

Bryan Robertson
PHOTOGRAPHY

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.

People & Legends of County



People & Legends of County

It goes without saying, it is the People that make a rugby club what it is. I have met so many great people over the years whilst following and photographing rugby and I thoroughly enjoy capturing the moments of laughter and joy on the touchline and on the pitch. Here are just a few of the many fantastic people that I have met along the way,

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People & Legends of County – people at the heart of what the club is all about

Over the years I have met many great people at the club. The banter on the touchline, in the buses to games or in car parks waiting for the training sessions to end on a cold winter's night have often brought a smile to my face. I am sure each of us have developed many friendships at the club that will last a lifetime. I have created one frame for the exhibition with 50 photos of just some of the great people of County. In reality, I could have created 10 more of these large frames with the number of people I have met and photos I have taken over the years.



Legends & People of County - Family

It is also a special place where the moments and memories are shared with family and friends. I love capturing some of those post-game memorable moments.



Legends & People of County - Family

Believe me there are many more photos where these came from.



Legends & People of County - Family

And more!



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Legends & People of County

So many of these people in the photos throughout this booklet have played their part in developing rugby and the players at all ages across the years – most of which is on a voluntary basis.



Legends & People of County – kids of County

Whilst the kids go on their own playing journey through the age groups at the club, it is also special to see them on game day providing the guard of honour for the senior teams as they run onto the pitch. Of course, to also enjoy their own moment on the first team pitch at half time as they show off their own rugby skills.



Legends & People of County – Friendship on the touchlines

And whilst there are many special moments shared with families there are also so many friendships on the touchline enjoying supporting friends and teammates.



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Legends & People of County – Friendship on the pitch

Seeing the friendships that have developed on the pitch, you know will last a lifetime, with many great memories to be discussed over a beer or two over the years to come.



Legends & People of County – Friendship on the pitch

And those friendships remain when people move on and play with other teams. Even after a tough fought game, all is forgotten for the catch up of friendships and memories.



Spirit of Rugby – Friendship on the touchlines

For myself it has been rewarding to work along side some great characters of the sport, sharing in their passion for rugby, as they write the stories to keep us engaged and informed along the way – putting words to the photos and vice versa. Sorry I haven't got a photo of Sarah Bell from the SRU and Donald Morton of the Stirling Observer, who have been great supporters of what we do at Stirling County and all things rugby development. Of course there has been the many fellow photographers I have worked with on the touchline, Adrian Henry, Mark Brown and Graham Gaw but to name a few.



Gary Heatley (GH Media) & David Barnes (The Offside Line)



Bruce Aitchison (Happiness is Egg Shaped)

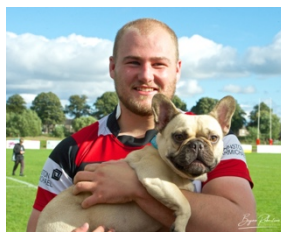
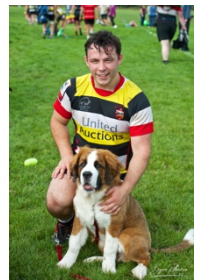
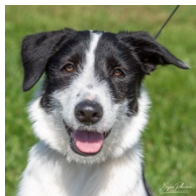
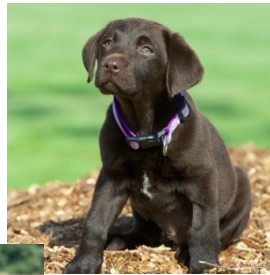
Legends & People of County – Raising Funds

The amount of work that is done behind the scenes by the likes of Ally Logan to arrange charity nights, also the ladies behind the Ladies Lunch day – are all stars of the club. Including the work by Rachel Fez to support the very special Strathcarron Hospice – even with our own fashion show!



Dogs of County

And the photo collection of the club would not be complete without some of the furry friends of Stirling County!



Legends & People of County - Characters

And so what makes a club after all – certainly the supporters, the kids, the players but sometimes there is also that little extra magic from the real characters at the club. Here are just a few



Fraz Muir



The crowd demand #onemoreseason from Gary Holborn



Colin Campbell aka Rambo – the energy behind the 3rds



Tommy I-will-kill-you-if-you-take-my-picture Evans



Always quietly there – Ian Brown



Maciek Kornobis aka Magic



Debbie and Ashely always make me smile when we catch up at the club



Farmer & Forbes



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Legends & People of County - Laughter

Health & Well-Being is a much-discussed topic these days. Being in a place where you are not necessarily judged, where you are supported and encouraged and where there are good laughs to be had whilst creating great memories, is a positive step for the well-being of many of us who spend time at the club.



This pair in particular - when I would be taking photos of a game, they always had a story or joke to tell. We will all miss them dearly.

Legends & People of County – absent friends

And looking back through the photos it is important to take time to remember the good friends we have lost some along the way. But we all know they played their own part in making Stirling County the club it is today.

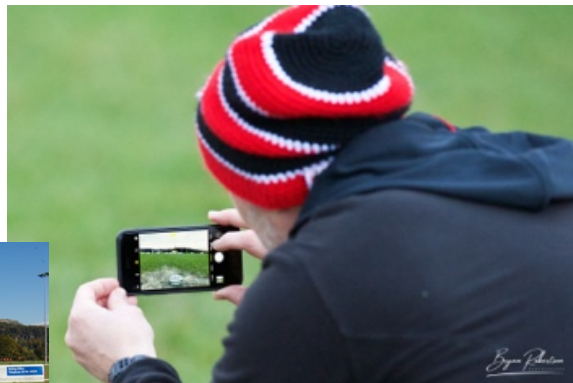
- Al Munn
- Easton Roy
- Ralph McNaught
- Sandy Bryce
- Eilidh McNabs





Legends & People of County

I have had the pleasure of meeting a huge number of great people at the club over the years, but I would like to make a special call out to a couple of legends that I have greatly admired. When I first came across Allan Imrie, he was a driving force in Stirling County 3rds and it is his passions for all things County, especially the youth section, that I have grown to appreciate.



Allan Imrie the social media champion and all-round Mr. County

The reality is there are many other legends at the club that have made a huge impact during their playing career, through coaching and in general stewardship of the club.



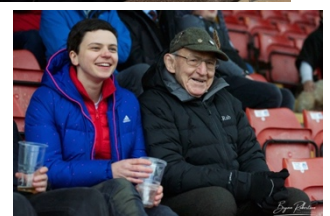
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Legends & People of County

And then there is Easton Roy. The photo of him celebrating with a bottle of Port after scoring a try in the game to celebrate his 95th birthday really captured the spirit of that great man. That photo went viral around the world - from New Zealand to even appearing on CNN news as well as strong coverage across the UK press. The number of times that image was shared is in excess of 5,000 and is an inspiration for everyone to live their life to the fullest.



My biggest disappointment is not having been able to share more photos from the years of more great memories from the games and of so many people I have met. Sorry if your photo is missing from this selection. But hopefully the 100 photos in the exhibition and now several more in this booklet have captured what this great sport and club is all about.

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In conclusion

It has been a great experience to work through all the photos from the years and re-live some of the memories.

The reality is there are many clubs throughout Scotland and indeed the world that could write a very similar story about their spirit, the bonds of friendships and the benefits of shared experiences.

It has been an absolute pleasure to have scratched the surface of what this wonderful sport can give to people and what in turn people can mean for each other.

In constant change and challenging times, finding places where you can chill out, be yourself, forget about the challenges of life and just enjoy the company of others – and watch great sport – there is a lot to be said for just pausing and saying 'life is good' after all #happinesiseggshaped

