



April 2019 Issue No. 23

Friends of Scottish Rugby

FoSR

Supporting grass roots Scottish Rugby

A word from our President

Bees in the garden, first trim of the lawns, beautiful daffs, and even some tulips, as well as the incredible second half at Twickenham. Suddenly the mood swings from all of these, as well as the clock changes, and its SPRING - what a morale booster!

AND what a boost too from our very supportive AGM and the joyful Spring dinner which seemed to be thoroughly enjoyed across the board.

I thought the highlight of the evening was probably the revealing of the superb Women's Trophy and the presentation to Rachel MacLachlan - a modest, very worthy winner and a fine Ambassador for Scottish Women's Rugby.

Forgive me if I squeeze in this opportunity to remind you gently that any donations towards funding the trophy will be gratefully appreciated.

Last but not least from me, please remember to reserve your places for the Ruth Davidson dinner on 30th July -- tickets are selling like hot cakes!

As ever many thanks for your support.

David Mackay

Spring Dinner - Awards night

Following the AGM in the Stuart room, the evening really got underway with a drinks reception in the Morrison Room. The capacity crowd were called to dinner in the Johnnie Walker Room by our stalwart pipers Ralph Potter and Mike McGlashan.

Our President David Mackay made the opening remarks to welcome everyone. There were many new and old faces present to hear the President of the Scottish Rugby Union, Dee Bradbury, speak about the great contribution FoSR has made to Scottish Rugby.

The Address to the Haggis was given in fitting style by Neil McNair. Grace was given by Reverend Alistair Cumming, one of four ministers of religion present that evening (three from the Church of Scotland and one from the Church England!)

The Loyal Toast was given by Ishbel MacPherson.

Our President rose to give a toast to "Absent Friends". We lost four members this year.

Continued overleaf...



Lady Jean with Lewis Wynne



Louise Newton and Jane Mackay get their hands on the Women's Trophy

The highlight of the evening was the unveiling of our new Women's Trophy. A superb film about the making of our new Women's Trophy was shown to those present, before the designer Nadia Tahar, the student who won the design competition at the University of Edinburgh, College of Art, came to the microphone to talk about her inspiration for the trophy. The trophy was presented by Dee Badbury to the first winner Rachel MacLachlan.

The Sir Tommy MacPherson Quaich for the most promising London Scottish player was presented by Lady Jean to Lewis Wynn. Lewis has been recalled by the SRU so watch this space!!

The Sir Willie Purves Quaich was presented by Willie himself to Darcy Graham. What a great game he had the previous Saturday against the old enemy!! Unfortunately, Darcy could not be with us, as he was playing for Edinburgh the following day.

Ralph Potter bid against himself a number of times in the auction, raising the stakes that allowed new member Martin Welsh to win the auction.

The Dundee collection was for Dee Bradbury's chosen charity of Prostate Cancer UK.

Another new member, Gordon Adam, gave an excellent toast to our visitors.

At the conclusion of the formal festivities, many members went on to enjoy socialising in the bar, the Morrison Room and due to the very mild weather, on the terrace until the very late hours.



Sir Willie Purves presenting his quaich to Dee Bradbury (SRU President) who is accepting it on behalf of Darcy Graham

Neil McNair

Dates for your diaries

30th July 2019: Summer Dinner with Ruth Davidson as guest speaker.

A formal invitation will be issued soon but we are expecting this to be over-subscribed again so if you would like to join us please let me know so that I can reserve your space. This dinner will be open to guests so if you plan to bring anyone with you, please reserve their place as well. Cost will be £125 for Members and £150 for guests.

10th October: Autumn Dinner - we plan to have a change from having a guest speaker to entertaining you with two young trained musicians, in an evening of jollity, singing and music based on the anthems and songs from the Six Nations.

Eva MacFarlane hailing from the shores of Loch Lomond, is now well known around London as a superb Scottish mezzo-soprano. Currently studying for an MA at the Royal Academy of Music.

Originally from Fife, Niall Anderson is a member of Royal Academy Opera at the Royal Academy of Music.

These two young singers have both won wide acclaim in their careers to date. This promises to be another great sell out evening.

Left: Eva MacFarlane

Right: Niall Anderson

12th March 2020: AGM and Spring Dinner - This will be a black tie or Highland Dress event.

Les Fordham

Kingussie High School - Update

We combined our senior boys team with Grantown and competed in the Scottish cup. Unfortunately we were knocked out in the second round.

Our junior teams are really flourishing now with big numbers attending. We were the biggest representation at recent S1-3 tournaments which for a school of our size is very encouraging. This is helped by the introduction of our School of Rugby program which pupils can opt into. We have used some of the funding we received from Friends of Scottish Rugby to buy balls, bibs, cones etc for the School of Rugby program.

Callum Carson
Kingussie High School

In Memoriam

It is with great sadness that we remember three of our dear friends who have recently passed away.

Bill McDermott, a popular member and Chairman of the Caledonian Club passed away on 19th January.

Colin McKerrow, a founding member, passed away in a nursing home after a long period of illness.

Angus Crichton-Miller, passed away peacefully at home in Edinburgh in his 80th year.

May they rest in peace

London Scottish Colts

The players and coaches from the London Scottish Colts would like to thank Friends of Scottish Rugby for their valued support throughout this season. With FoSR's support the team has developed significantly from the start of the season and recent results reflect that.

Heading into the final quarter of the season the team are in third position in the league, with three games to play and a game in hand over their rivals. Their last two league outings have been bonus point wins and they comprehensively beat their opposition playing fast, attacking, 15 man rugby. There is still a lot to learn for these players, as shown by their recent narrow loss to Saracens in a friendly, but they are also regularly winning against teams from higher divisions so there is still work to be done but the players are learning fast and developing.

The Elite games vs Lambs rugby and Modena Rugby 1965, our friends from Italy, were great outings for the guys. Both brought strong squads to play us which resulted in good, hard games. We can certainly vouch that age grade rugby in Italy is alive and well as they brought two full squads over and were fantastic guests again (the picture above was taken after our match with them in February).

Whilst the results may not have gone our way this year we look forward with confidence to playing them again over the coming seasons as more than half of the squad are young enough to play them twice more (this is a very young squad we are developing).

Director of Rugby, Dave Morris, has been keeping a watchful eye on progress and selected players have been over to train with the London Scottish professional side to learn the finer points of their positions through individual coaching from the 1st XV players. As a result, the squad has now achieved the largest number of players gaining external recognition through Scottish Qualified Divisional days, academies, and county representation, and when the players graduate from the Colts we are targeting a couple to enter the London Scottish Professional Entry Programme to help develop their rugby further.

With our partnership with FOSR we are looking to further develop the squad to benefit Scottish Rugby, so if you know any Scottish Qualified Colts or players coming down to University in the London Area who are looking to further their rugby careers, just let us know.

Ian Hannah
LSFC Colts Manager



Friends of Scottish Rugby Women's Trophy

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