

Celebration game will cut the rugby Mustard

**There have been some who scaled
greater heights in rugby
particularly those winning full
international caps.**

But few, if any, have shown the club commitment and passion exhibited by Stewart “Muzza” Mustard of Heriot’s – and for a period spanning over a quarter of a century.

Which is why, as the former Scotland under-19 hooker approaches retirement, friends and club-mates have arranged a “celebration game” at Goldenacre on Sunday, 31 March at 3pm to mark a very special contribution to Heriot’s and the oval ball sport.

The select side “Co-Optimists” have agreed to provide the opposition for a team chosen by Stewart in a move hailed as ground-breaking for rugby where testimonials etc to honour an individual have invariably been side-stepped.

There is no suggestion of any financial implications only some chat that a charity might be linked to the fixture but whether that comes off Bob McKillop, one of the Heriot’s club coaches overseeing the 2nd team where Stewart has seen out the twilight of his career. thinks due recognition is totally well earned.

“As I left Goldenacre after training on a bitterly cold evening the other week there was Stewart out on the pitch helping explain the art of line-out throwing to a group of

youngsters which just about sums our stalwart up” says Bob.

He adds: “When Stewart confirmed he was about to retire we realised there were only a couple of games left for him – one on a Friday evening and the other a Saturday lunch-time kick off. Neither occasion seemed appropriate.

“So, the Co-Ops were approached and within half an hour one of their committee, Douglas Livingstone, a Herioter, came back to say they’d be delighted to participate.

“We’re hoping there will be a turn out of Stewart’s friends and colleagues but also drop in appearances by some of those who he helped up the ladder.”

Those mentioned include Chris Fusaro who went on to gain Scotland caps, sevens internationalist Struan Dewar and ex-Edinburgh pro’s Jim Thompson and Marc Teague.

“To spend over 20 years at the top end of the Heriot’s playing ranks is quite an achievement by Stewart let alone leading his team to three successive 2nd team league titles in recent times.

“Just as important is the way he has been putting across the message down the years that high performance and fun are not mutually exclusive.”

Far from being lost to rugby Stewart Mustard will be back at Goldenacre next season as a club vice-president with hopes high that he will also be persuaded to take on a coaching role.



Heriot's rugby stalwart Stewart Mustard, right, is congratulated by Heriot's 2nd team coach Bob McKillop on an exceptional career.