## Flourish

Keeping you in the Know



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# The Big Bang

**UK Young Scientists & Engineers Fair** 







### **Head Teacher's Message**

Welcome to our Easter edition of *Flourish*. This has been another significant term for our young people. We have enjoyed an outstanding mix of individual and group success as part of our wider curriculum – as reflected by our many and varied articles in this packed issue. What is most striking, however, is that all of this is happening amidst the rigour and challenge of a first year of new

and and at all of

qualifications (for our S4) and the ongoing challenge of Highers and attempts to secure university and college entry or access to the world of work for our S5/6.

On a personal note, this term began with the experience of a lifetime as Mrs Auldjo and I accompanied twenty Wallace pupils alongside thirty-two other young people from Big Noise in Raploch to Caracas, Venezuela, home of the life-changing El Sistema program. The pride of witnessing our youngsters performing alongside their Venezuelan peers in a packed state-of-the-art concert hall will live long in the memory.

On return to Scotland, I had the moving experience of engaging with our youngsters in Social Subjects as they were visited by holocaust survivors on Holocaust Memorial Day and the pride of witnessing two of our S6 Captains, Eleanor Livingstone and Jason Mill, host the national Holocaust Memorial event at the MacRobert Theatre. This is not to mention the experience of witnessing our S3 dancers win the Forth Valley Schools Dance Competition; our excellent Burns poetry reciters entertaining us once again in celebration of our national bard; another tenacious annual Friends of Logie Kirk debating competition; an outstandingly creative and vibrant Fashion Show; two basketball teams (junior girls and boys) making Scottish finals for the first time; and our S2 footballers reaching the Forth Valley Championship final (results and full stories within).

We have also enjoyed outstanding national recognition in Science: our Go4SET S2 team won their central final and now move onto the national finals; Kerr McMaster in S5 has qualified for Space School; and our Head Girl, Megan Jack, has been recognised at UK level for excellence in Chemistry as she was awarded the Royal Society for Chemistry prize.

As ever, the above is only a summary of some of the many achievements celebrated within. I look forward to reflecting in our next issue on even more successes for our youngsters and sharing with you something of the rich and diverse activity which makes being part of our community such a special privilege.

Scott Pennock, Head Teacher

#### **Staff News**

Wallace High is delighted to welcome:-

Mrs Michelle McCaffrey has been appointed as acting Principal Teacher of Modern Languages and RMPS. Mrs McCaffrey joins Wallace High from St Modan's HS and will cover David Niven's secondment

**Mr Alex Carmichael** joins the English Department on a temporary basis until the end of the school year (June 2014)

#### Secondment:

**Mr David Niven** has successfully been appointed as an Acting Quality Improvement Officer with Stirling Council. Mr Niven's secondment will be in place until June 2014.

Sadly, over the last term, Wallace said goodbye to a few members of staff:-

**Mrs Michaela Bremner** left the English Department in February to take up a permanent position in Perth.

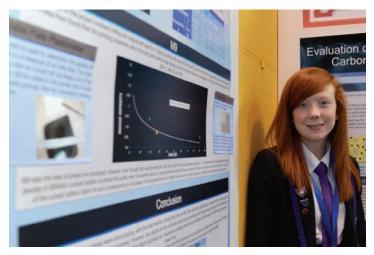
**Mrs Lisa McNaughton** will be focusing on new challenges with Glasgow Caledonian University

**Mr Chris Barrie**, Pool Attendant, has been successfully appointed to Police Scotland. Chris leaves after 5 years of service to the Wallace Community.

Mrs Arlene Orr has commenced her Maternity Leave. We send our best wishes to Arlene and her family and look forward to her return after her leave.

#### Megan Jack—Royal Society of Chemistry Winner

Over summer last year I was accepted to do a Nuffield science bursary at the local ink factory, GR Advanced Materials (GRAM). My Nuffield placement saw me evaluating the use of an alternative type of carbon for use in their carbon black inks. The main reason for my project was to allow GRAM to reduce their costs as the carbon I was evaluating as a replacement was one of a lower cost.



I worked with the research and development team for six weeks over the summer holidays and during my time there I met some great people, some of whom I still keep in contact with. One of the main requirements of a Nuffield placement is the completion of a scientific report and then attendance of a celebration event at the Royal College of Physicians Hall in Edinburgh. The celebration event provided me with an opportunity to communicate my project whilst seeing what all the other Nuffield students had worked on. I was also one of four students to deliver a presentation on my experience itself, and I did this in a lecture theatre to all the pupils, teachers, project supervisors and special guests.

Overall I had a very positive experience during my time at GRAM, not only was I provided with an insight to where chemistry can be applied in the working world, but I was also provided with the opportunity to work in a scientific environment. Once I had completed my project with Nuffield I was encouraged to put it forward for a CREST award and to enter it into the National Science and Engineering Competition. With nothing to lose this was exactly what I did. I was successful in achieving a Gold CREST award and, to my great surprise, achieved a place at the National Science and Engineering Finals in Birmingham.

The finals were last week and spread across three days, with the main judging day on Thursday. My experience at the finals in Birmingham was amazing. I met some very inspiring Individuals, ranging from the first female British Astronaut to a Noble prize winner. However, some of the most inspiring aspects came from the other finalists there. I saw projects ranging from a young girl who had created a games arcade from scratch for her school; a boy who had designed and produced a 3D printer, and down to twins who had carried out research on a cell that has promising properties for the detection, and even treatment, of cancer.

The National Awards ceremony was on the Friday and the whole event was, in my mind, like a science version of the Oscars. I did not expect to win anything after seeing the standard of the projects there. So, as can be imagined when I was announced as the winner of the Royal Society of Chemistry prize, I was somewhat shocked and excited. My prize consisted of £500 and an 'amazing experience' the details of which I am still waiting (in suspense) to find out.

So many opportunities have arisen from my completion of a Nuffield placement and I have the Science Department at Wallace High to thank especially for this, in particular Mr Lees and Mrs Winters. As my Chemistry teachers over the years they have both inspired and made me interested in the field of Chemistry, and so I have them to thank, especially for my achievements to date, and the many more things I hope to achieve.

By Megan Jack, Head Girl.

Scottish Space School—Kerr McMaster (S5)

Kerr McMaster has been selected to attend the Scottish Space

School to be held at Strathclyde University in June. This is a huge achievement by Kerr who competed against other fifth year pupils from across Scotland.

Scottish Space School offers pupils a series of scientific and engineering based challenges centred on work currently undertaken by NASA.

At the end of the Scottish Space School the top ten performing pupils will be selected to visit NASA to learn more about the work of the agency.

Congratulations to Kerr from all at Wallace High. We look forward to learning of Kerr's experiences after his week at Strathclyde University and wish him every success in trying to achieve one of the ten spaces on offer at NASA.



#### Dates for the diary:

Spring Holiday—7th April to 21st April 2014 S6 Graduation—24th April 2014 SQA Exams commence— 29th April 2014 Activities Day—8th May 2014 P6/P7 Information Evening—20th May 2014 P7 Induction Days—22nd & 23rd May 2014 School Show (FAME)—24th & 25th June 2014

#### New climbing wall arrives at Wallace

Wallace High 'scales new heights' with facilities, with the arrival of a climbing wall on Monday 24th March. The climbing wall has been partially funded by sportscotland's Active Places Fund and has already generated considerable excitement with pupils. The wall stands at a height of 7.3 metres and has the ability to allow 4 climbers at a time.



Head Teacher, Scott Pennock, commented, "We are really excited to have another excellent resource that promotes physical activity and sets an interesting challenge for our pupils."

At the time of going to production, the foundations have been laid for the school's new running track. Again, as part of a successful bid to **sport**scotland, pupils and staff can look forward to using the new track during the athletics activities in the summer term.

#### Forth Valley Schools Cup Final 2014

Wallace High's under 14 (S2) mixed football team have had an outstanding season, which culminated in them playing in the final of the Forth Valley Schools' Cup at Stenhousemuir Football Club against Larbert High on Tuesday 25th March. After a scintillating and hard fought 1-1 draw, the game was decided on penalties. Unfortunately, Wallace High lost out on sudden death but the school is immensely of the entire team and their efforts throughout the season. We are sure that the team will go from strength to strength next year.

Green Routes Project—Gartmore House, Aberfoyle One example of the school embracing the benefits of learning in a practical setting is Green Routes. After several years of working together more Wallace High pupils than ever are enjoying the opportunity to access the Green Routes project this session.

The project is based in the imposing setting of the walled garden at Gartmore House, near Aberfoyle. Here pupils have the opportunity to reinforce their numeracy and literacy skills while getting their hands dirty learning about horticulture.

At the moment the Thursday group is preparing their entries for the annual Pallet Garden competition at the Gardening Scotland event at Ingliston. This event is organised by the Scottish Gardeners' Forum, where gardening groups and schools from across Scotland compete to create gardens that measure just 1m x 1m. The Competition encourages future generations of gardeners as well as make the weekend a fun and memorable experience for all involved. This year the Gardening Scotland event takes place from May 31st to June 2nd. See <a href="https://www.gardeningscotland.com">www.gardeningscotland.com</a> for more information.

The Thursday group attend all day while pupils from Ochil House have been taking part in the project on Monday mornings. The Ochil House team have been improving their fine motor handling with tasks like seed planting, watering and using the wheel barrows. As well as learning about the whole process of plant propagation, the pupils also enjoy the experience working with the hens and ducks at Gartmore House.



Although there are polytunnels to work in when the weather is really bad, the young people have enjoyed experiencing the changing seasons outdoors in a genuinely rural environment.

The school's work with Green Routes has given pupils a genuinely inspirational experience as well as encouraging them to enhance their learning in a practical setting. For more information about Green Routes, or to find out about how you can support their work visit, www.greenroutes.org.uk or 'like' them on Facebook by searching for 'Green Routes'. In the summer months you can visit the projects open days on Sundays - it makes for an interesting family trip out in a beautiful setting.

#### Making a Big Noise in Caracas

In January Wallace High was privileged to have twenty of our pupils and two staff included in a group of fifty-two youngsters from Raploch's Big Noise programme who were part of the trip of a lifetime to Caracas, Venezuela.

Our youngsters participate in the El Sistema programme which was born in Venezuela almost forty years ago and is designed to change the lives of individuals and communities through the power of music. Almost 400,000 Venezuelan youngsters are involved in this programme in the country today, with almost forty nucleos (music centres) in Caracas alone.

As we left the cold of Edinburgh on Wednesday 8th January, our youngsters perhaps didn't fully appreciate that the greatest warmth on this trip would not come from the thirty degree temperatures (although they undoubtedly helped!) but rather from the warmth of the Venezuelan people. Our pupils practised and bonded with the peers over the course of our visit. It was these human relationships and the mutual connection transcending language or cultural barriers, that would leave the most indelible mark from this experience.

Our seven days in Venezuela brought a rich range of cultural experiences. We enjoyed long consecutive days of rehearsal at the Montalban Nucleo in Caracas with ninety Venezuelan youngsters, culminating in a spectacular concert in the Centre for Social Action, Caracas' world class concert hall. Almost one thousand people, including the British ambassador, attended this ground-breaking event, the first time a children's orchestra from abroad has played with Venezuelan children. This was followed by a reception at the Ambassador's residence attended by international delegates and senior figures from El Sistema.





FLOURISH ISSUE 14 BIG NOISE: VENEZULA







Thankfully for our youngsters, and the team of musicians and

other adults who accompanied the group, it was not all work and rehearsals. Our youngsters had a fantastic experience as they journeyed in cable cars into the clouds to the top of the mountains surrounding Caracas. They saw an outstanding concert by the world famous Simon Bolivar Orchestra, conducted by Gustavo Dudamel (one of the world's greatest conductors). This was followed by Gustavo himself conducting our youngsters later in the week - an unforgettable experience.

There was dinner in an authentic Venezuelan restaurant, an energetic Ceilidh with our Venezuelan friends and, on our final full day, the sight of fifty-two Scottish children, in the midst of January, sunbathing and taking a dip in the Caribbean Sea.

The memories of this experience will live long in the heads, and hearts, of all involved. Our greatest wish is that the bonds formed between these children will fuel continued aspirations to perform, travel and work with others in a spirit of genuine community and understanding for many years to come.

#### Cosla Excellence Award

As a very welcome follow-up to The Big Trip, Stirling Council's partnership with Big Noise was celebrated at this year's COSLA Awards, held in St. Andrews on Thursday 13 March. Three of our young people, Samira Jones, Lewis Sinclair and Nyree Jones, were present at the glitzy ceremony, attended by Alex Salmond and hosted by Jackie Bird.

Big Noise Raploch was winner in the 'Local Matters' category for a programme that "aims to transform children's lives and opportunities with music, empower communities and grow future orchestras." Stirling Council has worked with Sistema for the last five years, bringing Britain's first Big Noise project to Stirling with outstanding success. Over 450 children and 50 adults take part in the programme, out of a community of only 3000 - making it Scotland's most musical place.

Seven members of Big Noise Raploch have been accepted into the junior section of the National Youth Orchestra of Scotland. By working together, Sistema and Stirling Council have established Big Noise as a powerful instrument of social transformation in Scotland for changing the life chances of children. We are now at a position in Wallace High where we have students from Big Noise in S1-4 and the numbers will only increase with every coming stage of primary transition.



Higher Modern Studies—The role of an MP Anne McGuire, MP visited Wallace in March to meet with S2 pupils and pupils studying towards their Higher Modern Studies exams. The purpose of the visit



was to illustrate the role of the MP in Westminister and within their Constituency. Mrs McGuire's insight into the parliamentary process will assist pupils with their preparation for their forthcoming examinations.

#### Go4SET

Go4SET links teams of six Year 8/9 (England) and S2 (Scotland) pupils with companies and universities to offer a 10 week Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) experience.



The Go4SET Edinburgh and Central regional final took place on Wednesday 12th March at Herriot-Watt University.

Wallace High were represented by Louise Hamilton, Rachel Potts, Rachel Gordon and Thomas Kane. The theme for this years event was 'Water and your



School.' The ten week engineering project challenged the team to investigate ways to improve how their school could become more water efficient.

Wallace High were crowned the winners! A total of 15 schools from Edinburgh, Stirling, East Calder and West Calder took part with 14 completing to challenge.

Project Manager Louise Hamilton spoke about the team's victory: "It was great being part of Go4SET and we have all learned so much about engineering and working as a team. We now know how engineering is carried out in so many ways and we are really excited about the National Final in May." John McIntyre of the EDT praised the team by saying: "It is such an amazing performance to have a school and company take part for the first time and come out overall winners." Principal Teacher, Graeme Rough, added "We are all immensely proud of what this team of incredible pupils has achieved. These young people have shown innovation, commitment and talent in a range of ways to win this very prestigious event."

#### Vive la Francophonie at Wallace!

Around 40 of our S2 and S3 pupils took part in an online French competition during Lunch on Thursday 20th March. This "Vive la Francophonie Quiz" was for S2-S3 pupils in Scotland organised by The Institut Français d' Ecosse. They all worked very well as a team – distributing roles and responsibilities and developing their cultural and general knowledge on Francophone countries.



Forth Valley Dance Championships—March 2014



Wallace High was delighted to have 5 teams competing at the 2014 Forth Valley Schools Dance Competition at MacRobert Arts Centre.

On 3rd March, Wallace's S1, S2 and S3 performed in front of a large audience. All three teams, after weeks of careful and meticulous planning, performed their routines to an expectant audience. The standard of dance, from all participating schools, was exceptionally high. Wallace High's S3 Team, *TYD*, competing in the category of the Junior Large Team won **first place**. Well done.

The senior competition was held on Wednesday 4th March, when Wallace's S5 and S6 teams put on incredible performances in the Senior Large category. Their performances were well received by both the judges and the audience, but sadly they did not manage to gain a place this year. The teams worked incredibly hard, both collectively and individually, and were a real credit to themselves and the school.

Wallace High is very proud of all our dancers; they showed professionalism, maturity and, above all, a huge degree of talent. The school would like to acknowledge the work and efforts of the Senior Dance Captains who worked with their junior teams in preparation for the competition and for coming along to support them on the night. Well done everyone!

"I learned that the best way to get ahead is by making a start."

Mindset for Exams
Waiting for it to happen? Or making it Happen?

To help our S4 pupils move on from their Prelim exams, and prepare for their final exams in May, we invited Live-N-Learn to school to deliver a workshop designed to develop the study skills and motivation required to achieve exam success. This event took place on Wednesday, 26th February and coincided with the S4 Parents' Evening. Live-N-Learn aims to raise aspirations and achievement by inspiring young people to take personal responsibility, develop resilience and adopt the right attitude to develop study methods, manage their time and inspire them to invest the extra effort required for success.

During the day, pupils were engaged in a fast paced, interactive production which captured the imagination and built confidence. Pupils were engaged in practical exercises to explore the tools required for effective and independent study. Throughout the session, the mindset message was reinforced: lots of hard work and effort will lead to improvement and success. In the evening, a workshop for parents allowed us to share this message and the advice given to our young people. We want them to appreciate that teachers and parents can and will offer support but, ultimately, our young people need to take responsibility for themselves, work hard and make success happen.

Both of these events were well received. Our S4 pupils enjoyed the high energy approach to the mindset message and the fact that it was not delivered by their teachers! At the end of the workshop, they were encouraged to write down what they found useful or enjoyed about the day on a postcard. The feedback was resoundingly positive.

"I learned how to manage my revision time."

"Don't expect
everything to fall
into your hands,
go out and look
for it!"

8



"Don't count the days, make the days count."

"I learned that if you work hard you will get to where you want to be." FLOURISH ISSUE 14 HUNGRY FOR SUCCESS 9

#### Healthy Choices for Wallace's Pupils



Last October (2013) Stirling Council appointed a new catering supervisor for Wallace High: Nicola Young. (Nicola, 4th from right, is pictured with her team of catering staff above)

Since arriving at Wallace, Nicola has taken a fresh look at the delivery of the school meals function, implementing many new and fresh ideas within the school. Together with looking at more inspiring choices for the menu, Nicola has also introduced a breakfast menu, available from 8am. In addition, Nicola is seeking to host more "Theme Days," where young people will be presented with choices inspired by international cultures and sporting events. Nicola has been invited to speak at the Pupil Council allowing her to introduce her new ideas to the pupils and seeking feedback about the choices and styles on offer.

Working in partnership with staff and pupils, Nicola has commented on the success so far but is clear that she is always looking out for more ways to deliver a better experience for customers. Pupils are encouraged to speak to Nicola, or one of her team, if they have suggestions on how to improve the delivery of the meals service.

2014 is a momentous year for Scotland: Commonwealth Games; The Ryder Cup (at Gleneagles) and Homecoming Scotland. To mark these events, Nicola and her team are looking to offer special menus and options. Pupils are encouraged to read the menu boards and pupils bulletins to access more information about the meal options which will be created to mark these events.

#### Breakfast Club

The breakfast club is growing each week, with an increasing number of pupils enjoying the food and hot drinks on offer. Students have the options to purchase toast; warm chocolate chip cookies (best seller!); hot chocolate; tea; coffee and milk . A special breakfast club meal deal is available, which consists of **cookie and hot chocolate for £1**.

#### **Future Plans**

Stirling Council is working with the school to encourage increased take-up for pupils who are entitled to free meals. Pupils who are entitled to free school meals are now able to use part of their entitlement for any breakfast or snack item, such as hot filled rolls at interval.

The Catering Service also offer a tempting and extensive range of freshly prepared and healthy food, from a quick sandwich to main meals. Although school meals are already reasonably priced, being both cost effective and healthy, the good news is that after the Easter break the Catering Team is introducing a revised pricing structure which means that many of the healthy and popular choices will reduce in price. A pocket sized menu will be distributed to pupils, containing all the relevant information about the new pricing and menu options. The change will be implemented from 22nd April 2014.

Alongside Stirling Council, Wallace High will be focusing on a card amnesty in the new term (from 22nd April). This means that if there are any pupils who do not have a "cashless card," a replacement card will be issued free of charge.

Pupils should also note that they can pre-order food to their requirements, thereby ensuring that they get their choice and avoid having to queue to access the Servery.

Finally, as summer approaches, Nicola and her team plan to start organising pack lunches as a "Grab 'n' Go" option for pupils who wish to leave the school social areas and enjoy the warm and sunny weather. The packed lunches will be available from the sandwich counter at the top of the main Social Space and will include a sandwich, drink and either fruit, home baking or crisps.





The eatwell plate

Use the eatwell plate to help you get the balance right. It shows how much of what you eat should come from each food group.

Prival bold specialisms produced special speci

#### Junior Ski Trip—Bormio January 2014

Stunning weather and scenery awaited some of Wallace High's junior pupils as they arrived in Bormio, Italy for the annual ski pilgrimage.





The hotels in Bormio were of a high standard, all rooms having en-suite facilities and many with balconies overlooking the mountains. The evening programme consisted of a quiz night, DVDs, karaoke and a disco in the local resort. The staff were very helpful, courteous and friendly towards the children, which added to the whole welcoming environment.

The trip offered good value for money with all meals, skis, boots, helmets and ski instruction for 4 hours a day by a very helpful and professional Italian Ski School included. The resort itself offered a very large number of ski runs



which meant that all pupils were well challenged during the day. The skiing achievement was excellent with groups going off-piste at some stage and the personal achievement of each pupil was superb. Each pupil was given an Italian ski card to illustrate the progress they had made. The weather was mixed and ranged from sunshine to fog and 3 feet of snow.

#### **Ochil House Activities**





Pupils from Ochil House have enjoyed a varied and active start to the new term. A tailor made project run by Gartmore House, Green Routes, has been accessed by the pupils. The main priority has been to build a positive learning environment where young people with additional support needs can realise their potential and become equipped to make positive contributions to their communities.

The department marked the celebration of Burns' Day with a Burns' Supper on Friday, 24th January. Pupils were given the opportunity to prepare the haggis. A piper was on hand to pipe in the haggis. Some of the young people read Burns' poems and later, Head Teacher, Scott Pennock, joined the department to see the pupils taking part in some Scottish country dancing.



FLOURISH ISSUE 14 FASHION SHOW 2014 11



Fashion Show-March 2014

Wallace High's bi-Annual Fashion Show returned in March, featuring creations from Wallace's talented art Students, supplemented by external businesses, *Love FRMS* and *Lush*.

The S1/S2 Fashion Club were able to showcase their designs and creations made from recycled clothing, including corsets, dresses and scarves. A workshop was also provided by *Lush*, where students were introduced to the Japanese Knot Wrap technique. (Wallace High is thankful to *Lush* for the donation of time and scarves). Included in the show were collar designs (by S4), which featured a fantastic creation by Blyth Walker, who used innovative materials and techniques in his design. Pupils studying towards their Advanced Higher Art & Design qualification: Amy Huang, Laura Allison and Eilidh Gibson, were able to show examples of their outstanding pieces of work.

Love FRMS, a bespoke boutique from Glasgow, supported the show and had a showcased a section featuring their new collections.

The finale of the show was the S3 Hatwalk which featured fantastic creations. The winner this year was Lorna Kiakowski.









#### Basketball—Scottish Cup Winners 2014

Wallace High's under 14 girls basketball team made history on Tuesday 25th March by becoming the first girls basketball team from Wallace to win the Scottish Cup. The final was held at Grangemouth Sports Complex with the girls taking on Portobello High School (which contained no less than 4 Scottish International players). Wallace High started strongly, taking a 7 point lead into the second half. Portobello started their comeback overcoming Wallace's lead, progressing to the 4th quarter with a 1 point lead. With the score at 33-32, the game looked set to move into overtime. However, with a flare for drama, Ruth Allison calmly released a shot toward the basket in the final second. The ball found its place in the centre of the basket, beating the buzzer, to record the win for Wallace High. (The drama is captured in the picture below).



The squad included Katy Francis; Anna Gillespie; Emma-Jo Kirkwood; Dara McQuillian; Kirsty McReight; Molly Williams; Giorgia Sanchez; Helen Walker; Cody McFarlane; Katy Whitfield; Niamh Reilly; Blain Adams.

Scorers were: Ruth Allison 21, Molly Williams 12, Helen Walker 6, Anna Gilespie 2, Katie Francis 2.

On Wednesday it was the turn of the S1 boys, who on their journey to the final, recorded victories against Falkirk, Balfron, Inverkeithing, Braes and Larbert. The boys were also making history as they were the first male basketball team from Wallace High to reach a Scottish Cup final. St Thomas' High overcame a proud and industrious Wallace Team, winning the game 41-31. The effort and discipline of the boys was commended and they were a credit to Wallace High.

The squad included; Jack Laurenson; Scott Ellington; Leighton Wardrop; Harry Thompson; Dylan Johnstone; Angus Kemlo; Oliver Yarrow; Declan Rigg; Llewis Houston; Lewis Morrow; Fraser Currid; Shaun Mulholland.

Scorers were: Oliver Yarrow 12, Fraser Currid 6, Llewis Housten 5, Declan Rigg 2, Angus Kemlo 2, Dylan Johnstone 2, Harry Thompson 1, Scott Ellington 1.

