



Friends of Scottish Rugby

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A Word from our President

It is a tremendous honour, privilege and indeed pleasure to have been asked to be your President. Mark you, following in the footsteps of Sir Tommy and Sir Willie will be no mean task and we should all be extremely grateful for their strong leadership in the past.

Talking about leaders I have to mention the incredible enthusiasm, wisdom, guidance and all embracing know how of our dear Chairman, the inimitable Donald McNab. He is a wonderful mentor and certainly keeps us all on our toes!

I believe we still have much to offer to Scottish Rugby and having recently re-engaged with the SRU at senior level I am now confident that our relationship will grow from strength to strength. I look forward to catching up with many of you in the coming months.

Best wishes,

David Mackay

Tommy Spinks - winner the Sir Tommy Macpherson Quaich

DOB 22nd April 1994
Birthplace Edinburgh, Scotland
Height 1.93 m (6' 4")
Weight 92 kg (14 st 6 lb)
Position Back Row / Lock

Young flanker Tommy Spinks is one of the rising stars of London Scottish. A native of Edinburgh, he captained East Lothian at U14, U15 and U16 levels, Edinburgh at U17 and U18 and was captain of the Fettes School 1st XV. The 6'3" back-row was called into the Scotland U20 side in January 2013 for their RBS 6 Nations campaign and he followed that up by representing his country at the 2013 IRB Junior World Championship in France. Primarily a flanker, Spinks is also adept in the second row and he made his first start for London Scottish in the final game of the 2012/13 season at Rotherham. A natural athlete, Spinks was National Bronze medal discus champion as well as Edinburgh discus champion.

From the London Scottish website: www.londonsscottish.com

Jonny Gray - winner of the Willie Purves Quaich

D.O.B 14th March 1994
Height: 1.98 m (6' 6")
Weight: 119 kg (18 st 10 lb)
Position: Second Row

Jonny Gray joined the Warriors as a Scottish Rugby Elite Development player in the summer of 2012 after a number of standout displays for Hamilton and Scotland under-20. The younger brother of former Glasgow favourite Richie Gray, Jonny spent a period of time before his arrival at the Warriors training and playing in New Zealand, having been named as one of the recipients of the 2012 John Macphail Scholarship.

He was called up to the Scotland U20 set-up at the age of 17 in 2012 and was made captain when he returned to the national age-grade squad in 2013 for the RBS 6 Nations. In the summer of 2013 he signed a three year deal with the Warriors and in November of the same year made his full Scotland debut during the Autumn Tests, after an impressive start to the 2013/14 season. Jonny made his RBS 6 Nations debut for Scotland in February 2014, as a substitute against England.

From the Glasgow Warriors website: www.glasgowwarriors.org

In winning the Willie Purves Quaich, Jonny is making FoSR history as his brother Richard (Richie) Gray won it in 2009 and this is the first time we've had brothers winning a Quaich.

London Scottish Hall of Fame

London Scottish FC held a great Dinner in the Rose Room at Twickenham on February 28th celebrating the Deutsche Bank sponsored Schools Six Nations Tournament.

HRH The Princess Royal, Patron of London Scottish opened the tournament accompanied by Lord Coe. An Academy Team supported by Friends of Scottish Rugby participated.

Past President Sir Tommy MacPherson was inducted into the London Scottish Hall of Fame to join the greats such as Laughland, McHarg, Lawson, Burnell, Wilson Cronin, Hastings, Campbell, Lamerton and others. Ron Wilson was also inducted

Sir Tommy was acclaimed by a standing ovation for his contribution over many years to London Scottish and Scottish Rugby.

Forthcoming Events

The AGM will be held on the 30th April in the Caledonian Club. Our guest speaker will be Malcolm Offord the Director of the London Scottish Academy.

There is a special dinner planned for 28th May so make a note of the date in your diary. More information will be circulated in good time.

We are pleased to announce that the annual "Minford lunch" has been scheduled for 7th October. This has been carefully planned to occur after the referendum so we are sure to be enthralled by Patrick's view of the future.

Of course, the big event in our calendar is the Gala Dinner which is scheduled for 13th November. Your committee are looking to make this years Gala a little different, so keep your eyes open for more information later in the year.

We have been fortunate that Ian MacLeod, Malcolm Offord and David Guild have kindly offered to sponsor lunches during the year. Dates have yet to be set.

The Shafting Stick

The stick (and more importantly, the head piece) was created by Donald McNab during the days when he was trying to raise funds for both the Scottish Conservative Party and Scottish rugby.

After a bout of being highly annoyed by a number of people, Donald decided to create the shafting stick to bear the names of those who had 'shafted' him.

He carved and cast the figures that he felt represented his feelings and mounted them on the stick.

Things changed when Friends of Scottish Rugby was formed and he decided to record the names of those people who were deemed to have annoyed the committee. Thus some illustrious names were carved and recorded.

One amusing story that comes to mind is that he made a crummock for a dear old lady and left it behind reception at the Caledonian Club. Sadly when she came to collect her crummock Matthew gave her the shafting stick instead. She later told Donald that she was a trifle surprised and took it home with a plastic bag over the figures.

Every year the stick is presented to the "lucky winner" by the secretary and this year the winner is.....to be announced at the AGM Dinner!



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