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SCOTTISH RUGBY

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To be able to present this year's Annual Report in a post-Covid context is reason for cheer for everyone associated with rugby in Scotland. We have welcomed crowds back to our stadia, seen a resumption of the club and youth game in time to prepare for a full season ahead, all the while orchestrating positive change throughout numerous structural operations.

Having navigated its way through spectator-less international fixtures, how special it was for the Scottish rugby community to be able to attend Guinness Six Nations fixtures, TikTok Women's Six Nations games and all else besides during the 2021/22 season.

Our national Men's team packed out BT Murrayfield on no fewer than five occasions, the highlight of which was surely winning back-to-back Calcutta Cups for the first time since 1984, against a backdrop of more than 67,000 passionate rugby supporters.

We also enjoyed record attendances at DAM Health Stadium during the Women's TikTok Six Nations, with a stand-alone title sponsor displaying the growing interest in an area of rugby that we are proud to be leading the charge with.



But it is in club land where my final year as President gives most joy, as swathes returned to their local communities to welcome back the sport we love.

Whether it be in a playing capacity, coaching, or simply putting in selfless time around their local communities, thousands of people have contributed ensuring the outlook is as positive and exciting as ever before. I have enjoyed meeting with many of you either at Club matches or speaking at your dinners which was a pleasure and a privilege.



lan Barr President, Scottish Rugby

We have seen the great work brought about by the Everyone's Game campaign, launched last July, in a bid to get people of all ages into rugby either on the pitch, from the sidelines or behind the scenes. The Everyone's Game drive allows clubs access to educational tools, ideas and of course the successful Tartan Touch hubs throughout the country. We want a rugby society that is welcoming and inclusive for the myriad communities across Scotland, showcasing the very best of what rugby has to offer both as a pastime and a way to bring people together.

These are the values that drive rugby and in the same manner, those values have helped shape our Wellbeing, Women and Winning strategy, which serves as the next stage in Scottish Rugby's fourpoint post-Covid structure of Review, Reset, Recover and Rebuild.

We have seen the hard work that has gone into the first three of those pillars and now is the time to focus on the Rebuild section, which really got underway when the Club game restarted in September of last year.

We will see a £6.5million investment in the community game over the course of five years announced last April, the focus of which was to deliver funding streams to the community game, promote the importance of mental wellbeing through rugby and develop improved pathways for women to participate and excel in the sport – which has of course expanded upon the launch of our Women and Girls' Strategy.

That the Scottish Rugby Council were keen to endorse this strategy highlights not only the importance of the next few years, it also serves as a pledge to reach out to entire communities to say that rugby is very much open for all.

And the work doesn't stop there. In June of this year, we held a Special General Meeting where a motion to transform the Union's governance structure was passed by the 118 representatives in attendance. Brought about as a result of the work of the Scottish Rugby Council's Standing Committee on Governance (SCOG), the changes are aimed at creating a framework where Scottish Rugby works as one across all facets of the game.

In short, the proposal includes terms to create a new company limited by guarantee (CLG), whose Board would consist of eight 'Custodian Directors'. It will have an independent non-executive Chair and include Scottish Rugby's President, Vice-President and immediate Past President alongside two individuals who will be elected by our member clubs, and two independent non-executive directors selected through a recruitment process overseen initially by the Council and then by the CLG.

Furthermore, the SGM in June also sought to see a new Club Rugby Board (CRB) established, to replace the current Scottish Rugby Council, tasked with overseeing and growing the domestic game alongside the Rugby Development department.

These exciting new plans will be further progressed later this year. I would like to thank Gavin MacColl QC and Professor Lorne Crerar for their excellent input into SCOG.

SCOG has been a complex but vital piece of work, on which more is detailed here:



I would like to thank everyone associated with Scottish Rugby and the entire community for their efforts in my time as President, for helping get us through the pandemic and providing genuine cause for optimism in the years to come. I hope over the coming years we can continue to increase state school Rugby at all levels.



I wish my successor, Colin Rigby, every success in his term as President; it is a role I have thoroughly enjoyed and it has been a privilege to have served you all.





Season 2021-22 was momentous for Scottish Rugby.

After more than 18 months of very necessary public health restrictions which sapped collective morale and wilted spirits of many in our community – young and old – there was a genuine joy that we were able to return to make our contribution to the game we love.

Players, referees, coaches, administrators, spectators – most of all spectators – could once again share in the communality of our game; and we were all the better for it.

That's not for a minute to suggest the past year was a stroll in the park. Challenges, whether economic or societal, can be found seemingly around every corner.

But one of the biggest fears associated with the pandemic – namely that we would haemorrhage playing numbers across the board has proved unfounded.

Financially, as you will read in this Annual Report, our turnover is in the region of £58million and we are making good progress to return to our pre-Covid levels of business.



Happily, one of the growth areas of the game, women and girls' rugby, has seen an increase of more than 2,000 players since the start of the decade.

We had already emphasised the importance we place on this sector of the game within our overarching strategy that we launched in June 2021.

A year on, our dedicated Women and Girls' strategy 2022-26 sets out how we will grow participation and representation in women's rugby on and off the pitch and increase the visibility of women's rugby nationwide.



John Jeffrey Chairman, Scottish Rugby

You can read more about the strategy – including an additional investment in the 2022-23 season of up to £2.5million and our commitment to a minimum of 30 contracted women's players after this Autumn's Rugby World Cup in New Zealand – elsewhere in this Annual Report.

After 12 years' absence Scotland Women will take part in that global setpiece and we are determined to use that platform as the catalyst to welcome more women and girls to the game in whatever role they choose. I know all our member clubs will welcome such an influx.

The qualification programme for Rugby World Cup – subject to the vicissitudes of coronavirus – tested the players' and management's resilience and flexibility to the nth degree.

But from a dramatic last-gasp Chloe Rollie try and a nerveless Sarah Law winning conversion to sustain qualification ambitions last autumn – thus ending Ireland's chances – to a clinical 59-3 eclipse of Colombia that booked a pool place alongside hosts New Zealand, Australia and Wales in the pool stages, it was an achievement that head coach Bryan Easson and all involved in the squad can rightly reflect on with pride.

There followed a disappointing Women's Six Nations Championship – under the title sponsorship of the video sharing app TikTok, indicative of the desire to engage with young people through their most popular communication channels – but preparations for Rugby World Cup in October and November are already well underway.

The warm-up matches against the USA and Spain – to be staged at Edinburgh Rugby's DAM Health Stadium in August and September respectively – and specific funding from the Scottish Government to support the RWC campaign (for which I express our grateful and continuing thanks) should see our team set out for New Zealand in good heart.

This past season was very much the beginning of the "rebuild" phase of our four-point plan to navigate Covid and its after-effects.

But it was a new-build in the shape of the 7,774 capacity DAM Health Stadium – the new home of Edinburgh Rugby – that quickly established a reputation as both a players' and fans' favourite, underlined when it was sold out for the first time at the URC game v Ulster in May.

That feeling of "home" was one of the factors – alongside the influence of promoted head coach Mike Blair – that characterised a positive season for Edinburgh Rugby.

By contrast, change is afoot at Glasgow Warriors and the process of appointing a new head coach has been swift, with Franco Smith given time before the new season in order to give what is an extremely talented bunch of players the best chance of success in 2022/23.

For the men's national team, the highlights included the Calcutta Cup victory at BT Murrayfield – our first back-to-back wins against the Auld Enemy since 1984; and lifting the newly hanselled Cuttitta Cup courtesy of our success in Rome against Italy.

There were, however, frustrating defeats, particularly against Wales in Cardiff and Ireland in Dublin, while we could take some solace in the superlative introduction to international rugby of back-row forward Rory Darge, who shone even in the loss to ultimate champions France, who seem to have rediscovered their joie de vivre.

During the Autumn Nations Series, head coach Gregor Townsend led Scotland to a third successive win over Australia, while we also emerged with victories against Japan and Tonga.

The support we were to give the Kingdom of Tonga later in the season, after its islands had been ravaged by an undersea earthquake, was rugby at its best.

Our Men's and Women's sevens teams resumed competitive action in the past season and both sides did well to finish sixth at the recent Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, representing a joint-best finish at a Games for Scotland.

Congratulations to Watsonians, sprint series winners; Ayrshire Bulls who won the first fully completed FOSROC Super6 and Marr and Watsonians who won the Men's and Women's Premiership, respectively. Well done to all clubs who won titles and were promoted.

Also, a special mention to Garioch women, who won the National League just ten years after coming into existence and will play in the Premiership next season.

Sadly, we lost some of the game's most distinguished servants in the past season. The deaths of Sandy Carmichael, Tom Smith and Siobhan Cattigan hurt us all and how we cherish the rugby memories they created. My sincere sympathies to all families and friends in the rugby community who mourned the passing of loved ones.

Lastly, I want to thank all those volunteers – and Scottish Rugby's employees – for all they have done in the past year.

I express particular gratitude to the Standing Committee on Governance – led by new chair Professor Lorne Crerar – for all their endeavours, which will be presented to member clubs for their approval over the next few weeks.

We also extended the contract of our Chief Executive, Mark Dodson as we continue our path out of Covid and into the next few exciting stages of our overall strategies.

Sincere thanks, too, to those who have served on the Scottish Rugby Council during the year and whose tenure on Council is ending: President Ian Barr, Gordon Thomson, Eric Hugh, Bobby Frazer, Willie Gardner, Kenneth Knott, Rosy Hume, Malcolm Offord and Jonathan Anderson. Their rugby journey will continue in different climes next season.



Season 2022-23 will be upon us in the blink of an eye and my fervent wish for all of you, in whatever capacity, is that you enjoy it.

LEADERSHIP · ENGAGEMENT · ACHIEVEMENT · ENJOYMENT · RESPECT



The one constant in life, work and in our sport of rugby is that there will be challenges.

It's how we respond to them that defines us. Being "misty-eyed" and yearning for how things "used to be" is an understandable human reaction, but it rarely bears fruit when we seek to pilot our sport through turbulent times and take our passionate stakeholders with us.

The past season has again tested our collective resolve and I want to thank everyone who has helped to take the game forward, whether employees, volunteers or club members.

You know in your own communities through countless examples that rugby is a force for good and that comes over loud and clear when you read this annual report.

National Teams

On the field there were highs: the victories over Australia and England where we achieved back-to-back Calcutta Cup wins for the first time in 38 years.



We were able to welcome back full houses safely to BT Murrayfield.

The lows included frustrating defeats to Wales and Ireland, and in the first and third Tests against Argentina, underlining that consistency must become embedded into our DNA rather than being seen as some elusive desire. We need to deliver consistent performances and learn to win in clusters.

That does not just apply to the men's national team. Peaking for a specific competition or period such as the Rugby World Cup might be ok on paper, but when you listen to those involved in the sharp end of professional sport, the players and coaches themselves, and you hear the views of our supporters, there can be no doubt that the unswerving imperative has to be to win. The expectation is clear for all to see. Potential is no longer enough to satisfy our supporters and sponsors.



Mark Dodson Chief Executive, Scottish Rugby

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The qualification of the Scotland Women's team for the delayed Rugby World Cup – which will take place in New Zealand in October and November – was a tremendous backsto-the-wall accomplishment.

It also presents us with a golden opportunity.

The past season has seen more women and girls join our domestic clubs. We have placed considerable detail in our women and girls' strategy as to how we will increase participation and a successful Rugby World Cup campaign can be a further catalyst to welcome more women and girls to rugby in Scotland.

For our international players, we will move the game to a semiprofessional status after the Rugby World Cup but do so in a sustainable way that reflects our rugby environment.

Work is ongoing to ensure that we have the right infrastructure and competitions in place to make that viable for the players now and into the future.

ESG - Environmental, Social and Governance - is a fundamental part of our strategy and flows through many of the reports you will find elsewhere in this year's Annual Report. Earlier this year the Board agreed to adopt the United Nations Sport for Climate Change Action plan and, in turn, align with that of World Rugby. Our Safeguarding, Wellbeing, Diversity & Inclusion Committee has

been renamed the ESG Committee and its remit will be reframed to cover this vital area. You will hear more from us in future reports on how we are addressing ESG issues affecting the organisation and the sport in Scotland.

Domestic Game

The heartbeat of rugby - the grassroots game - continues to show its strength as clubs completed a first 'full' season and league programme post pandemic – that was some achievement and congratulations to everyone who worked so hard to make it happen.

We have seen growth in our player numbers with 5,000 more people registered on SCRUMS than in 2020/21, alongside an increase in coaches and match officials.

2020/21	Youth	Adult	Total
Female	2,550	2,254	4,804
Male	20,485	14,328	34,813
Total	23,035	16,585	39,617
2021/22	Youth	Adult	Total
2021/22 Female	Youth 3,413	Adult 2,668	Total 6,081

There has been extensive work done across the country to develop and grow the game in the past 12 months and I would encourage you to read the accounts of progress across our regions from page 26. I was also delighted that we could acknowledge many of those people who do the unseen and invaluable work of making club rugby happen through the Community Recognition Awards, and I would encourage you to read more about all 36 winners on page 25. Well done, and thank you, to each of them.

Our second installation of Scottish Rugby Schools Week saw more than 30,000 pupils engage with our sport in March, and I look forward to seeing work in this area grow as Rugby Development develop their State School Strategy.

The domestic season concluded with the return of Silver Saturday to BT Murrayfield, and it was appropriate that it focused firmly on the women's game.

Age Grades

It has been a tough season for our Men's under-20 squad. Historically, Scotland men's U20 or even further back U21 teams have invariably struggled against their peers from other Tier 1 nations.

Under the guidance of Jim Mallinder, John Fletcher and Kenny Murray, we need our younger players to have great development experiences early in their playing career, supporting them with all the relevant opportunities to develop their skills to be ready for the international stage.

As a priority, our age-grade programme needs to upweight tough competition where our young players develop their game IQ and physical resilience. The FOSROC Super6 will have a pivotal role to play in that regard.

Edinburgh Rugby and Glasgow Warriors

Our pro-clubs saw the arrival of four of the best South African franchises which raised the bar in the new United Rugby Championship competition and two of them reached the grand final; the determination is to continue to improve Edinburgh and Glasgow and compete for silverware. I wish both pro-clubs well for the 2022-23 season.

Rugby is about people and that applies equally to our business.

In the past year we have said farewell to, most notably, Danny Wilson, Richard Cockerill, Calum MacRae, Sean Lineen, Andrew Healy, Nathan Bombrys and Sheila Begbie.

We have welcomed to Scottish Rugby, or to new roles, the likes of Mike Blair, Gareth Baber, Michael Todd, John Fletcher, Kenny Murray, Grant McKelvey, Julian Momen, Hilary Spence, Gav Scott, and AB Zondagh.

Post pandemic, the overall employment market has been testing and to retain and recruit Scottish Rugby's employees calls for agility and flexibility.

Rugby people remain the best and proudest advocates for the game.

I have said before that our sponsors and partners were amazing during Covid and as we come out the other side, their support remains vital and very much appreciated.

The cost-of-living crisis and rising public utility bills mean that we have to be ever more innovative in finding new revenue streams, particularly at a time when BT Murrayfield Stadium itself – with the East Stand having been built in 1983 and other stands having come on stream in 1994 – requires considerable maintenance and care. We are facing a period of reconstruction to modernise our great stadium.

Happily, ticket sales remain strong – and all involved in the sport in Scotland are grateful for that – but we can't take that for granted and we remain committed to ensuring all fans get a quality experience

Over the past few years, there has been much discussion around the governance of Scottish Rugby and how the constituent parts work together.

It has created a degree of uncertainty and a certain level of frustration. I have said all along my responsibility, alongside my colleagues in the Executive team, is to make whatever governance structure the membership decides, work, for the overall wellbeing of Scottish Rugby, now and beyond.

It now looks as if the final stages seeking approval for that new structure are imminent and we all hope that we can move forward collaboratively and effectively for the good of the game.



As the world continues to recover and rebuild from the global effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, Scottish Rugby has continued to maintain and establish commercial relationships that display a commitment to showcasing the sport from grass roots levels to the international stage.

The unwavering support from our sponsors and partners is something of which we are proud, with a number of new brands joining Scottish Rugby's existing commercial family at a time when having crowds back at games serves as evidence of the passion our country has for rugby.

We are grateful to have renewed a host of official partners over the course of the past year, including one of our principal partners, BT, extending the naming rights to BT Murrayfield as the partnership moves towards a decade in the making since its 2014 inception.









Fellow Principal Partners Peter Vardy Group have been front and centre of international match days at BT Murrayfield, 'Leading the Charge' with their vehicles escorting our squads and providing car simulators at games for supporters to experience.

Macron, our other Principal partner, continue to deliver eyecatching and state-of-the-art kits for our national teams as well as leisure wear and replica products.

Other existing partnerships to have stood the test of a pandemic include the Scottish Rugby Cameron House Business Club, which enjoyed a full house throughout the past season, as well as our continued relationships with SP Energy Networks and FOSROC.

Royal Bank RugbyForce, now working towards its 14th year, continues its excellent community work in supporting local rugby clubs in readiness for the season ahead with no fewer than 118 clubs participating and receiving grants ahead of the 2021/22 season.

As part of Scottish Rugby's commitment to protecting and nurturing our environment we have secured a waste and recycling partner for the first time, with a two-year deal announced in October 2021 with Biffa highlighting our determination to work with clubs and supporters to advance care for our planet and precious resources. We have achieved zero landfill waste for every year since 2011 and with sustainability at the forefront of global sport, this crucial landscape will continue to be of utmost importance.

Other new partnerships to have been delivered include inspiresport as title sponsors of our Youth and Schools Conferences; Papa Johns as Official Pizza and Takeaway Partner and Tartan Touch sponsor; Saltire Energy as Schools Week sponsor; and of course, DAM Health, who became naming partner for Edinburgh Rugby's new stadium.

Scottish Rugby is grateful for and proud of the work it does with all of our partners and for their continuing support and investment in Scottish rugby to help the game flourish at every level.

Broadcast of Scotland matches:

Guinness Six Nations

183 territories worldwide

Series

83.6m

23.5m

BBC & ITV

TikTok Women's

5.9m **Amazon Prime** Video audience

Autumn Nations

Six Nations on BBC

2.6m total audience

1.3m Scotland v France

8m Scotland



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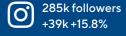
Social Channels



















If the past year has brought about a semblance of normality to society, the manner in which we work and live has changed through the pandemic.

This has presented an opportunity for Scottish Rugby to adapt in order to put in place structures, as we recognise that hybrid working is here to stay. As part of the rebuilding process post-Covid 19, we have been exploring a digital communications solution available to all employees in the office, at home and on the move.

The global landscape has changed since 2020, which has led to extensive work on how to best operate as an organisation, at the same time ensuring that our people have the tools at their disposal to continue their exceptional service which has been a mainstay of navigating a path out of lockdowns.

Focus on Wellbeing

Working remotely can have its challenges; fewer face-to-face interactions and less immediacy in speaking to colleagues has brought a need to keep our people more connected than ever before.

Wellbeing is one of the three key themes of our 2021-24 strategy. We already have a number of initiatives underway which focus on the growing evidence of the link between wellbeing and performance, such as an enhanced Rugby for Life programme and a mental wellbeing toolkit for clubs, and our people have access to Unmind in order to have access to wellbeing platforms as and when they feel it is needed.



Access to Unmind has also been given to all of our players to proactively look after their mental health, with the availability of a 'plus one' of their choice factored in to assist loved ones, too.

Additionally, an expansion of our Rugby for Life programme to cover Scotland Women, 7s, age-grade and match official teams has led to the recruitment of a further Player Development Manager to enhance and prepare players for life after rugby.

Using our influence wisely to be a 'force for good' in Scotland

We are acutely aware of our presence as one of the nation's most visible organisations, a responsibility that carries opportunity to champion a progressive society.

An ever-increasing range of societal campaigns have become part of the Scottish Rugby fabric as we strive to highlight our ethos that rugby is a game for everyone.



Don't be that guy campaign



CEMVO Partnership

Supporting our people to access development opportunities

To support the ongoing development of our people, this year we have endorsed secondments to Team Scotland for the 2022 Commonwealth Games in management, communications and medical support, to complement playing and coaching cohorts.

We have also shifted the delivery of our development programmes to a more blended learning approach combining face to face and online interactions. The TOP (Target Outstanding Performance) Manager programme, focussed on developing line managers, is bringing together people from across Scottish Rugby, supporting increased connectivity in all areas of our organisation.

Scottish Rugby has also made use of the Scottish Government's Flexible Workplace Development Fund to deliver practical courses via City of Glasgow College, with our 16 workshops across the year including: Time Management, Working from Home Effectively, Project Management and Giving Feedback.



Building an inclusive culture

As an employer and national governing body, Scottish Rugby is responsible for ensuring all those who wish to participate in rugby union in Scotland are treated fairly.

We want to ensure all barriers to participation in rugby - real or perceived - are removed. This is particularly the case for groups currently underrepresented in our game.



We believe all participants should be given equal opportunity irrespective of age, ethnicity, disability, sex, gender reassignment, religion or belief, sexual orientation, marriage & civil partnership or pregnancy & maternity.

We are committed to developing processes, practices and plans to ensure rugby is open to all and are working towards our goal of Scottish Rugby being an organisation where inclusion and diversity are at the heart of everything we do. Whether you are an employee, player, a member club or a sponsor/partner, we want to ensure everyone is treated with dignity, respect and an inclusive mindset.



Scottish Rugby Strategy 2021-24

Having purpose, feeling valued and connected is a key thread that runs through our People, Culture and Engagement business strategy and within our 2021-24 Strategy.

Our Inclusion & Diversity commitments

I&D is everyone's responsibility:

Everyone has responsibility to help grow an inclusive culture; culture is made up by what each of us say and do in the every day.

We promise to keep getting better:

We will continually look at examples of best practice and evaluate our processes - both internally and externally. Every one of our people will understand their responsibility to work inclusively and keep learning.

Scottish Rugby is a great place to be:

We will make our environment one where excellent people belong, thrive and progress.

We will take a stand:

We will use our reputation and influence to lead and advocate diversity, equity and inclusion in our sporting sector, in the environment and in the wider communities within which we operate.

See our Inclusion, Diversity and Wellbeing policy for further info

LEADERSHIP ENGAGEMENT ACHIEVEMENT ENJOYMENT RESPECT



Scottish Rugby published its Women & Girls' Strategy 2022-2026 in June with the aim to develop and grow the game at every level over the next four years.

Scottish Rugby is targeting the opportunities women's rugby presents having previously identified it as one of three strategic priorities in its 2021-24 Corporate Strategy, entitled 'Wellbeing, Women and Winning' launched last year.

Built on the incredible work that has gone on in the club and international game over the last three decades by the pioneers of women's rugby, the 2022-26 Women & Girls' Strategy is designed to grow participation and representation in rugby on and off the pitch and increase the visibility of women's rugby nationwide.



Scottish Rugby Strategy



Women & Girls' Strategy

The focus of the strategy will be around four P's; Participation, Pathway, Pipeline and Performance. These key areas are underpinned by a holistic approach which is needed to develop the women and girl's game across the board to create long term growth and sustainability.

We will invest in seven strategic priority areas, our key building blocks, that will impact across the four P's. These are; 'Empowering leadership', 'Positive introduction to rugby', 'Playing pathway for all', 'Building capacity in our clubs', 'Developing the future of performance rugby', 'A winning Scotland' and 'Let them see what they can be'.

These building blocks focus on growing the game on the field and the infrastructure off the field but also encompass the enabling factors that allow us to sustainably develop the sport. They recognise the importance of visibility, commercialisation, and investment as underpinning factors vital for the future of our game.



7 Lismore photo gallery

To celebrate the launch of Scottish Rugby's Women & Girls' Strategy, Gemma Fay (Head of the Women & Girls' Strategy) joined Hollie Davidson, Rachel Malcolm, Lisa Thomson and Rachel McLachlan at Lismore, home to one of Scotland's longest running Women's teams.

Strategy launch video



watch here

read more

It was also announced in

£144,352

has been allocated by

Scottish Government to

both support costs to

help Scotland Women

prepare for the World

Cup and to underpin a

promotional campaign

to inspire young players

in Scotland through the

team's involvement in

the global competition.

June that

Last year Scottish Rugby invested

£1.6m

directly into the women and girls' game.

next year

In endorsing the strategy, the Scottish Rugby Board has agreed to an additional investment of up to £2.5m covering the first year of the strategy which will be invested in all areas of the pathway taking the total women and girls' funding up to £4.1m, more + up to £2.5m than double the previous year's

Part of this investment will be focussed on continuing the journey towards professionalising the women's game as we commit to a minimum of 30 contracted rugby players following on from the Rugby World Cup.



An inaugural Women's U18 festival was announced by Six Nations Rugby in March 2022, with DAM Health Stadium hosting the first event of its kind the following month in Edinburgh.

Three matches were played by a Scotland squad coached by Duncan Harrison, with a defeat to Wales preceding a scoreless draw with Italy, before an excellent 24-22 win over the same opponents.

A total of 60 players across two Women's National Age Grade (WNAG) programmes were selected to participate in international age grade fixtures at Scotland U18 and Scottish Senior Futures levels, the latter playing their first international age grade fixture against England U20.

Four players from the 21/22 programme have been selected into the 35-player Performance Group (11 over last 3 seasons), in preparation for this year's Rugby World Cup in New Zealand.



Inaugural Festival Hosted at DAM Health **Stadium**

Over the last three seasons, WNAG programmes have developed the following international players (both XVs and 7s):

Rachel McLachlan

Shona Campbell

Panashe Muzambe Katie Dougan

Emma Orr Anne Young

Evie Gallagher Eva Donaldson Meryl Smith

Evie Wills

Mairi McDonald



read more...

Exciting Opportunities Ahead for Scottish Futures Programme

Scotland to Host First Ever International Under-18s Women's **Rugby Festival**

Women's Under-18s Squad Announced for Festival



It's been an historic year for Scotland Women, with their qualification for Rugby World Cup 2021 (to be played in October and November 2022) marking a first such achievement since 2010.

It was a long but ultimately fruitful qualification journey for Scotland, with the side travelling out to Stadio Sergio Lanfranchi in Parma back in September last year to play in a three-match RWC 2021 Europe Qualifier tournament.

Having endured a tough start to the tournament by way of a 38-13 loss to hosts Italy, Scotland rallied in dramatic fashion in the following match, keeping their composure in the final few minutes to hold off a dangerous looking Spanish side to secure a crucial 22-27 victory to keep their qualification chances alive.

With all four competing teams level on five points apiece going into the final set of fixtures, anything less than a win against Ireland would have ended Scottish hopes, but how they delivered when it mattered. A last-gasp try by Chloe Rollie, converted by the icecool Sarah Law, confirmed second place in the Europe Qualifier and with it an opportunity to play for a place at rugby's showpiece event in February.

Shortly after returning from Parma, Scotland recorded their third successive win of the season during an Autumn Test fixture against Japan, claiming a 36-12 victory at DAM Health Stadium. The side were greeted by a buoyant home support as the fixture welcomed fans back into the stands for the first time in two years.

In February, it was back to World Cup qualification and, drawn to face Colombia at the Sevens Stadium in Dubai, Bryan Easson's charges dominated from the off, racking up no fewer than nine tries in a 59-3 success that secured Scotland would be at the Rugby World Cup for the first time in 12 years. Tries from Lisa Thomson, Megan Gaffney (2), Rhona Lloyd, Sarah Law, Jade Konkel, Lana Skeldon, Evie Wills and Molly Wright helped create the current squad's ongoing legacy, and one which will hopefully be part of the foundations of the Women and Girls' Strategy, announced in June.





Scotland were back in action in March for the newly-named TikTok Women's Six Nations, a championship that has broken away from the Men's equivalent in order to forge its own unique identity.

The 2022 championship also saw all of Scotland's games broadcast across BBC channels, with their first two matches against England and Wales being shown on BBC Two and the remaining three fixtures being broadcast on BBC Scotland.

Scotland began their campaign in front of a record home crowd of 3,988 at the DAM Health stadium against eventual Grand Slam winners, England, the visitors taking the spoils in a 5-57 victory.

That match saw Jade Konkel receive her 50th cap for Scotland, the number 8 having made her debut nine years ago against the same opponents. By contrast, Meryl Smith made her debut during the match, with the 21-year-old coming off the bench in the final

Scotland travelled down to Cardiff Arms Park the following week to face Wales. Despite a spirited performance, they were unable to halt a Welsh comeback in the second half, with the hosts securing a 24-19 victory.

Further milestones were reached in that game, with Lana Skeldon marking her 50th appearance for Scotland, having made her international debut against the Netherlands in 2011. Biggar's Emma Orr also made her Test debut at just 18 years old, with the centre impressing on the international stage.

Scotland's third match of the tournament saw them return home to Scotstoun Stadium to face France. Scotland stalwart, Sarah Law, received a round of applause before the game as she took to the pitch for her 50th cap. The French dominated the early exchanges, taking a 3-28 lead going into the interval. An improved secondhalf performance saw the Scotland defence hold firm, denying the French any further scoring opportunities, however, Scotland were unable to catch-up as France took the bonus point win (8-28).

Scotland returned to familiar territory in the fourth round, with the side meeting Italy at Stadio Sergio Lanfranchi. Scotland enjoyed a promising start to the match as they went into the interval with a 3-10 lead, although the Italians fought back to overturn the deficit and secure a 20-13 win.

The final match of the 2022 TikTok Women's Six Nations saw the Scots travel to Kingspan Stadium to face Ireland, where the side suffered a tough end to their campaign as the hosts clinched victory in the dying moments of the game (15-14). Losses they may have been, but Scotland's continued improvement, which saw them pushing for victory in three of the five matches played, gives rise to an optimism brought about by Rugby World Cup qualification in what will hopefully be seen as a breakthrough season in years to come.

Season in Review

21.4 per game 2.9 per game 40% win rate

36 - 12

2021 Autumn Test

Scotland

38 - 13 Scotland Spain 22 - 27 **Scotland** Ireland 18 - 20 **Scotland** Scotland Colombia

Rugby World Cup 2021 Qualification

2022 TikTok Women's Six Nations

Scotland	5	57	England
Wales	24	19	Scotland
Scotland	8	28	France
Italy	20	13	Scotland
Ireland	15	14	Scotland



Scotland reached number 9 in the World Rugby rankings in January 2022, their highest position to-date.

Emma Wassell, Jade Konkel, Lana Skeldon & Sarah Law

Rugby World Cup 2021 **Pool A Fixtures**

v Wales, Sun 9 Oct v Australia, Sat 15 Oct

v New Zealand, Sat 22 Oct

Okara Park, Whangārei



Japan

Anne Young Shona Campbell Eva Donaldson Caity Mattinson Meryl Smith Emma Orr



DAM Health Stadium



The 2021/22 international season was notable for the return of crowds, with BT Murrayfield welcoming thousands back over the course of the Autumn Nations Series and subsequent 2022 Guinness Six Nations.

The former competition saw Scotland host four back-to-back internationals against Tonga, Australia, South Africa and Japan, registering three wins and scoring no fewer than 18 tries in the process.

For the first time since 2020, capacity BT Murrayfield crowds were also registered in home Guinness Six Nations fixtures with England and then France, as Scotland retained the Calcutta Cup but relinquished the Auld Alliance Trophy against the eventual Grand Slam champions.

In all, Scotland played nine matches over the course of the 2021/22 international season, winning five and losing four, with BT Murrayfield sold out for five of six home games.

The return of supporters to BT Murrayfield was celebrated in hosting four Autumn Nations Series Tests over consecutive weekends in October and November. Outside the international window, the opener against Tonga offered an opportunity for players to stake a claim for future involvement and in Kyle Steyn (four tries) and Rufus McLean (who scored a brace on debut), that certainly proved the case. A try for fellow debutant Pierre Schoeman cemented the Edinburgh Rugby prop's cult status, with George Turner, Nick Haining and Ollie Kebble also crossing to add to conversions from Adam Hastings and Ross Thompson (on his first cap).

Scotland then hosted Australia on Saturday 7 November, extending their winning run over the Wallabies to three with a 15-13 success, edging their opponents with help from try contributions through Hamish Watson and Ewan Ashman, the hooker capping a memorable debut with the rest of the points coming from the boot of Finn Russell

World champions South Africa followed the week after and proved too strong for their hosts in a 30-15 win, a Stuart Hogg double not enough to earn a first win over the Springboks since 2010.

The final Autumn Nations Series fixture saw Japan travel to BT Murrayfield as the sides met for the first time since their 2019 Rugby World Cup encounter, with Scotland scoring four tries in a 29-20 victory. The afternoon was notable for Stuart Hogg's well-taken 25th international try, which took him past the venerable Ian Smith and Tony Stanger (both 24) to top the all-time Scotland list.

The Guinness Six Nations started in perfect fashion, against the backdrop of another full BT Murrayfield, as Scotland defeated England 20-17 to retain the Calcutta Cup for the first time since 1984, with scrum-half Ben White scoring a try in a most unforgettable debut.



watch here

A tough loss by the same scoreline in Cardiff a week later preceded Scotland's second home match of the championship, where eventual Grand Slam winners France coasted to victory in a quite excellent display.

A trip to Rome offered the chance for Scotland to get back on track and they did just that, as Chris Harris (2), Sam Johnson, Darcy Graham and Hogg crossed to provide a cushion that two late Italy tries could not claw back.

Scotland finished their 2022 Guinness Six Nations in Dublin, where Ireland completed the Triple Crown in a 26-5 success, with Scotland finishing in fourth place for the second successive year.

Scotland played a three-Test Summer series in Argentina, winning the second but losing the first and second Tests against Los Pumas. The squad was led by Grant Gilchrist and saw a further three new caps added as Gregor Townsend continued to explore options ahead of next year's Rugby World Cup.

British & Irish Lions 2021

Eight Scots were selected by head coach Warren Gatland for the 2021 British & Irish Lions tour to South Africa, the highest number since the 1989 tour to Australia.

Gregor Townsend and Steve Tandy were named as part of the coaching staff, and Gav Vaughan earned a place amongst the Lions' analyst team.



Scots earned Test recognition on a scale not seen to date in the professional era, with Duhan van der Merwe and Ali Price playing in all three Tests of a narrow 2-1 series defeat. Additionally, Hamish Watson, Stuart Hogg, Finn Russell, Chris Harris and Rory Sutherland won Lions Test caps, with Zander Fagerson featuring in several tour matches.



Season in Review

2021 Autumn Nations Series

Tonga	14	60	cotland
Australia	13	15	cotland
South Africa	30	15	cotland
Japan	20	29	cotland

2022 Guinness Six Nations ·····

Scotland	20	17	England
Wales	20	17	Scotland
Scotland	17	36	France
Italy	22	33	Scotland
Ireland	26	5	Scotland

2022 Summer Tour

Argentina	26		18	Scotland
Argentina	6	٠	29	Scotland
Argentina	34		31	Scotland

19

Scotland Debuts

Jamie Hodgson Rufus McLean Pierre Schoeman Sione Tuipulotu Luke Crosbie Jamie Dobie Marshall Sykes **Ross Thompson** Ewan Ashman Josh Bayliss Javan Sebastian Dylan Richardson Ben White Rory Darge Andy Christie Ben Vellacott Kyle Rowe Ollie Smith Glen Young

1st Stuart 653 ...

most championship metres made

2nd Hamish 70 ...

Watson 70 ...

most tackles made

2nd Ali
Price 287 ...

most passes made

3rd Finn
Russell 3 ...



Scotland reached number 7 in the World Rugby rankings as of July 2022.



The absence of sevens from the rugby calendar was keenly felt, although a delayed Olympic Games in Tokyo saw no fewer than six Scots earn experience at sport's largest party.

Robbie Fergusson, Max McFarland, Alec Coombes and Ross McCann were selected for Team GB's Men's squad, while Lisa Thomson and Hannah Smith gained recognition as part of the Women's squad, with both teams finishing a credible fourth and just missing out on a medal.

As the HSBC World Sevens Series resumed post-Covid 19, Team GB were required to play on the Men's circuit until the end of the calendar year 2021, featuring in back-to-back events in Dubai in November and December.

A new year brought with it the return of Scotland 7s to the HSBC World Sevens Series (Men's), with events in Malaga, Seville, Singapore, Vancouver, Toulouse and Twickenham (the Los Angeles leg was postponed until August 2022 on account of Covid-19 protocols).

Under head coach Ciaran Beattie, Scotland's young core squad showed promise throughout, especially in Seville where they reached the Cup quarter-finals, only to lose narrowly to eventual leg winners South Africa.

Beattie's core group, captained by Jamie Farndale, featured several players tasked with a first series involvement and several stood out, none more so than Jordan Edmunds, who topped the Scotland try standings with an impressive and abrasive 15.

Our national Women's 7s team have also qualified for a first Commonwealth Games and as part of their preparation under Head Coach Scott Forrest, they were named as an invitational team for the Toulouse leg of the HSBC World Sevens Series in May.

An encouraging tournament, for a squad with only a handful of sessions together, saw them beat England and South Africa to finish ninth and serve notice of the undoubted talent ahead of those Games in Birmingham in July.







Due to the scheduling upset brought about by Covid-19, there was no global competition for Scotland Men U20s in 2022, with their involvement in the World Rugby U20 Trophy now set for the competition's 2023 resumption after a three-year hiatus from such events.

With Scotland knowing that winning next year's World Rugby U20 Trophy would provide a route back to the top-ranked Championship, a structural coaching change was made in January which saw Kenny Murray appointed Head of Player Transition with a remit that includes being Head Coach of the national Under-20 programme.

Kenny Murray appointed Head of Player Transition

Murray's first task was to select a squad for the age-grade version of the 2022 Six Nations, where the young Scots found the going tough as they lost all five fixtures to highlight the improvements needed ahead of the 2023 World Rugby U20 Trophy campaign.

There were shards of solace in the performance against England, with Scotland scoring four tries, and in two-try defeats to Wales and France. However, a humbling 59-5 loss to Ireland in the championship's finale against Ireland represented a sobering end to the competition.

The standalone U20 Summer Series, with defeats to Italy, Wales, Georgia and Ireland, was a further challenging note of how much work there is to be done at that level in order to compete with the top nations once more.





September 4 2021 saw the welcome return of domestic rugby after a hiatus of some 16 months, during which time clubs across Scotland rallied to recover and rebuild from the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Unprecedented challenges were faced, as clubhouses, players, coaches and volunteers endeavoured to ensure that their rugby communities were equipped to embrace busy pitches once more.

Scottish Rugby aimed to support its rugby clubs through various schemes, including the Club Sustainability Fund; Supporting Clubs Investment Programme; and Growth and Participation Fund, with £5million earmarked over the course of five years.

It is together with thriving clubs country-wide that we can look to a bright future of rugby #AsOne.

Over the course of the coming pages, take a look at the many ways our regions have inspired in getting rugby moving again post-Covid-19.





Gav ScottDirector of Rugby
Development

Scotland is renowned for its vibrant and lively rugby communities, and that has never been more apparent than over the course of the past couple of years as we navigate a path away from the constraints of Covid-19.

Scotland's clubs, supported by Rugby Development's regional teams, have worked tirelessly to Return to Rugby through Scottish Rugby's four-point Respond, Reset, Recover, Rebuild strategy.

Our Rugby Development department provided weekly (and often more!) updates on the minutiae of when these stages could carefully be brought about as society got itself back on track. Our Everyone's Game campaign has seen excellent interaction between clubs and their communities whether that be encouraging people into rugby or broadening the opportunities to current players – especially women and girls. In a year where Scottish Rugby announced its Women and Girls' Strategy, never has it been more imperative to call attention to the pledge that rugby truly is a game for all.

Clubs are the lifeblood of the game in Scotland and to see them beginning to flourish once more gives us all a great deal of optimism ahead of a new 2022/23 season.

DOMESTIC FUNDING

In March 2022, Scottish Rugby published a full outline of £2 million in funding support which was allocated to clubs across the country over the course of the two-year Covid-19 pandemic.

During the pandemic, Scottish Rugby provided the clubs with funding which came from four different channels. Each channel was developed to both support our clubs with financial aid during the lockdown periods and ensure the eventual return to rugby activity was as positive as possible.

The Club Hardship Fund (CHF) of £500,000 was set up in March 2020 with a focus to support clubs with financial aid during the lockdown period when no rugby activity could take place nor income generated.

The first batch of applications was received in April 2020 with £387,110 awarded in June 2020 to 82 separate clubs. A further £42,664 was awarded over the course of the next year to 53 clubs to support the reopening of activities and facilities.

The first phase of the Club Hardship Fund was designed to support clubs experiencing difficulties covering their costs in the following four categories: People, Premises, Utilities and Grounds.

As an example, Dunfermline received funding to support essential ground maintenance works to their pitches, which if left unattended, would have prevented a smooth return to rugby.

The Club Recovery Fund (CRF) was opened in early 2021 thanks to £500,000 from the Scottish Government. The CRF was designed to support clubs preparing for a Return to Rugby with focus on preparation of their facilities. Clubs could apply for three funding levels and 111 clubs were successful in receiving funds to the value of £565,985.

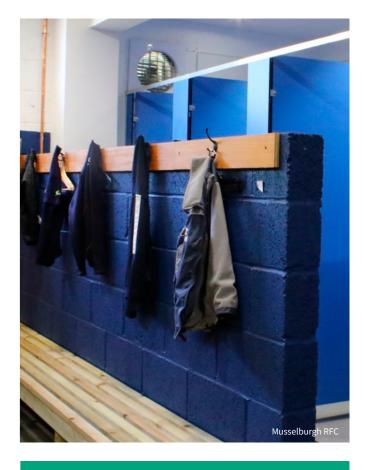
Many applications sought support for maintenance, including Aberdeen Grammar, which applied for funds to repair crossbars and its stand, which had been damaged by fire caused by vandals taking advantage of the unattended facility during lockdown.

Return to Rugby events were then supported by the Scottish Government's Kickstart Fund. The total awarded to clubs and referee societies from this fund was £683,119 to 114 clubs.

Dundee Rugby Club utilised their Kickstart funding to host their inaugural 'Dundee City 7s' tournament. The event saw over 300 players across mini, youth and senior rugby return to the field over two days.

A further £300,000 was used to support Scottish Rugby's Return to Rugby promotional campaigns to assist the clubs in the marketing of the return of the game. Of this amount, £75,000 was invested into the Everyone's Game campaign which included over half of the funding going to the clubs in the form of club packs, of which 120 were distributed.

Scottish Rugby Schools Week also received £75,000 from this fund, the majority of which was spent in the second Schools Week (21-25 March). No fewer than 619 schools signed up to participate and it was additionally supported by Saltire Energy.



Club Hardship Fund (CHF)

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Club Recovery Fund (CRF) £387,110 awarded to 82 clubs £42.664

awarded to **53** clubs

£565,985 awarded to **111** clubs

Scottish Government's Kickstart Fund

£683,119 awarded to **114** clubs

£300,000

Return to Rugby
Promotional Campaign



Club funding totals



Covid-19 funding stream breakdown





All Schools & Youth Results

Boys' Schools Cup Finals

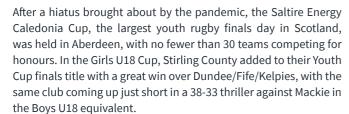
highlights



Merchiston Castle defeated Stewart's Melville College in a highquality affair at BT Murrayfield on 9 March 2022, winning four tries to two against their city rivals with two scores coming via wing Amaan Raza. On a bumper day of boys' Schools rugby, Queen Victoria School beat North Berwick High School 33-17 in the U16 Shield but lost the U18 Shield 43-6 to a well-drilled Loretto School; and George Watson's beat Dollar Academy 47-26 to lift the U16 Cup.

Saltire Energy Caledonia **Cup Finals**

round-up



National Youth Cup Finals

highlights



An action-packed day of Youth Finals was held at BT Murrayfield on 27 March, with eight fixtures across Girls and Boys teams. Stirling County took the U18 Girls Cup with a 69-12 win over Edinburgh Harlequins featuring braces from Nicole Flynn, Maia McDonald and Hannah Walker. In the Boys U18 final, a late Liam McConnell try was the difference between Boroughmuir and West of Scotland in a 31-24 thriller.

Scottish Rugby Schools Week

Supported by Saltire Energy, Scottish Rugby Schools Week returned once more in March, with the aim of ensuring that rugby reaches as many points in Scotland as possible, introducing people to the game and encouraging participation in sport.

No fewer than **623** schools signed up across the country, half of whom were delivering their first rugby sessions in at least a year. Events included training sessions with specialists through our Rugby Development department, as well as the delivery of learning and equipment facilities to ensure that as many youngsters as possible have access to starting their rugby journey.



CashBack annual review









Scottish Rugby's 2022 Community Recognition Awards celebrated the endeavours of the people who make clubs across the country the vibrant rugby hubs they are.

In highlighting the efforts of players, coaches, match officials and volunteers from the domestic game, the 2022 Community Recognition Awards carried six award categories from all five Scottish Rugby regions.

Volunteer of the Season in Youth rugby, which recognises a volunteer that has gone above and beyond in youth club rugby to ensure young people are provided with the chance to play the game in a safe, fun and friendly environment.

Volunteer of the Season in Schools rugby will be presented to a volunteer who has made an exceptional impact in school's rugby to ensure young people are provided with the opportunity to play the game in a safe, fun and friendly environment.

Volunteer of the Season in Adult rugby sponsored by Tennent's Lager, which credits a volunteer who has made a significant contribution to adult rugby, going the extra mile to provide rugby opportunities for all.

Young Person's Award, which recognises the contribution young people make in community rugby. The category is open to young people from 16 to 26 years of age who have made a significant impact in helping to develop opportunities for people to participate in rugby.

Community Club of the Season sponsored by Tennent's Lager, will be awarded to a club which caters for the whole community, working tirelessly to promote equality, diversity, and inclusion in a welcoming, safe and fun environment.

Community Match Official of the Season, to be presented to a Match Official who has made a significant contribution to the game and executed a high performance on the pitch.





All 2022 Winners & Photo Gallery





Peter Burgon
Regional Director for
Glasgow North

"It's so important to celebrate the achievements, contributions and successes of the hard-working people we have in our game, especially following on from the

pandemic.

exception."

region who give up so much of their time to help others take part in rugby and connect with the local community in ways which go beyond our sport, and this year has been no

forward this season on the back of a focussed piece of work by Development Officer, Andrew Johnston, with support from Active Schools Officers, PE teachers and support coaches.

Andrew undertook a period of work supporting Tobermory High

Andrew undertook a period of work supporting Tobermory High School on Mull and Lochgilphead Joint Campus to develop girls' rugby in each area, introducing curriculum-based rugby activity and after school sessions. Starting with five girls in each school, the programme concluded with more than 20 players in just six weeks.

At the end of the six-week block, Andrew hosted an inter school competition in Oban with almost 70 girls taking part and getting an introduction to the game.

Following this success, an additional two tri-school tournaments in Mid Argyll and Oban were created for players in the U14 and U16 age group, and players from Mull joined forces with Oban Lorne in the Youth Cup competition, where they made it to the semi-finals at Ravenscraig.

Community connections

With financial backing from Scottish Rugby's Kick Start Grant, GHK spent time this season investing into delivering a set of taster sessions in local primary schools and hosting a Family Fun Day to showcase the club's activities at all levels, with a view to attracting new members to the Junior (Mini and Midi) sections of the club.

Having never previously engaged with schools, the club spent a great deal of time establishing relationships with senior school staff and the local Active Schools Coordinators. These discussions resulted in us choosing to work initially with the four local primary schools.

"We have so many passionate and committed

clubs, schools and individuals across our

The club was able to deliver a six-week programme of curricular sessions to P4 classes which involved over 250 pupils across the four schools.









Jen Griffin Regional Director for Glasgow South

Girls' rugby on the rise in Troon

Recognising the demand for a girls' youth pathway, this season volunteers from Marr have transformed their rugby delivery to provide inclusive rugby experiences for girls, for their vision for the long-term sustainability of girls and women's rugby in Troon.

The club's many volunteers and Development Officer, Colin Sturgeon, have spent the last year working with local partners to deliver girls specific primary school rugby sessions, delivered by female role models, as well as delivering club-based weekly training for P1-7 girls every Sunday afternoon, with nearly 50 players attending on a regular basis.

To support the delivery, there are now 11 dedicated coaches working in the girls' section, and each one of them has complete their Rugby Right course, PVG application and undertaken their Coaching Essentials course with Scottish Rugby.

Sustainability dedication at Annan

Nicole Barlow girls' coach, captain of Annan Warriors established a club kit store for pre-loved rugby kit to support members of the club, both new and existing, who required items for their training or playing needs.

Nicole's idea was driven by both financial implications of the pandemic and as a means of encouraging the club and its members to think about the impact on the environment and landfill.

"The return to rugby this season did not come without its challenges, but our clubs and schools in the Glasgow South have remained strong and stable, providing support and inspiration in equal measures.

"It is with great thanks to our many volunteers, Development Officers and Community Coaches who have provided so many great rugby experiences across the region, playing an essential role in galvanizing the game following on from the pandemic."

The kit store is open at each training session and match day, and recipients are asked for a small donation in exchange for items taken. In a bid to encourage its use, clothing is hung on clothing rails in size order and footwear is displayed in show boxes, thus giving the appearance of a shop as opposed to a jumble-sale. Part of this development plan included the expansion and upgrade of social and changing facilities at Kilmarnock to allow for greater inclusion.







Game on at Paisley women's development event

Admiring Garnock RC's Support



Grange Academy "Talk a Good Game"
- Scottish Rugby Schools Week



Scottish Rugby Schools Week
- Springholm Primary School





David Drummond Regional Director for East Region

Supporting pupils in Leith

Utilising Kickstart grant funding from Scottish Rugby, Leith Rugby Club have spent this season increasing and developing primary school rugby delivery to 10 local primary schools, culminating in a touch rugby festival involving more than 280 pupils.

Many of these young people have now transitioned into playing regularly with Leith, with nearly 50 players attending this year's Easter camps.

Subsequently, the club have connected with Leith Academy and are now supporting with delivery of rugby and development of young coaches within the school. Over the course of the year, the club has supported 13 young people gain qualifications and coaching experiences.

Dalkeith branches out for community

In a bid to support their local community on a wider basis beyond rugby, Dalkeith Rugby Club spent this season ensuring their clubhouse could become the bedrock for those who needed a safe and accessible place for whatever their needs may be.

Before opening their doors, the club invested in improving their facilities with the introduction of a ramp and improved toilet facilities.

The club has spent the season providing free function space to Sporting Memories, a charity supporting people living with

"As our sport has returned to something of a normal run this season, it is a credit to the vast number of volunteers throughout the region that we have been able to do it so successfully.

"It has been so heartening to see rugby at all levels in the region restart and have clubhouses buzzing once more."

dementia, and those experiencing depression or loneliness, as well as Marie Curie, where the space is utilised for a cancer support

In addition, the club's pitch facilities have been enjoyed by Midlothian Walking Rugby, Royal Dick Vet Women's team and Scotland Rugby League. The opening of this space to other sporting groups has enabled Dalkeith to offer the local community increased exposure to sport, catering to different levels, abilities, ages and genders, whilst also building long standing relationships and arrangements with these groups.







Scottish Rugby Schools Week - Tweedbank Primary School



Melrose Friends take on 24-hour Coast to coast challenge for My Name'5 **Doddie Foundation**



Scottish Rugby Schools Week - Hawick





Rudi Urbach Regional Director for Caledonia North

Community engagement

A big part of the season 2021/22 story for our clubs and communities in the region was the severe impact of storms Arwen and Malik.

Both storms caused widespread destruction to many homes and buildings with extensive damage to power and water services. Banff Rugby Club actively engaged with local emergency services to assist with lifting collapsed parts of buildings, mitigating property damage, and providing a safe space at their clubhouse for those members of the community most affected and at risk.

David Allan, club secretary, said: "We opened the clubhouse to offer people a warm, dry space to charge devices, utilise washing facilities, access hot water and any other way we could assist. The town, members and their families all support the club in some way and by offering support in return, it ensures we remain at the heart of our community."

Sustainable infrastructure

This year has seen some innovative thinking applied to the building of two new clubhouse facilities which have both been part-funded by Scottish Rugby through the Sustainability Fund Award.

Both Deeside RFC and Ross Sutherland Rugby have worked hard to apply sustainable building practices and materials to their design and build, whilst ensuring their space is fit for purpose and inclusive for all users.

"The positive reaction to the resumption of rugby by our clubs in Caledonia North has been inspiring. The pandemic posed some very different challenges to our remote communities, and we remain humbled by their collective resilience, and outward expression of strong cultures and values.

"As participation in our game continues to increase across our unique region, we must thank the hard-working volunteers for their input, passion, and dedication in helping to grow the game."

Deeside's club house was officially opened at the beginning of the season by Scottish Rugby patron, HRH The Princess Royal.



Ross Sutherland RFC March into May with mental wellbeing focus Walking Rugby at Moray RFC Centenary Celebration is a Highland fling! "Everyone belongs in rugby" [- Nikki Simpson Scottish Rugby Schools Week - Mackie RFC





Steve Turnbull
Regional Director for
Caledonia Midlands

Inclusive communities

Having only formed ten years ago, Bo'ness has quickly become a focal point within the local community, bringing together vast numbers of men, women and young people to enjoy rugby.

With a well-established men's team, this season the club spent a great deal of time and energy expanding their offering to women and children.

Starting with the delivery of non-contact fitness sessions, the club now has a regular cohort of 30 women playing rugby.

On a mission to diversify and promote inclusion, the club spent this season creating social stories and emotion cards to support young children with additional needs to get involved in playing rugby with their peers.

The creation of these assets has helped one child in particular, who is non-verbal, to better communicate with the coaches and now attends rugby sessions on a regular basis, and it's helped to grow their own confidence tenfold.

School and Clubs work hand in hand

Falkirk High School and Falkirk Rugby Club have been working in partnership together to deliver a very successful School of Rugby Programme for many years.

This season's programme has seen an increase in player transition from school to club level with 40 Falkirk High pupils engaging with

"We often say in sport that volunteers are the lifeblood of the game. Following on from the impact of covid-19, that hasn't just been a saying. The hard work from our volunteers, Development Officers, Community Coaches and local supporters in the Caledonia Midlands region has really helped to reignite the rugby spark."

activities at the club of which 20 have progressed onto representing Kelpies RFC as evidenced on SCRUMS.

Development Officer, Duncan McKinstray has been described as a "constant link between the school and the club programme" being present in both school and club settings, providing familiarity to players which has increased confidence in pupils transitioning to the club.

In addition, Duncan has been providing informal and formal coach CPD for volunteer club coaches to ensure the club is able to continue providing high quality learning experience for young players, which in turn should increase the possibility of lifelong participation.

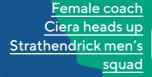


Scottish Rugby Schools Week
- Montrose Academy





Fife rugby player named Sportsman of the Year at Proud Scotland Awards





Royal Bank Rugbyforce
- Bannockburn RFC

34



Whilst the 2021/22 season ended in disappointing fashion for Glasgow Warriors, the return of supporters after a season behind closed doors made sure that the Scotstoun welcome was back in full voice once more.

As fans returning to their seats in the stands, new faces introduced themselves to the Warrior Nation across the campaign. Australian number eight Jack Dempsey enjoyed a barnstorming debut campaign, finishing the season with the second-highest total of carries in the entire United Rugby Championship, whilst newly-capped Scotland centre Sione Tuipulotu provided a blend of power and creativity in the midfield. A total of 12 players would make their debuts across the season, including back-three flyers Josh McKay and Sebastian Cancelliere who provided a cutting edge to the Glasgow attack.

The next generation of Warriors would also continue to step up and be counted throughout the season, giving supporters a glimpse into the future of the men in black and blue. Five players would graduate from the FOSROC Scottish Rugby Academy ahead of 2022/23, with Murphy Walker going on to make his professional debut for the club as well as being named in the Scotland squad for the 2022 summer tour. The quintet joined the youth movement already taking place at Scotstoun, with Rory Darge, Jamie Dobie, Ross Thompson and Rufus McLean all making their senior Scotland debuts after breaking through the ranks with the Warriors.

Darge in particular enjoyed a sublime first full campaign at Scotstoun, a fact that was further underlined as the club's annual Awards Dinner, sponsored by The Malcolm Group, returned to an in-person event for the first time since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. The openside flanker walked away with a hat-trick of trophies from the Hilton Glasgow, picking up the McCrea Financial Services Player of the Season, Denholm Energy Services Players' Player of the Season and Harper Macleod Test Player of the Season prizes. Other winners included McKay's scintillating score in the 1872 Cup victory over Edinburgh at Scotstoun being rewarded with the Try of the Season prize, presented by



the University of Strathclyde, whilst Rob Harley took home The Famous Grouse Coaches Award in his final season with the club before moving on to pastures new.

The departure of Harley brought to an end one of the most famous careers in the history of Glasgow rugby, with no player in the professional history of the club having made more appearances than the 267 of the former West of Scotland man. Club co-captain Ryan Wilson is next in line on the all-time charts, having pulled on the Glasgow jersey for the 200th time in January's Heineken Champions Cup clash with Exeter at Sandy Park. Scotland and British and Irish Lions scrum-half Ali Price was another to bring up a personal milestone, as he became the club's latest centurion in December's visit to La Rochelle.

Whilst a challenging campaign on the field ended with a quarter-final defeat in Dublin, the Warriors continued to prove a force to be reckoned with at home during the URC campaign. Eight wins from their nine home fixtures in the competition proved the importance of the Warrior Nation, with only Leinster able to overcome Glasgow on their home patch.

In Europe, too, Glasgow showed they could match Europe's best. A memorable evening in the Scotstoun fog saw the Warriors triumph over Exeter in a 22-7 victory, before running eventual champions La Rochelle close in their final pool match. Having missed out on a place in the quarter-finals of the top tier by the narrowest of margins, a 27-17 dispatching of Newcastle Falcons at Kingston Park set up a last-eight clash with Lyon. Whilst edged out by the competition's victors, the noise of the travelling support ensured that the Warrior Nation's reputation across Europe continued to grow.



Indeed, reconnecting with supporters after so long playing behind closed doors remains high on the club's agenda moving forward. A crowd of 900 supporters came down to show their support at the club's first Open Training Session since April 2019, meeting their heroes as they chatted, posed for photos and signed anything and everything passed their way. It was an event that further highlighted the importance of inspiring the community, as the Warriors of the future went away with memories to last a lifetime from the day in the Scotstoun sun.

There was a welcome return to the pitches at Scotstoun for the SP Energy Networks Warriors Championship, as the club's flagship community rugby tournament was held in its entirety for the first time since 2019. Over 800 boys and girls from 20 schools across Glasgow, the West and Caledonia showcased their skills at the home of the Warriors, with Wallace High School ultimately emerging victorious by edging out Dumfries Schools in the final.

Preparations for the 2022/23 season continue at Scotstoun, under a new coaching team that is being confirmed at the time of writing. The return of Scotland star Huw Jones headlines the club's signings for the new campaign, joining South African second-row duo JP du Preez and Sintu Manjezi and Tongan international Sione Vailanu – in addition to academy graduates Gregor Brown, Max Williamson, Alex Samuel and Angus Fraser – in bolstering the squad ahead of the new season, in addition to club legend Pete Horne joining the coaching staff as Skills Coach.



Rory Darge

McCrea Financial Services Player of the Season

Denholm Energy Services Players' Player of the Season

and Harper Macleod Test
Player of the Season

Glasgow Warriors debuts

Scotland U20 Captain Rhys Tait Olympian in Tokyo Robbie Fergusson

represented Scotland
4
debuts

Argentina

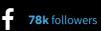
Tonga

represented Scotland U20

Glasgow Children's Hospital Charity

The club's continued support of its Official Charity Partner, Glasgow Children's Hospital Charity, also provided a chance for the Warriors to connect with

the community and the city of Glasgow. A bespoke purple training shirt was worn before all of the club's fixtures in the 2021/22 season, whilst the inaugural Plaster It Purple match at Scotstoun helped to raise £13,573 in support of work done by the charity.

















Edinburgh Rugby's 2021/22 season will go down as one of the most memorable campaigns in recent history as the capital club celebrated its homecoming year at DAM Health Stadium by reaching the URC play-offs, winning the Scottish x Italian Shield, claiming back the 1872 Cup and qualifying for the Heineken Champions Cup for 2022/23.

The team's on-field achievements were mirrored by an historic year off-field, as the club increased its Season Ticket Membership by a third (3502) while welcoming over 90,000 fans to home games in year one of the newly-launched United Rugby Championship - an attendance figure that was on track to be a club record had January's match against Cardiff Rugby not been played behind closed doors, with Edinburgh the only team in the URC with attendances above pre covid levels.

In Head Coach Mike Blair's first season in charge, a new and exciting brand of rugby instilled by the former club captain and centurion saw Edinburgh Rugby reach the Quarter-Final stages of the EPCR Challenge Cup, while finishing seventh in the URC, only to fall short to eventual Champions DHL Stormers in Cape Town in the last-eight of the competition.

A number of internationalists committed their long-term future to the club - Pierre Schoeman, Blair Kinghorn, Grant Gilchrist, Luke Crosbie, Dave Cherry, Mark Bennett, Jamie Hodgson, Marshall Sykes and Glen Young all penned new deals to remain in the Scottish capital.

The capital side welcomed the backing of a new Main Club Partner in Scottish Building Society - the biggest agreement of its kind in the history of both organisations - while Edinburgh also announced a significant, seven-figure partnership with DAM Health for the naming rights of the club's new stadium for the next five years.

Further extensions were announced with JBC Nutrition and Glen Moray as Edinburgh Rugby continue to grow and develop its commercial family.



Engaging with the local community remained one of Edinburgh's top priorities in 2021/22 and the launch of the Edinburgh Rugby Inclusive Team – backed by Main Club Partner Scottish Building Society - which saw a team of able bodied players combine with those with a physical or learning disability to take up residency at DAM Health Stadium, in association with the capital club.

The Edinburgh Rugby Inclusive Team finished the season by taking part in IMART (International Mixed Ability Rugby Tournament) World Cup in Cork where they finished 10th out of 24 teams competing.

Further community activations saw the capital club work in partnership with City of Edinburgh Council to welcome over 20 Afghan refugees to the 1872 Cup decider, while the annual Scottish Building Society Easter Camp attracted over 160 boys and girls to BT Murrayfield for two days of rugby activities.

Coming out of the Covid-19 pandemic and playing in front of a non-restricted home support for the first time since February 2020, Edinburgh Rugby kickstarted the season in celebratory style, claiming a dramatic 26-22 victory against Scarlets in a match that saw the Edinburgh faithful truly find their voice in their new home.

Further early season success – which included a home win against Vodacom Bulls and away victories to Zebre Parma and Dragons saw Edinburgh reach the summit of the Championship for the first time since 2009 (in the then Celtic League).

The capital side then celebrated 'Club Appreciation Night' with a home win against Benetton in December, with the home side's stars pulling on the playing socks of their boyhood clubs as part of a wider appreciation night of the grassroots game, including Magnus Bradbury who marked his 100th appearance for the club while representing Oban Lorne RFC.

Edinburgh got their Challenge Cup campaign off to the best possible start with a historic 18-21 win against former European Champions Saracens at StoneX Stadium in mid-December, before the team's annual festive derbies against Glasgow Warriors were postponed due to Covid-19 at the Scotstoun club.

The New Year brought further success as Edinburgh recorded resounding wins over Cardiff and Connacht to maintain a top eight position in the URC, while a 10-try routing of Brive – which included a memorable length of the field solo score from debutant Freddie Owsley – kept the capital side on top in Europe.

A 30-17 defeat to Glasgow Warriors at Scotstoun in March would mean the capital side trailed going into the season's 1872 Cup decider, however Edinburgh responded to the loss in fine fashion as they became the first northern-hemisphere team to win in South Africa in 21/22 – claiming a famous 5-21 reverse against a Siya Kolisi-led Cell C Sharks in Durban.

On the European front, a 54-5 win against Pau secured the team safe passage into the last 16 of the Challenge Cup

A knockout tie against Bath at DAM Health Stadium was the team's reward, and they duly took their opportunity, securing a 41-19 win against the Premiership side

Returning to domestic action, 30 April 2022 will go down in history as the first-ever sell out at DAM Health Stadium. Despite a 10-16 loss to Ulster, the 7,774-strong crowd showcased the growing appetite for professional rugby in the Scottish capital and Edinburgh Rugby's new home.

A 30-34 home loss to Wasps meant Edinburgh exited the Challenge Cup at the Quarter-Final stages, however Mike Blair's side were back to their scintillating best the following week as rivals Warriors came to town.

A 28-11 win in front of 24,187 fans at BT Murrayfield meant Edinburgh leapfrogged their rivals to claim back the 1872 Cup on aggregate, lift the first-ever Scottish x Italian Shield and qualify for the 2022/23 Heineken Champions Cup – capping off a memorable day at Scotland's national stadium.

Edinburgh Rugby continued to bolster its squad for the 2022/23 season and will welcome new signings Sam Skinner (lock), Wes Goosen (back-three) and Nick Auterac (loosehead) to the club this



O 55.2k followers

5.4k subscribers 5.7k subscribers

7.2k follower (launched 12 May 2022)

Leading the URC in social media growth this season.



Season Ticket Members: 3,502

1872 Cup attendance: 24,187

Average attendance:

7,528

Total attendance: 90,333





The FOSROC Super6 delivered its inaugural champions in October 2021 when Ayrshire Bulls defeated Southern Knights 26-16 at DAM Health Stadium, the Millbrae outfit grabbing the spoils after an engrossing contest that included 16 points from the boot of Tom Jordan.

Bulls notched tries through Elias Caven and a wonder score from hooker George Thornton, who stepped a defender and thundered home. Knights were in it until the final knockings thanks to a Jacob Henry try and 11 Jason Baggott points from the tee.

Ayrshire Bulls were led to the title by former Scotland cap Pat MacArthur, who held the position temporarily to allow former teammate Pete Horne to take up the mantle upon completion of his own playing career. The only other new Head Coach during the 2021 FOSROC Super6 season was Andrew Kelly, who joined Heriot's in February of that year.

That series was designed to give the squads more competitive games across the course of the calendar year, meaning that teams will compete in between 17 to 20 fixtures dependant on league standings.

One of the key aims of FOSROC Super6 is to bridge the gap between the amateur game and the professional ranks, and no fewer than four players made the step up to full international honours: Jamie Hodgson (Watsonians), Marshall Sykes and Ross Thompson (both Ayrshire Bulls) and Rory Darge (Southern Knights) won Scotland caps during the 2021/22 season.

Additionally, several FOSROC Super6 players earned Scotland 7s contracts for their HSBC World Sevens Series campaign, with Kaleem Barreto and Jordan Edmunds (both Boroughmuir Bears), Matt Davidson (Ayrshire Bulls), Harvey Elms (Watsonians) and Callum Young (Heriot's Rugby) listed in the core squad.



Broadcast

The 2021 FOSROC Super6 saw every Friday match shown live on the BBC Sport website, BBC iPlayer and the Scottish Rugby website; all Sunday games live on broadcast partner Freesports; and highlights of each game also provided.

For the 2022 FOSROC Super6 Sprint Series, every Friday night game was broadcast live on television by broadcast partner FreeSports and both Saturday games were available on the BBC Sport website, BBC iPlayer and the Scottish Rugby website.



In July 2021, a change in the structure of the FOSROC Scottish Rugby Academy saw 30 contracted male players aligned to either Edinburgh Rugby or Glasgow Warriors in a move designed to accelerate their development in a professional environment.

Being based in a pro-team set-up also allows those contracted players to work closely with Head Coaches in order to make the transition into high performance as smooth as possible.

Players are also aligned to a FOSROC Super6 side, meaning that further playing and training opportunities are established throughout a season.

In the past season, numerous Academy graduates have gone on to sign professional deals, with Murphy Walker, Gregor Brown (both players have also made their pro debuts), Alex Samuel, Max Williamson and Angus Fraser all penning terms at Glasgow Warriors. At Edinburgh Rugby, Jamie Campbell, Paddy Harrison, Rudi Brown, Roan Frostwick and Matt Currie have all enjoyed playing time, with Currie having impressed since signing full-time terms in January 2022.



read more...

The 2021/22 FOSROC Scottish Rugby Academy contracted players

The FOSROC Scottish Rugby Academy fixture card returned post-Covid with a host of fixtures across U20, U18 and U17 level

The FOSROC U16 Scottish Rugby Academy Regional Championships returned for the first time since 2019 with a series of games containing more than 300 players over the course of three weekends in April



With the return of rugby post-pandemic, a new Game Development team was formed within the Rugby Development department to lead on all aspects of coaching, match officiating, volunteering, and player welfare.

This new team will enable a more focussed approach to coach and match official development within the community game, whilst providing clear pathways into High Performance.



The Game Development Conference

Season 2021/22 has seen the successful implementation of key programme and initiatives delivered in conjunction with clubs, schools and societies, headlines including:



Women & Girls Coach Support

Programme (in partnership with SP Energy Networks)



Mental Health E-Learning Course



Player Development Hubs

Match Official Strategy

The strategy is centred around ensuring rugby in Scotland has the necessary depth and quality of referees, touch-judges and TMOs to deliver an enjoyable and quality rugby experience for all, whilst sustaining representation for our match officials at the highest international levels.



Match Official Strategy



New training courses

A calendar of new coach and match official courses has been delivered throughout Scotland with positive engagement from clubs, schools and societies:

Attendees:

Coaching	Pro Coach	Aspiring
Essentials	Master	Coaching
Course	Classes	Programme
786	241	209

ntroduction Mini Rugb to Match Referee Officiating 227 187

World Rugby Mental First Aid in Health Rugby E-Learning 234 892

RUGBYRIGHT ☑ 5.063

completions



The resumption of the rugby calendar has been as important to match officials as it has to those playing the game, with exceptional work over the past few years bearing fruit for our highly-skilled referees.

Hollie Davidson has continued to blaze a trail, earning appointments in the European Challenge Cup, United Rugby Championship and TikTok Women's Six Nations, amongst many other feats.

Mike Adamson's career has developed to a point where he has officiated in several Tier 1 internationals, including in the Guinness Six Nations.



With plenty more besides, including the appointment in March 2022 of JP Doyle as High Performance Referee Coach, the 2021/22 season represented another leap in match official development as Scottish referees strive to broaden their place towards the top of the global rugby set-up.

Scottish Rugby continues to drive forward the delivery of the Match Official Strategy in close collaboration with the Referee Societies and the Scottish Rugby Referees Association (SRRA).



Match Official Strategy

Match Official Development Team

In January 2022, Craig McCann was appointed Senior Match Official Development Manager, with Colin George appointed Match Official Development Manager in May, joining Colin Brett in the same role to complete the Match Official Development team.

Of the many great officiating stories of the past year, notable mention must go to the team on Silver Saturday, with all finals refereed by women officials.

Match Officials at-a -glance

Mike Adamson refereed:

- International matches . two Rugby Europe including Wales v Guinness Six Nations matches
- URC Semi Final Stormers v Ulster
- · Champions Cup regularly

Hollie Davidson refereed:

- her first EPCR Challenge URC games, including Scotstoun
- two Women's TikTok 6 Ru Campbell was selected Nations and one Men's U20s 6 Nations matches
- at delayed Tokyo 2020 Olympics and selected for the Commonwealth Games 7s and delayed 2021 Rugby World Cup later this year

- URC and EPCR Challenge Cup regularly
- knockout games Round match October 2021 of 16 and QF
- Spain v Romania Rugby **Europe International**

Ben Blain refereed:

- regularly in URC
 - Internationals Russia v Portugal and Netherlands v Romania

Keith Allen refereed the first ever FOSROC Super6 Final in October 2021

Finlay Brown selected to referee at Commonwealth Games 7s in Birmingham in addition to being a member of the HSBC World Sevens Series Circuit.

to referee at U18 6 Nations event in Paris in April 2022

Mary Pringle was selected to referee at Rugby Europe 7s in June 2022

Jonny Perriam made his FOSROC Super6 refereeing debut and also took charge Sam Grove-White refereed: of England Students v France Universities

lan Kenny refereed the • two EPCR Challenge Cup Rugby Europe Super Cup



Our performances away from the pitch are as important to Scottish Rugby as the teams that play on it, as the global consciousness around environmental protection continues to spark action. There are a number of ongoing initiatives undertaken by the BT Murrayfield Estates team as we strive towards a future net zero community.

BT Murrayfield Estate, 0% Landfill Policy

We have recently replaced our full complement of 330 match day blue general bins (and replaced them with a split of 'Dry Mix Recycled' and 'General Waste' red bins to allow our fans to segregate their waste at source.

Our Dry Mix goes to be recycled at plant nearby in Broxburn with the remainder, General Waste, is sent to be burnt and converted into fuel to power electricity and cement plants in a process referred to as 'refuse derived fuel' or 'waste to energy'.

At a Glance:

Glass - All recycled

Food and Grass Cuttings - All composted through our waste provider BIFFA

Metal and Wood - Sent separately to be recycled through BIFFA and DALTONS Metal Recycling

Pallets - Blue pallets re-used - Normal wooden pallets taken away

Electrical Items – Collected and sent through as WEEE (Waste from Electrical and Electronic Equipment) through our waste providers

Building Management System – We are currently investing in the upgrade of our BMS which is helping us to reducing our electricity and gas usage throughout the estate and subsequently – reducing our footprint.

Introduction of Stadium Office space core working hours to minimise our utility usage even further



Jamie Farndale Scottish Rugby's Sustainability **Ambassador**

Water - We are currently exploring the option of borehole water provision on our site, with work on this ongoing

Fleet Vehicles – 80% of our fleet holdings have been replaced with hybrid vehicles

Turf - We have adjusted our commodity volume purchases to reduce plastic waste, ie, purchase larger containers. We utilise plant growth regulators to reduce our grass cutting frequency and have reduced our fungicide usage to an absolute minimum.

Regular meetings are held with our residents to minimise our acoustic and light spill impact. This includes our reduction in operating hours for our contractors to minimise noise pollution to an acceptable level

Match days at BT Murrayfield are complemented by the popular Scottish Rugby Hospitality offerings, powered by Elior.

reduction in emissions associated with high-carbon animal proteins

make food donations to the products for consumables homeless

25% reduction in food beef consumption through waste - working with Chefs menu redesign – to reduce Eye (Scale to measure daily waste and online portal to record wastage)

Working with Social Bite to Switched to Vegware



Rugby's capacity to be a force for good was once again underlined in the past season.

Whether giving supporters who had been through some traumatic experiences the opportunity to rekindle their passion for the game and the national team at BT Murrayfield, to clubs the length and breadth of Scotland supporting worthy causes in their own community, rugby was big-hearted once more as the restrictions around Covid were eased.

The example was set by the men's Scotland team, who donated £10,000 to the Children and young adults mental health service (CAMHS), which had seen demand mushroom during the pandemic.

Signed merchandise from the team also boosted many charities, whether on a national or local scale.

The Scotland Women's team did their bit for Braidburn School, which cares for children with additional health and support needs.

Scottish Rugby Academy coach, Chris Laidlaw, raised more than £26,000 for three charities close to his heart – the Murrayfield Injured Players Foundation; Marie Curie; and Alzheimer Scotland.

Chris ran a marathon in each month of 2021 and more than doubled his original target of £12,000.

Working with our colleagues in the Italian Rugby Federation, Scottish Rugby hanselled a new trophy, the Cuttitta Cup in memory of our former scrum coach and Italian captain Massimo Cuttitta, who died last May from Covid.

The trophy, with the scrum at its heart, was unveiled in the spring and was captured for the first time by the Scotland men's team, after victory over Italy in Rome. Massimo's twin brother, Marcello and elder brother Michele led the presentation party.



Scottish Rugby also continued its close relationship with the My Name's Doddie Foundation, providing charity auction prizes and was honoured to look after Tom Smith and his family as our guests at the Calcutta Cup match at BT Murrayfield.

Sadly, Tom's cancer condition saw him pass away in April, but we are exploring ways in which we can support 40titude the bowel cancer charity for which Tom was an ambassador.

Scottish Rugby also supported a dinner to celebrate the 1984 and 1990 Grand Slams, where a substantial sum was raised for the Hearts & Balls charity.

Official Charity Partners

















Scottish Rugby received generous and vital financial support from the Scottish Government in the financial year to 31 May 2021. A total of £20m was made available in the form of a grant of £15m and a loan of £5m.

£6.5million of the £20.0m was earmarked to support community clubs in Scotland as the sport emerges from the Covid-19 pandemic. The remainder of the funding has enabled Scottish Rugby to maintain infrastructure and jobs, in line with the terms of the grant, in the prolonged absence of normal revenue streams.

Government Grant £15m Key uses and splits by year are below:	Total	2021/22*	2021/22 Spent	2021/22 Planned	2020/21
Club Recovery	£0.50m	-	£0.50m	£0.50m	-
Return to Rugby Funding	£1.00m	£0.15m	£0.85m	£1.00m	-
Club Support / Rugby Development	£1.65m	-	-	-	£1.65m
Covid Compliance Costs	£2.15m	-	-	-	£2.15m
Operating Costs and Infrastructure	£7.45m	-	-	-	£7.45m
Stadium Infrastructure and Maintenance	£2.25m	-	-	-	£2.25m
Total	£15.0m	£0.15m	£1.35m	£1.50m	£13.50m

^{*}Remaining to be spent in 2022/23

The full grant was received in February 2021 and has been utilised in meeting the Government's purpose of "maintaining jobs and infrastructure" for rugby in Scotland and to provide direct support to rugby clubs across the country. £13.5m of the grant was utilised in 2020/21 with £1.35m of the remaining £1.5m utilised in 21/22 and the last £0.15m to be spent in 22/23.

Funds Used in 2021/22

Club Recovery Fund £0.5m

£0.5m of the grant received was set aside to help clubs recover from the impact of the pandemic and to restart the game at grass roots level for the 21/22 season. This fund was fully spent in FY21/22. Three levels of award were made available - up to £2,500, up to £5,000 or up to £7,500 and some examples of their uses are:

- Aberdeen Grammar, which applied for funds to repair crossbars and its stand, which had been damaged by fire caused by vandals taking advantage of the unattended facility during lockdown.
- Like many other clubs, Linlithgow applied to have their pitch Drainage repaired following months of neglect as groundsmen were unable to access the club.

Both clubs received a grant of £5,000.

Return to Rugby Fund £1.0m

A £1m Return to Rugby Fund to kickstart the new season and enable clubs to attract and retain players, coaches, and volunteers. Applications were received to support Club open days, community engagement, volunteer recruitment activities, coach development activities and the fund was largely distributed in 21/22, with £0.15m still to be distributed in 22/23.

The total awarded to clubs and referee societies from this fund was £683,119 to 114 clubs. Dundee Rugby Club utilised their Kickstart funding to host their inaugural 'Dundee City 7s' tournament. The event saw over 300 players across mini, youth and senior rugby return to the field over two days.

A further £300,000 was used to support Scottish Rugby's Return to Rugby promotional campaigns to assist the clubs in the marketing of the return of the game. Of this amount, £75,000 was invested into the Everyone's Game campaign which included over half of the funding going to the clubs in the form of club packs, of which 120 were distributed.

Scottish Rugby Schools Week has also received £75,000 from this fund, the majority of which will be spent in the second Schools Week later this month (21-25 March). So far, 623 schools have signed up to participate and it is being additionally supported by the title sponsor, Saltire Energy.

The further £0.15m of Scottish Government funding was allocated equally across Scottish Rugby's five regions of operational activity – Caledonia North, Caledonia Midlands, East, Glasgow North and Glasgow South. This remaining funding is being spent in early 22/23, for example in our east region the funding is being spent on clubs running rugby taster sessions in state schools that currently do not have a rugby programme.

Funds Used in 2020/21

Club Support and Rugby Development £1.65m

£1.65m was spent in 20/21 supporting the operational costs of Rugby Development. We were able to maintain the Development Officer (DO) network by continuing retain DOs in their roles that could not receive JRS support from the government. £0.5m was set aside to fund a Cub Hardship Fund (CHF) where clubs could apply to have funding to enable them to meet the costs of maintaining the club when no income was being generated. As clubs began returning to their premises they were able to receive funding support to carry safety checks on both their water systems, checking for Legionella, gas safety check and their electrical equipment PAT testing.

Covid Compliance Costs £2.15m

£2.15m of the grant was used in 20/21 to cover the incremental costs incurred by Scottish Rugby to be Covid compliant, including the costs of PCR testing, creating Covid-free bubbles at BT Murrayfield and at the Pro Clubs and for increased costs of travel due to social distancing. Covid compliance costs of an estimated £0.53m were incurred in 21/22 but funded from normal operations.

Operating Costs and Infrastructure £7.45m

The remaining £7.45m of grant has been utilised to support the continued operating costs of Scottish Rugby and to maintain the game's infrastructure to allow a rapid recovery when conditions improve and government restrictions are lifted. One of the key subjects discussed with the Scottish Government was the desire to avoid any reductions in employee numbers. The grant has allowed us to maintain the skills, capability and capacity to support a rapid recovery.

Stadium Infrastructure and Maintenance £2.25m

£2.249m of the grant was used to maintain BT Murrayfield and associated assets during the disruption caused by the Coronavirus pandemic, allowing us to maintain our facilities and continue to host professional rugby in the stadium.

Government Loan £5m

As part of the support package offered by the Government, Scottish Rugby received a loan of £5m to further support the post-Covid recovery. The term of the loan is twenty years and it is interest free.

The loan funding is earmarked to be utilised entirely as a Growth and Participation Fund to assist grassroots rugby clubs in Scotland to aid post Covid recovery and growth and to increase participation in the sport in Scotland. Any annual underspends in distributable grants from any year rolls into the following year.

Growth and Participation Fund

The fund was launched in January 2022 to support delivery of diversity and inclusion initiatives, widening the demographic in the game. As of 31 May 22 a total of 63 applications have been approved for funding from the four streams available, although the funds applied for in this financial year will be spent in next financial year. The loan funds are held in a separate bank account and only released for settlement on approval of application and requested release of funds. Claims are being made across the following categories:

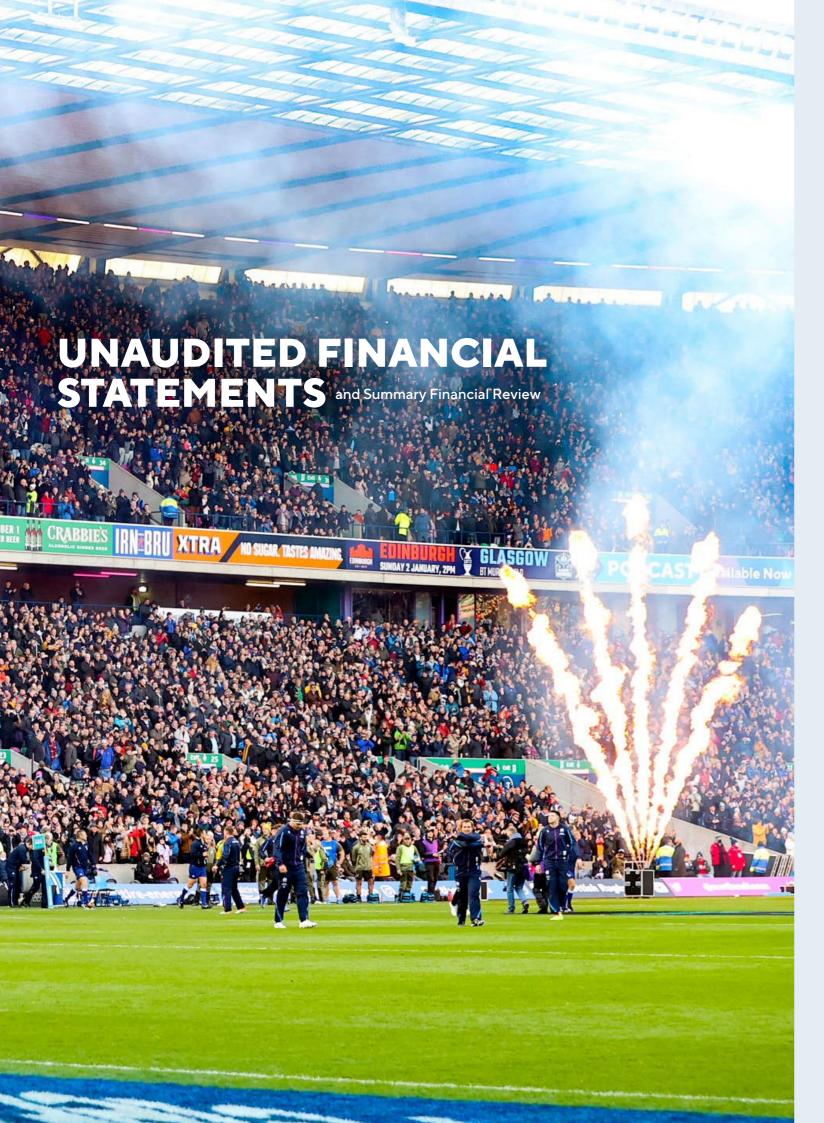
Facilities: Application-based support for community hubs, pitches, welcoming, family orientated and inclusive clubhouses, changing facilities and gyms. 3 applications were received for major capital investment grants of up to £250k. Two applications are proceeding through to the final stage of the process, and we expect to grant £250k to each of these.

People: Women and girls off-field funding to support the development of female coaches, match officials and others involved in the delivery of the Women's game. 19 Grants have been approved from this strand of the fund.

Performance: Improving player development environments including regional development camps to cover players, coaches, match officials and club leaders. 16 Grants have been approved from this strand of the fund.

State Schools: Investment in to improving the numbers of State Schools that have access to Rugby equipment and resources. 26 Grants have been approved from this strand of the fund.

The aim is to spend £2.0m of the fund this year with a further £1m in the following three financial years.



The consolidated balance sheet and profit and loss account for Scottish Rugby Union for the year to 31 May 2022 are presented at this time by the Scottish Rugby Board, acting under the Scottish Rugby Union Bye-Laws, in draft, unaudited format on pages 53 to 55. Full audited accounts will be laid at the second part of the AGM planned to be reconvened in late September.

A high level commentary on the key matters of note in the summary unaudited accounts is presented in this financial review.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THESE DRAFT STATEMENTS ARE UNAUDITED AND SOME NUMBERS MAY CHANGE WHEN THE FINAL ACCOUNTS ARE PRESENTED.

The organisation's financial recovery from Covid and the investment transactions completed mean that the accounts are more complex than prior years. To simplify matters we have split the business finances into two parts: –

Core Business

This is the largest part of Scottish Rugby operations and is concentrated on maintaining the sport of rugby in Scotland in perpetuity. It should look to generate a small surplus each year. The key focus areas for the last financial year were the recovery from Covid, performance on the pitch and continued delivery of the strategic plan.

Strategic Investments

Focussed on concluding complex investment transactions and ensuring the resultant funds inflow is sufficient to drive transformational investment in rugby in Scotland for the future.

Core Business vs Strategic Investments

Overall, the Group has delivered a profit of around £24.8m for the year (2021:£10.5m). For clarity, and in line with our financial strategy, we have separated this into its two component parts. We have also introduced EBITDA (earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation), a measure commonly used in business, as an indicator for profitability.

	FY22			FY21		
	Core	Strategic		Core	Strategic	
	Business	Investments	Total	Business	Investments	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
EBITDA	(3,122)		(3,122)	3,687	-	3,687
Interest	(213)		(213)	(184)		(184)
Depreciation	(2,406)		(2,406)	(1,784)		(1,784)
Gain on disposal of investments		31,078	31,078		9,855	9,855
Write down of investment		(881)	(881)			
Tax credit / (charge)	437	(119)	318		(1,054)	(1,054)
(Deficit) / Surplus after tax	(5,304)	30,078	24,774	1,719	8,801	10,520

Core Business

General Performance

The Core Business has weathered Covid extremely well:

- Pent-up demand for tickets buoyed revenue back to pre-Covid times with 3 of the 4 Autumn Tests and both of the 6 Nations home games being sold out.
- Scottish Government funding meant that we were able to retain as many of our colleagues as possible, as we committed to do, and to mitigate Covid impacts.
- Extremely prudent management of other costs in the year means we managed to invest in our professional teams and produce an overall deficit of £3.1m for the year at EBITDA, which is a smaller than originally expected deficit, with activity returning to levels closer

Financial support through the pandemic from many parties, including our people, partners, supporters, sponsors, suppliers and, significantly, the Scottish Government and World Rugby and post pandemic from our fans and customers, have all contributed to this position. We are extremely grateful for that.

Within the current year unaudited financial results, £1.35m (2021: £13.5m) of Scottish Government grant funding is included as income. The remaining £0.15m of the Scottish Government grant of £15m will be spent in the 2022/23 financial year on the Return to Rugby Fund as described on page 46.

Domestic Rugby and Club Support Funds £8.1m

Support for the grass roots game in Scotland is provided in several ways:

- 1. Domestic Rugby £4.1m: undertaken through the Rugby Development team within Scottish Rugby, led by the Director of Rugby Development. This activity supports the Club game directly.
- 2. Club Support Funds £3.5m: direct support through funds that are available to clubs in the way of cash to support the individual clubs' specific needs. Funds set up or utilised this financial year include the Club Hardship Fund, the Sustainability Fund, the Return to Rugby Fund and the Growth and Participation Fund.
- 3. Through other areas within Scottish Rugby which run events such as Silver Saturday, where ticketing income passes to the clubs but costs remain in the centre, or who provide systems development to support Club Rugby specific systems, such as SCRUMS.

While the total spend on grass roots rugby in Scotland across Domestic Rugby and Club Support Funds in 21/22 was £7.6m, a further £1m, as part of the Growth and Participation Fund financed by the Scottish Government Loan, was available to be spent but was not actually spent in the year. This money has been set aside for claim and disbursement in 2022/23, to add to the £1m already allocated from 22/23 from the same source. Any unspent funds will continue to roll forward.

The additional direct costs of support that is provided across the organisation in running events or technical support in SCRUMS totals approximately £0.5m, bringing the total investment in grass roots rugby in Scotland to around £8.1m.

Utilities Costs

External pressures on electricity and gas wholesale prices combined with an ageing infrastructure within BT Murrayfield drove extremely high utilities costs during the year, with a total spend of over £2m. Significant actions were put in place during the year to help mitigate these costs but despite these measures these costs are expected to continue at enhanced levels for some time to come, due to the ongoing external factors.

Strategic Investments

This is a complex area but in summary, there has been strategic investment in rugby by private equity over the last 3 years in two ways – one into the URC Championship which is benefitting our Professional Teams - and the other into the 6 Nations Championship benefitting the international game. The latter investment was concluded in 2021/22 and is commented on further below. The investment mechanisms themselves, and the associated accounting for these transactions are complicated because of the number of parties / legal jurisdictions / tax regimes involved but simply put, the entities that run the URC and 6 Nations have been restructured, with rights to participate in revenue streams sold to private equity in return for cash injections in the short to medium term. That in turn has enabled funds to be made available to the participating Unions, including Scottish Rugby, for longer-term benefit.

The funds generated for Scottish Rugby from these transactions have been set aside to use to support capital and operational projects which will pay back for the longer-term benefit of the business, including improvements in the infrastructure at BT Murrayfield. These monies are held in a separate account that is subject to strict control.

Investments into 6 Nations

During the year a significant restructuring of the Six Nations organisation was carried out to accommodate investment from a private equity firm, CVC Capital Partners. The transaction involved the creation of new corporate entities within the 6 Nations structure.

Scottish Rugby's share of the non-contingent consideration for the transaction is £37m (gross) which is being paid over 5 years. In line with accounting and tax advice from our external professional advisors, we are accounting for the entire consideration as of the completion date of the transaction. The accounting treatment is complex but accounting rules require us to recognise cash already received differently to cash that will be received in the future. That means that the accounting for the transaction is split into two parts:

- 1. Accounting for cash received before year end: in the 2021/22 year, we will recognise income of £7.4m, being the first payment in relation to the sale, received in 21/22, less transaction fees incurred in the year of around £2.1m, i.e. net income in the year of around £5.3m. This cash has been received and is included in year-end cash balances. Some smaller transaction fees incurred in the prior year were also met from these proceeds.
- 2. Accounting for cash received post year end: to account for the remaining £29.6m expected to be received in July 2023, 2024, and 2025, in accordance with accounting standards we have discounted the payments to be made in those future years at a 10% discount rate and have recognised the resulting amount to the profit and loss account in the current financial year, being £25.8m. The second payment of £7.4m due to be received in July 2022 was received at that time and is therefore not subject to discounting.

The rate that we have used so far for the discounting for the purposes of the unaudited financial statements is a matter of some judgement and may change as our audit progresses. There is no impact on the actual cash received (amounts are shown in the cash consideration column below) and this is simply an accounting treatment matter.

The amounts, after applying the discount mentioned above, total £31.1m and are included in the draft unaudited financial statements for 2021/22 as income from the sale of investments in the current financial year.

The table below should help to make this easier to follow:

Financial Year	Cash Consideration £m	Costs	Net Amount £m	Discounted Amount £m	Status
2021	7.4	(2.1)	5.3	5.3	Cash in bank at 31 May 2022
2022	7.4	-	7.4	7.4	Cash in bank at July 2022
2023	7.4	-	7.4	6.7	Amount to be received
2024	7.4	-	7.4	6.1	Amount to be received
2025	7.4	-	7.4	5.6	Amount to be received
	37.0	(2.1)	34.9	31.1	

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A further payment may fall due in the future if EBITDA performance of the Six Nations exceeds targets set as part of the transaction. This contingent receipt has not been recognised in the accounts at this time due to its uncertain nature.

Old Glory

Scottish Rugby invested \$1m in Old Glory over the course of 2 prior financial years against performance milestones, and on the expectation of potentially significant future growth in the US market, particularly if the Rugby World Cup was to be awarded to the USA in 2027 or 2031. Pre-Covid expectations were that additional investors would be sourced and that, combined with the natural growth of the business, would be sufficient to see the business through to cash flow positive without significant further cash injections by any of the shareholders.

Largely due to Covid, and partially due to the longer trajectory to the Men's Rugby World Cup now announced for 2031, operations were delayed, leading to additional cash requirements as growth plans are now spread over a longer time period. While expectations of future growth potential remain significant, due to the longer trajectory to profitability and continuing cash requirements at this point, the Group has taken a cautious approach and has therefore written back the full carrying value of the investment in the financial year to 31 May 2022. This in no way reflects the Group's expectations about the future of Old Glory, which continues to develop but is instead a reflection of prudent financial management, the circumstances prevailing at the moment and rules on accounting treatment.

Cash and Going Concern

The cash position of the business at the end of May 2022 is strong following the Strategic Investments outlined above, giving the Group confidence about its going concern status for the foreseeable future.

UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT for the year ended 31 May 2022

	UNAUDITED	
	2022	2021
	£000	£000
Turnover and Other Income		
Ticket Income	16,413	-
Broadcasting Revenues	15,265	19,620
Commercial Income	9,264	8,543
Professional Rugby	10,585	5,400
Development Income & Grants	3,198	17,864
Hospitality and Other Income	3,203	1,071
	57,928	52,498
Costs		
International and Professional Rugby	(32,390)	(27,688
Domestic and Performance Rugby	(8,171)	(6,704
Commercial and Operational	(16,972)	(12,530
Club Support and Development	(3,517)	(1,889
	(61,050)	(48,811
EBITDA	(3,122)	3,687
Depreciation and Amortisation	(2,406)	(1,784
Operating (Deficit) / Surplus	(5,528)	1,903
Income from investments	31,078	7,139
Write down of Investment	(881)	
Gain on disposal of commercial rights		2,716
Surplus before interest and taxation	24,669	11,758
Net interest	(213)	(184
Surplus before taxation	24,456	11,574
Tax credit / (charge) on surplus on ordinary activities	318	(1,054
Surplus for the financial year	24,774	10,520

UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

for the year ended 31 May 2022

	UNAUDITED	
	2022	2021
	£000	£000
Surplus for the financial year	24,774	10,520
Other comprehensive (expenditure) / income :		
Cash Flow hedges:		
Change in value of foreign exchange hedging instruments	(220)	276
Other comprehensive (expenditure) / income for the year	(220)	276
Total comprehensive income for the year	24,554	10,796

UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET as at 31 May 2022

	UNAUDITED	
	2022	2021
	£000	£000
Fixed Assets		
Tangible assets	41,457	43,167
Intangible assets	412	593
Investments		881
	41,869	44,641
Current Assets		
Derivative financial instruments	-	220
Debtors	12,388	5,525
Cash at bank	21,473	20,655
Cash in hand	4	10
	33,865	26,410
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(21,589)	(23,079)
Net Current Assets	12,276	3,331
Non Current Assets		
Debtors	18,403	-
Total assets less current liabilities and provisions	72,548	47,972
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year		
Bank and Other Loans	5,000	5,000
Deferred income	1,531	1,591
Murrayfield Debentures	32,114	32,032
Irredeemable Debentures	97	97
	38,742	38,720
Capital and Reserves		
General reserve	33,806	9,032
Hedging reserve		220
Total Capital and Reserves Surplus / (Deficit)	33,806	9,252
	70.540	47.070
	72,548	47,972

THANK YOU TO

OUR PARTNERS

PRINCIPAL PARTNERS



macron



OFFICIAL PARTNERS





















































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Front cover

Scotland Women reach the next round of Rugby World Cup qualification

Back cover

Scotland Captain Stuart Hogg lifts the Calcutta Cup

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