



Friends of Scottish Rug-

July 2016 Issue No. 12



A Word from our President

In recent weeks I have been minded more and more of that old Chinese curse, "May you live in interesting times!" And across the globe tis certainly interesting politically. Could it be that in a few weeks time we will see more women leaders in British politics joining the trio in Scotland, Nicola Sturgeon, Ruth Davidson and Kezia Dugdale and what about a First Lady President in the USA? I hasten to add that FOSR is a strong supporter of diversity and hopefully it won't be that long before we are able to encourage members of the fairer sex to serve on our Committee.

Meantime, the media coverage of the spat between the SRU and London Scottish will probably not have escaped your notice! The good news is that it has all been resolved amicably and they are now back on track, "BETTER TOGETHER". Scottish rightly still have strong ambitions and continue to review their options, including being the third Pro Team, following in the footsteps of Glasgow and Edinburgh by participating in the Pro 12 or a revised Pro 14 league. They have done remarkably well so far but balancing the books anywhere these days gets tougher and tougher. To that end, four senior members of FoSR have contributed a personal total of £1,000 to help funding and your Committee has also decided to contribute a one off £1,000 to do likewise. We are sure you will be supportive of our decision and we should add that if you wish to follow suit all you need to do is contact Norrie Jackson of London Scottish at normandjackson@btinternet.com. Please note that UK taxpayers can receive 30% tax relief for investing in London Scottish International Limited – hence, the cost of a £1,000 investment is in effect - £700.

As ever thank you very much and enjoy Summer when it comes."

David Mackay

An excellent Lunch indeed....

It was a beautiful sunny day (was this really the British summer ??) and a few of us were sitting in the courtyard of the Caledonian Club. We were enjoying the beer and the company when the call went out... time for lunch. Slowly, we stirred ourselves and went inside a little disappointed to have left the tranquillity of our little oasis.

But our joy soon returned as 29 of us sat down to a very pleasant meal, supplemented by the obligatory (and much welcome) alcoholic beverages that accompany such an event. The introduction and formalities were conducted in their normal light hearted way and we were soon on to the main event.

Malcolm took the floor and was soon into his stride, his theme being development of Scottish Enterprise, with special regard to small companies and how they should approach manufacturing and marketing. What most of us weren't expecting was a most informative view on events that led up to the "Big Vote" and why the populace voted the way they did (perhaps Malcolm missed his vocation - I'm sure many would have voted differently, both ways, if they had heard him speak before Brexit).

But this was not a political banging of drums, far from it! It was Malcolm at his best as he regaled us with one of the most amusing, informative and entertaining after-lunch speeches we had heard in a long time. Talking of "long-times", it is accepted practice that such speeches are kept short and sweet.



But this was not to be the case today, as Malcolm enthralled us with a never ending set of statistics which would send many to sleep after lunch and a few drinks. But this was not a list of unrelenting and boring figures, quite the opposite! They were informative and thought provoking, which meant that David Mackay, our “Chairman for the day”, was required to keep strong control on the number of questions that followed - or we would have had to book in for dinner as well.

And so we say a big thank-you to Malcolm - this was what a good lunch is supposed to be!

Right: Malcolm received a cromack from Donald McNab in thanks for a memorable lunch.

Les Fordham



Murrayfield Debenture Seats

We have once again taken up Debenture seats at Murrayfield this year. We are holding a pair of tickets for each of the following games. The seats are located in the west stand (22BB6 and 22BB7) and tickets will be passed on to members (and their guest) at face value.

If you would like to take advantage of any of these, please contact Simon Frost (simon@f-s-r.org)

Australia	Saturday 12 November 2016	2:30pm
Argentina	Saturday 19 November 2016	5:00pm
Ireland	Saturday 04 February 2017	2:25pm
Wales	Saturday 25 February 2017	2:25pm
Italy	Saturday 18 March 2017	12:30pm

Donations

Your committee are pleased to report that so far this calendar year donations have been made to the following clubs/schools:

Cartha Queens Park
Stirling County RFC
Kingussie High School
London Scottish FC

In Memoriam

We are much saddened to learn of the death of two of our distinguished friends and members, Mike Philip and Una Finlay.

Our wishes go out to Georgina Philip and Derek Finlay and their families.

May they rest in peace

Forthcoming Events

As agreed at the AGM, there will not be a Gala Dinner this year, however your events team are working hard on an alternative evening which we hope will be just as spectacular - details will be published in the near future.

Following on from the success of the Malcolm Offord lunch, we are trying to arrange another lunch in late July.

**Friends of Scottish Rugby thank our Sponsors
and Supporters for their generosity**

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