21 newly qualified coaches here in Scotland.

Working alongside Robert Gordon University, all 11 individuals who completed the course in Aberdeen will go on to run a primary school delivery programme, finishing the block with a large multisport festival. Which will see over 1000 children take part in various sports including rugby league.

Individuals who completed the course in Edinburgh will go on to use their qualification for various activities. Three of these individuals have been contracted by Scotland Rugby league to run various school programmes throughout the summer term.

We wish all newly qualified coaches all the best and we look forward to seeing them grow as coaches.



Ladbrokes Challenge Cup

After being crowned the 2017 Caledonian Brewing Co. National League champions, Strathmore Silverbacks found themselves in their first ever Challenge Cup Tournament drawn away from home against Millom.



It was an early start for the Silverbacks on Saturday 27th January as they travelled over 4 hours for the fixture. A strong start seen the squad leading at half time. However, the experienced Millom side used the ever increasing wind to their advantage which provided a major difference in the second half. Leading to a 30-18 defeat. It was a great shift from each team. Congratulations to Millom who went on to the 3rd round of the Challenge Cup.

Squad List

Ali Olivier (Sponsored by CBH Building Services), Conall Reid McDonagh, Thomas Murray, James Kiely*, Jack Wilson*, Lewis Clarke, Dave Smith*, Colin Jarvis, David Vernon, Glenn Feighan* (C), Ian Reid*, Niall Hall, Lee Alexander*, Scott Strachan*, Calum Nicol*, Craig Lawson, Scott McNeil.

*Product of Strathmore Sharks/Angus County Colts

Match-day Manager: Mark Feighan

Team Sponsor: Loyal Engineering



Open Age Rugby League

There will be two fully formed open age rugby league teams in Scotland for the 2018 Season and will compete for the 2018 National League Title. The two squads will play both home and away to decide the title and will come down to points difference if there is a draw following the completion of the two fixtures.

To ensure both squads have more game time throughout the season, we have linked up with the North East Rugby League and have included both teams in the North East Cup as well as Edinburgh Eagles entering the Merit League.

Fixtures/Results:

Saturday 5th May

Edinburgh Eagles 42-34 Strathmore Silverbacks

Saturday 19th May

Cramlington Rockets 54-10 Edinburgh Eagles

Strathmore Silverbacks 80-26 Bon Accord Bulls (development game)

Saturday 26th May – 1st Round of North East Cup

Gateshead Storm 22-24 Edinburgh Eagles

Saturday 9th June – NE Cup Quarter Final

Edinburgh Eagles 40-16 Jarrow Vikings

Bon Accord Bulls 28-62 Strathmore Silverbacks (development game)

Saturday 16th June

Strathmore Silverbacks vs Edinburgh Eagles

Saturday 23rd June – NE Cup Semi-Final

Edinburgh Eagles vs Catterick Crusaders



RUGBY LEAGUE





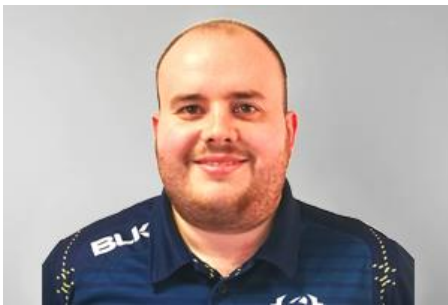
Equality Foundation Level

We are very pleased to announce that Scotland Rugby League has achieved the Foundation Level for the Equality Standard in Sport and we are well on the way to achieving the next level.

Many thanks to Hilary Smith Milne who has put an enormous amount of work into the audit process.

This award is a reflection of the values that underpin everything that we do in Scotland Rugby League. Great news

Volunteer of the Issue



Volunteers are key to help the promotion and growth of the sport, rugby league within Scotland. We are very privileged to have a great network of volunteers who perform various roles, from coaching international squads to background organizational work.

This issue we would like to highlight one of our volunteers who does an incredible amount of work for Scotland Rugby League, Alex Chandler.

Alex, have been a fan of rugby league since he can remember following his local team and playing at a junior level. He took the decision to stop playing at the age of 15 to concentrate on his studies and playing music, though keeping in touch with the sport as an enthusiastic spectator.

He moved to Glasgow in 2009 to study at the university and started following rugby league here, attending Easterhouse Panthers games and the SRL finals weekends in Falkirk, Edinburgh and Glasgow. Nationally Alex followed the Scotland team to nearly all the games including games held in Galashields, all the Scotland RLWC2013 games in England and the 4Nations.

It was always in the back of his mind to get more involved in the game in some way, though playing was not on the cards. Alex got in touch with Ollie Cruickshank at one of the Scotland games he attended and after meeting with most of the staff involved he was appointed as the manager of the U19s as a volunteer. Being a volunteer has also given him the opportunity to develop his own skills, Alex gained a coaching qualification and the role has given him valuable transferable skills in sports management. Alex fits in the role along with a full time job for the NHS, but it's something he said he has not looked back on and has enjoyed my time thus far.



Volunteer Roles

Coach

Responsible for the delivery of coaching sessions as part of an organized curricular and extracurricular schools programme, wheelchair or at open age club level. Promote the sport of rugby league and the Scotland Rugby League values.

The main responsibilities include, planning and delivering high quality coaching sessions to various groups of individuals ranging from Primary pupils to open age senior teams, develop the skills of players and promote the game of rugby league to attract and recruit new players.

Strong communication and organizational skills are essential. Previous game experience would be beneficial, however training can be provided.



Match Official

Match officials are essential to the game of rugby league and anyone can take up the whistle. A match official ensures the game is played by the laws in a safe and competitive manner.

To become a match official, you must be 16 years or older, complete a free online 'Laws of the Game' training module and attend a course.



Interested in Volunteering?

- Coaching
- Match Official
- Organizational work

Contact Carrie-ann Downs (Development Officer):

Carriann.downs@scotlandrfl.com

07796954473