

FIFE KIDS DESCEND ON MURRAYFIELD

Over 50 youngsters from across Fife took part in an inter-region G4S Street Rugby tournament held on the Murrayfield back pitches on 7th March before being treated to Edinburgh's emphatic 33-17 victory over the then Magners League leaders, Ospreys.

The players were among the latest group of youngsters to catch the rugby bug thanks to the governing body's breakthrough initiative G4S Street Rugby - an easy to play and portable version of the game, created to engage with young people in less advantaged areas where crime and anti-social behaviour are high.

With the players scattered across the region from a number of Street Rugby sites - from Methill and Upper Largo to Oakley and Abbey View - Scottish Rugby organised transport to and from the tournament and tickets to the professional match.

Scottish Rugby's Community Rugby Project Development Manager, Neil Carrie, added: "The G4S Street Rugby programmes across Fife have really taken off and bringing the kids together at the national stadium was a great way to inspire them, give them something to train for and encourage them to commit to the sport and a healthier lifestyle longer term.

"In partnership with the neighbourhood youth workers and the club development officers we have promoted G4S Street Rugby in the right areas at the right times.

"All components are now falling into place with clubs, like Glenrothes, recognising it as a great way to recruit new players and now offer coaching support to expand the reach of the programme even further because it's important that we reach out and attract players from beyond what traditionally would have been their catchment area."

The initiative, part-funded by the Scottish Government's £1.4m CashBack for Communities investment in Scottish Rugby recently secured a three-year, six-figure investment from new title sponsor G4S Events, Europe's leading independent event security company.

Since its launch in 2009 thousands of young people have been introduced to the sport all over Scotland through the non-contact form of rugby that establishes the basic passing and running elements before coaching the more ambitious participants in the elements of the contact game as the sessions progress.