



Friends of Scottish Rugby

December 2016 Issue No. 13



A Word from our President

Believe it or not it's that time of the year again despite the fact that Scotland has enjoyed a very unusual but spectacular spell of bonnie weather..... mark you I read the other day that there is a very good chance we might have a white Christmas!

Maybe the freak weather also helped Scotland play some very exciting Rugby during the Autumn Internationals which surely bodes well for the forthcoming Six Nations.

For various reasons our FOSR social activity has been seriously restricted this year but interesting plans are afoot to be more active in the New Year when I look forward to seeing many of our members, new and old.

Until then may I take this opportunity to wish you and your families a very Happy Christmas and a very Guid New Year.

Yours aye

David.

David Mackay

and a word from the SRU...

Following the new partnership with BT two years ago we were able to implement plans to strengthen our support of clubs. These take the form of several interventions with the creation of regional Club Services Manager (CSM's) roles having arguably the biggest impact.

Previously, Scottish Rugby supported clubs predominantly in the areas of 'on-field' e.g. coaching, refereeing, development etc with only minor support for 'off-field' areas.

The CSM's all have business development experience and assist clubs with the 'off-field' areas such as creating and implementing their strategic / business plans and key areas such as facility development and income generation.

We developed a business planning diagnostic to help clubs assess their strengths and weaknesses and formulate this into a business plan. To date over 90 clubs have benefited from the club diagnostic process and have plans in place.

Another major initiative has been the creation of a Club Sustainability Fund with £1.6m of finance available over four years to clubs to help them with capital and revenue projects. To date 91 clubs have benefitted from awards for improving their facilities and employing business development posts. The capital strand of the fund works in tandem with the sportscotland lottery fund where clubs can apply for lottery funding through the one application process. Over £1.5m of funds for club projects have been secured from the lottery over the first two years of the fund.

We have used case studies and best practice to great effect as messages from the many successful club projects to attract more to their clubs, raise their profile and increase income, are very powerful. We highlight these with over 50 resources on our website and run workshops every year and a large Club Development Conference every two years.

The environment for clubs is challenging just now with many options for how people spend their leisure time, increasing travel and utility costs and sponsorship being harder to come by. The support of Friends of Scottish Rugby to Scottish Rugby clubs is very appreciated and is often the final part of a funding package that makes projects viable.

Thanks for your support to date.

Nick Rennie

Head of Clubs Services

In Memoriam

We are much saddened to learn of the death of Steven Adamson who passed away during early October.

Our thoughts and wishes go to his family during this sad time.

May he rest in peace

Murrayfield Debenture Seats

The Ireland and Italy tickets have been taken but we still have a pair of debenture tickets for Wales game on Saturday 25 February 2017. 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 purchase these tickets, please contact Simon Frost our Treasurer via email at: (simon@f-s-r.org)

Forthcoming Events

We are looking at scheduling a lunch for some time during February and will issue the formal invitation as soon as a date has been fixed. In the meantime, please make a note in your diary for **23rd March 2017** for our AGM which will once again be held at the Caledonian Club.

Gap filler - Comments recorded from evaluations of British Officers

- I would not breed from this Officer.
- This man is depriving a village somewhere of its idiot.
- When she opens her mouth, it seems only to change whichever foot was previously in there.
- Couldn't organise 50% leave in a 2 man submarine
- He has carried out each and every one of his duties to his entire satisfaction.
- He would be out of his depth in a car park puddle.
- Since my last report he has reached rock bottom, and has started to dig.
- She sets low personal standards and then consistently fails to achieve them.
- In my opinion this pilot should not be authorised to fly below 250 feet.
- Couldn't organise a woodpecker's picnic in Sherwood Forest.
- Works well when under constant supervision and cornered like a rat in a trap.

Donations

Your committee are pleased to report that this calendar year we have made donations on your behalf to the following clubs and organisations:

- Cartha Queens Park RFC
- Greenock Wanderers
- Kingussie High School
- London Scottish FC
- Royal Blind
- Scotscare
- Columba 1400

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

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