



A word from our President

As many of you will know Season Autumn brings really glorious gold, red and yellow colours to the green trees and no better than Perthshire where we have been staying for the past week.....what a joy to behold and 'twas unusually warm too!

The Season also kicks-off the Autumn Internationals and next month BT Murrayfield will be hosting what promises to be exciting matches against Fiji, South Africa and Argentina... all of which are already or are close to being sell outs which is great news for Scottish rugby.

Our relationship with the SRU goes from strength to strength and we will shortly be able to launch our joint initiative to provide a bag of co-branded practice balls and kit to the 90 or so T4 schools across Scotland. We expect this to be phased over three years and it should attract really strong coverage.

There are several other stimulating projects in the pipeline and about which I look forward to keeping you fully posted in due course. In the meantime, as ever, many thanks for your invaluable support.

David Mackay

Autumn Dinner - An evening with...

On Wednesday 19th September over 100 Members and guests assembled in the Johnny Walker Room of the Caledonian Club to enjoy a wonderful dinner and an evening of lively entertainment. The main event was a panel of eminent Calcutta Winning Scottish players, namely Damian Cronin and Kelly Brown, led by our very own ambassador, Craig Chalmers. The panel was questioned (or should I say interrogated!) by another of our ambassadors, Louise Newton.



Left to right: Damian Cronin, Louise Newton, Kelly Brown and Craig Chalmers



Left to right: Kelly Brown, Craig Chalmers and Damian Cronin with the Calcutta Cup

But the excitement didn't end there... we were also joined by a very special old lady - The Calcutta Cup! Kindly organised by Graham Law (Scottish Rugby).

Our President was charged with ensuring that it not only arrived safely, but also found it's way back home... Something that gave him more than a few sleepless nights!

Les Fordham

Helensburgh C&RFC

Helensburgh Cricket and Rugby Football Club recognised that it had a significant problem with its pitches, despite considerable efforts of club members to improve pitch conditions. Consequently, the facilities were unable to meet the growing demands of the adult and youth members of the club. A plan was developed to build a ground-keepers building to replace the current run down storage containers that housed its pitch maintenance equipment, and to house new soil biology equipment. This new facility was to support the volunteer workforce and their maintenance regimes, and allow the introduction of a soil biology regime to improve the grass pitches. Ultimately, the building was designed to provide a large garaging and maintenance area and a number of smaller storage units.

As FoSR made a donation to support this development we were invited to attend the official opening on 1st September and we were represented by our latest Ambassador, Graeme Morrison, along with our own stalwart supporter, Douglas Hutchison.

Graeme Morrison joins Helensburgh supporters in the Time honoured (if somewhat politically incorrect!) way

For more information please visit our website at: www.f-s-r.org/content/pages/helensburgh.html

Les Fordham

SRU - Nagasaki: Schools Initiative August 2018 - Update

Readers will remember from our June edition (Issue 19) that the SRU tasked Al Kellock - Scottish Rugby Ambassador, with pulling together a group that would ordinarily not get the chance to play rugby outside Scotland. The decision was made to select an under 16's team from 15 schools of rugby in areas of deprivation throughout Scotland.

In Al's own words, "It was an incredible trip for the young men involved. Japan is a fascinating country with many cultural differences to Scotland, the players were challenged daily in ways that they would never have experienced before. The growth in the players throughout the week was inspiring to see, the positive changes in diet, behaviour, interaction, confidence, willingness to learn - naming only a few, will undoubtedly last with them well into the future."

Dates for your diaries

We have 2 events scheduled for 2019, with the first being our Spring Dinner on 21st March at the Caledonian Club. This is to be a Black Tie event and will be preceded by the Annual General Meeting.

The second event will be a dinner in the Caledonian Club on Tuesday 30th July with our guest speaker being Ruth Davidson who has been Leader of the Scottish Conservative Party since 2011. Further details about these 2 events will be issued nearer the time, but if you would like to reserve your seat please contact me.

Les Fordham

Howe of Fife RFC



David Mackay and Simon Frost stand under the notice displaying funders names.

The committee met in Edinburgh on 12th October to judge the winning design for the Women's Trophy. While we were there, we took the opportunity to visit Howe of Fife RFC to look at the club house that we helped to fund. The weather may have been shocking, but the reception we received was very warm indeed.

Howe's President, Chris Reekie, showed us around their facilities which were very impressive for such a small club!

Howe Rugby is the leading club in Fife boasting 3 Senior Men's, 2 Women, 8 Junior and 5 Mini sides. The men's 1st XV currently play in national league division two, standing 10th in the table.

We were entertained by watching The men's 1st XV play against GHK in a good old fashioned, hard fought match full of enthusiasm and commitment from both sides. The final score was 19 apiece, which was a fair reflection of the game.

We were told about Unified Rugby and Howe's desire to progress the opportunity for players with learning disabilities compete alongside non-impaired counterparts. We wish them well with this initiative.

Les Fordham

Women's Trophy - Update

Our trophy for the most aspiring Scottish Women's Rugby Player is progressing well. As was advised previously a competition has been running amongst the third year students at the University of Edinburgh, College of Art, Department of Silversmithing.

The Programme Director for Jewellery and Silversmithing, Jennifer Gray, helped the FoSR team on the 12th October to assess and mark all the entries and to eventually declare a winner.

It was an extremely difficult choice from a wide variety of stunning interpretations. The judges were very impressed by the quality of entries, from students from all parts of the world including Scotland (of course), England, France, Korea, China and Romania.

The winning design is currently being developed and we expect to review the first stage of the work in the first week of November. More details about the winning entry and the student who won, will follow in December. The trophy will be presented by the SRU President Dee Bradbury at our Annual Spring Dinner on March 21st 2019. If you would like to contribute towards the cost of the trophy or have the trophy named in memory of someone, please contact the Secretary.

Neil McNair

In Memoriam

It is with great sadness that we remember two of our dear friends who have passed away since the publication of our last newsletter.

Ken Henderson, one of our original members passed away this summer.

Chris Parker, an active and popular member passed away on Sunday 26th August.

May they rest in peace

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