



Friends of Scottish Rugby

July 2013 Issue No. 2



From the Chairman

In this, our second edition, we make mention of the successful Professor Minford lunch. Since then we have had the lunch for the Better Together Group, at which the Rt Hon Alistair Darling spoke in his capacity as chairman. He mentioned the need to raise funds to enable the group to mount a professional campaign to counter the SNP's efforts. The SNP's campaign is heavily financed, especially by a Lottery winner who has already donated £1M and has promised another. If any member wishes to help, would he contact me?

The most important event for the year is the Gala dinner on 3rd October. Give your secretary, Stewart Lait, as much support as you can in the way of auction prizes, but above all else take tables. More information will be made available by Stewart.

On the 18th November, Iain Mackay, the Group Financial Director of HSBC has offered to sponsor a lunch in their St James' office. Numbers will be limited so when you receive forms, please reply as quickly as possible. Seats will be on "first received" basis.

Donald

Club Development Officers (CDOs)

We have received a letter from Mark Dodson (CEO, SRU, permission granted to reproduce it) saying, albeit heavily edited for space reasons – The network of about 80 CDOs is a key area for developing the game in Scotland and achieving our strategic plan target of increasing the number of players for 2016. The main areas of CDO work are to develop rugby in schools and provide a pathway to clubs, to recruit and develop club coaches, to run competitions and coaching courses, and to identify and develop potential elite players.

With local authorities and the SRU providing about half the £21,000 annual cost of a CDO, it is challenging for clubs to cover the other half.

FoSR has assisted a number of clubs with their CDO funding over the years, and Nick Rennie, Head of Clubs and Schools, would be delighted to discuss any further opportunities to

increase this invaluable support. Direct contact for Nick: nick.rennie@sru.org.uk; 0131 346 5009, or 07881 940304

Donations (since 1 January 2012)

Biggar RFC, Christchurch Earthquake Appeal, Coll RFC, Glasgow Hawks, London Scottish FC Academy, Morgan Academy FP, North Berwick RFC and RHC Cougars RFC.

Editor's Notes

The AGM in May agreed the restructuring of the committee. The president and chairman are Sir William Purves and Donald. Stewart is secretary and Simon Frost treasurer.

The McPherson Quaich was awarded to Jamie Stevenson, who sent the following message, "I would like to say how much of an honour it was to be awarded the Sir Tommy McPherson Quaich at the Friends of Scottish Rugby dinner. After speaking to many of the FoSR members I learned how successful, players who have attained the award have become, and hopefully in future years I will be able to replicate this".

Events

Professor Patrick Minford was his usual forthright and entertaining self.

Helensburgh RFC, which is the first club we supported many years ago, celebrates its 50th anniversary this year and a great weekend of celebration takes place between the 23rd and 25th August. In addition to loads of games and other activities, there is a black tie dinner dance on the Saturday evening. Full details at www.50th.helensburghrfc.com

Gala Dinner on 3rd October at the Landmark Hotel. Please let Stewart know if you will take a table.

We have two debenture seats in the West Stand at Murrayfield available for the autumn tests and the 2014 Six Nations. First come first served. Contact Stewart.

London Scottish are running a St Andrews Day lunch at the Savoy on 29th November. Contact Kenny Baillie CEO at LSFC.

Cougars

With assistance from FOSR, SRU and volunteer fund-raisers RHC Cougars is able to employ a Community Development Officer to promote rugby to children who have never tried the game before. This year a 12-month programme will involve curriculum taster sessions in all nine schools, breakfast and after school clubs, holiday camps, and large inter-community festivals that will reach over 7,000 girls and boys aged between 8 and 17. Communities described by the Scottish Government as the most deprived in the country are being targeted. The support from FoSR is enabling the game to grow in hard-to-reach areas and attracting droves of children and parents as newcomers to rugby.

In 2003 Royal High School FP and Corstorphine rugby clubs merged to form RHC Cougars.

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