

# Rubislaw stages first over-60s international

## FIVE NORTH VETERAN HOCKEY PLAYERS REPRESENT SCOTLAND AND WALES

Five hockey players from the north of Scotland will represent their countries in the first over-60s internationals against Wales this weekend.

The Aberdeen Grammar FPs trio of Ian Downie, Tony Duguid and Kieran McLernan, as well as Nairnshire's Alan Bremner will play for the Scottish team, while Ben Johnson, also of Grammar FPs, will line up for Wales.

The inaugural internationals will be played at Rubislaw playing fields on Saturday, push back 1.30pm, and Sunday, noon start.

The Grammar FPs threesome won bronze medals at the Grand Masters European championships behind England and Germany last year. Johnson has been a regular member of the Wales over-50 side and now qualifies for his country at over-60s level.

Downie thought Scotland regularly punched above its weight at international level considering there are no organised veterans' leagues in this country.

Often masters players have to compete against much younger, faster opponents. Downie said: "Hockey is a

game where skill and experience count for a lot, but we have to defer to youth when it comes to pace. Playing week in, week out against faster opposition does give us an edge when we take on players of our own age."

Scottish captain Alan Auld (Giffnock) and Doug Morrice (Edinburgh HC) are originally from Aberdeen before moving elsewhere.

● A difficult programme of Scottish Cup matches faces the men's hockey teams on Sunday with AAM due to take on Inverleith in Edinburgh, but the visitors came out on top when the teams met re-

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cently. In the Scottish Plate Granite City Wanderers are at home to FMGM Monarchs, and Aberdeen University have a derby against Grammar FPs. All these sides also have National League matches the day before.

### FIXTURES

#### SATURDAY

Edinburgh — Erskine Stewart's Melville v Aberdeen University (NL3).  
Glasgow — Giffnock v InverRoss (NL3).  
St Andrews — St Andrews University v Quasar (NL3).  
Countesswells — 2pm: AAM v Grange (NL1).  
3.30pm: AAM Gordonians B v AAM Gordonians C (DL1).  
Hillhead — 3pm: University 4ths v Ellon 2nds (DL2).  
Meadows — 1.30pm: Ellon v Grammar 3rds (DL1).  
Portlethen — noon: Bon Accord MBC v University 2nds (RLN). 3pm: Granite City Wanderers v Chapman Motherwell (NL2).  
Rubislaw — 11.30am: Grammar FPs v Alpha Data Carnegie (NL3). 4.30pm: Grammar 4ths v University 3rds (DL1).  
Strathburn — 2.30pm: Inverurie v Granite City Wanderers 3rds (DL1).

#### SUNDAY

Edinburgh — Inverleith v AAM (SC).  
Glasgow — Greaves Clydesdale 2nds v Ellon (DC).  
Countesswells — 2pm: AAM Gordonians A v University 2nds (DC).  
Hillhead — 11.30am: Aberdeen University v Grammar FPs (SP). 2.30pm: Granite City Wanderers v FMGM Monarchs (SP). 4pm: Granite City Wanderers 4ths v University 4ths (DL2).  
Meadows — 2pm: Ellon 2nds v Aberdeen (DL2).  
Rubislaw — 1.30pm: Granite City Wanderers 2nds v Chapman Motherwell 2nds (DC). 3pm: Grammar 2nds v Inverurie (DC).

**HAVE YOUR SAY:**  
P.J.SPORT@AJL.CO.UK