



Several years ago, I set myself a goal to try and capture the Spirit of Rugby at Stirling County Rugby Club. Over the last few months, I have worked my way through more than 10,000 photos spanning over 15 years at the club in order to select 100 photos which celebrate the fantastic people at Stirling County.

I have focused the project around 3 Key Themes :

1. The Spirit of Stirling County
2. Murrayfield Memories
3. Legends & People of Stirling County



Beyond the Exhibition

As I worked through my photos to select the 100 photos for the exhibition which capture the spirit of rugby at Stirling County, I felt that there was much more to tell and share. So in this booklet I have added in a wider range of images to show what I have been trying to capture over the years in terms of the special moments, the effort, commitment and the characters across each of the teams at Stirling County which ultimately contribute to the spirit of this great club and sport.



<https://bryan-robertson.co.uk>

EVENTS | SPORTS | LANDSCAPE | COMMERCIAL ASSIGNMENTS



Bryan Robertson
PHOTOGRAPHY



Now that I have compiled some of my favourite photos against the 3 Themes, I would really appreciate your input to tell the stories behind the pictures.

If you have a particular photo that is special to you please drop me an email with a few lines that

- Explains the story behind what is captured in the photo
- Explain what that photo means to you
- And if you want, you can also let me know what being involved in rugby and / or Stirling County has meant to you
- This way the project can be then held as a unique archive, of a distinct period in time, setting out what being involved in the rugby family has meant for so many different people

Email : bryan.robertson.photography@outlook.com

Bryan Robertson
PHOTOGRAPHY

<https://bryan-robertson.co.uk>

EVENTS | SPORTS | LANDSCAPE | COMMERCIAL ASSIGNMENTS

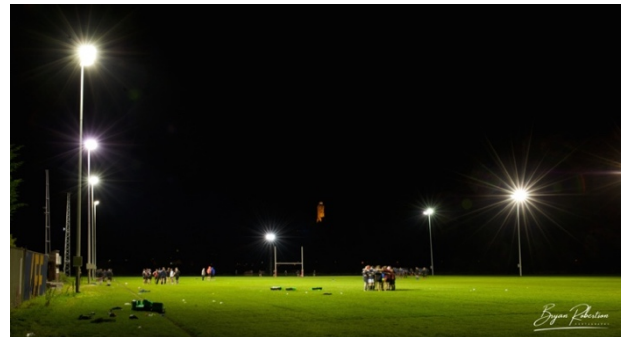


The Spirit of Stirling County Wall



I had visualised this wall for some time, which sets out a wide range of aspects that come together to create the spirit of Stirling County. At the centre, are teams from all age groups - progressing from the minis right through to the senior rugby teams. In the top row, there are some of my favourite action photos. In the action photos, I am ultimately trying to capture the moment when all the training pays off as the team achieve something memorable through their collective endeavour.

But none of that is possible without the hard work and training in the cold winter nights under the flood lights. Equally, those achievements would not be possible without the efforts from all the supporters and volunteers that make things happen at the club for all age groups.



I have also added in three black and white photos at the start of this wall, as the Spirit of County is deeply inter-linked to its history. I have chosen a photo where Easton was playing rugby back in the 50s as well as the famous Whyler Photos image of the championship winning team from 1993. Below that is another Whyler Photos image from that same season with Kenny Logan scoring a try. In the background I am cheering on the County with my dad and my brother as we did for every game that season. Fantastic memories. In this booklet I have aimed to expand on all these aspects of the club, to show the richness of experiences available and the range of dedication applied.

The Spirit of Stirling County – Game Day

A selection of photos of the great people that make game day happen - from the cheering mascots, fantastic volunteers that help feed the players and the supporters to the coaches, team managers and of course the supporters themselves



I am fond of this picture taken on my iPhone - I wonder how often many of us have stood on the touchline watching a training session or a game, chatting with fellow parents?



The Spirit of Stirling County – our second home Bridgehaugh

I often think Bridgehaugh is a perfect setting for rugby. Although being close to the Forth has meant we have had to deal with flooding a couple of times, having Stirling Castle and the Wallace Monument as a back drop makes it a pretty spectacular location.



<https://bryan-robertson.co.uk>

EVENTS | SPORTS | LANDSCAPE | COMMERCIAL ASSIGNMENTS



Achievement through collective endeavor

Through photography I am trying to capture a number of things that are also important in the work I do on Leadership Development. Seeing the all the hard work pay off, through developing the natural skills and potential of individuals to perform together as a high performance team is tremendous. Watching how that commitment pays off, with the development of great team work, where players look out for each other and to then capture the moments when the achievement is recognised through their collective endeavour is pretty special.



Decisive Moment

Through photography I am also trying to capture decisive moments, where the action is frozen in time at a precise point in sport – demonstrating player commitment and the celebration of what they are achieving through all their hard work.



Capturing the decisive moment

The decisive moment is not always about capturing action, but contemplating a moment where a player is in the zone - achieving their true potential or just considering what might have been.



Capturing the decisive moment

I could fill pages with the action photos – after all that is what so much of the game is about. Here are a few more which I think capture the level of commitment that the players put into the game. Which is all so enjoyed by the supporters no matter the weather!



Capturing Great Memories

Each player and supporter will have special memories from their playing career. Here are just a few that I have been able to capture. From lifting the trophy at Melrose, to seeing Niko Matawalu, a superbly gifted Fijian international, pull on the Stirling County jersey. Of course there are also those memories of tries being scored. I feel very lucky to be on the touchline capturing these moments and to know some where in a few years time the players and friends will look back at the photos and say "remember that day when..."



Celebrating the winning try

Rugby Development at County

Over the years Stirling County has had a strong focus on developing talent and giving kids a great experience of the benefits of sport, team work and dedication to their own development. Watching the expansion of girls rugby over the years from around 12 players to well over 65 players has been very impressive. Especially when you get to see those teams take part in the Youth Cup Finals at Murrayfield. This successful development is a real credit to some amazing volunteers willing to give up their time to work with the various age groups and develop their skills and sense of comradery. Something those involved with and the club itself can be very proud of.



Rugby Development at County

Similarly with the boys, there is a clear pathway for their development and experience to progress through the micros, minis to under 18s and then on to senior rugby. Again creating great memories and life skills along the way.



Creating and Sharing Memories

At the end of each season there is the fun day when the minis receives their awards and the P7s get to play the traditional fun-filled game against the coaches before they transition to the youth section. Hopefully I have been able to capture the sense of laughter and fun of that day – for the players, coaches and the parents.



Creating and Sharing Memories – what happens on tour stays on tour

Of course there are the various tours. I have joined my son and his team on the tours to Ireland, Wales and England. So many great memories from these tours. But as you know what goes on tour stays on tour!



Creating and Sharing Memories – what happens on tour stays on tour

Not to mention the quarter final road trip to play the Orkneys in the U16 Youth Cup. Now that was some road and sea trip. The team woke up to have to play in 40 mile an hour winds and then rush to get the ferry back to the mainland. Unfortunately the ferry was cancelled due to the heavy winds and we had to dash across the island to catch a larger ferry. That was a memorable trip home, but the team won and were then on their way to Murrayfield.



Creating and Sharing Memories – what happens on tour stays on tour – Orthez 2014

The best tour so far for me personally has to be the trip to Biarritz and Orthez. The weather and hospitality was superb and the standard of rugby was up a level again. Federico and Shaun were excellent tour guides for what for many was a trip of a life time.





Bryan Robertson
PHOTOGRAPHY



Bryan Robertson
PHOTOGRAPHY

