



Friends of Scottish Rugby

December 2017 Issue No. 17



A word from our President

Well believe it or not Jane and I have finished writing the Christmas Cards. So it's now off to the Post Office and packing before we depart for the LSFC Derby match and then we fly to New York for 12 days to catch up with the family and no doubt some retail therapy!

Anyway I am very much looking forward to catching up in 2018. The Autumn Internationals have been a wonderful experience and the Pro Teams as well as "Scottish" seem to be making good progress. Success at Murrayfield has a habit of being infectious at grass roots level and long may that continue. I would guess that demand for the 6 Nations will greatly exceed supply so please don't dally!

As you will see below our first event of the New Year is Dinner in the on Wednesday 17th. January, "An evening of Rugby," hosted by Andy Nicol accompanied by a panel of well known fellow International stars.

Meantime Jane and I wish you warmest Festive Greetings and we will raise a toast or two to all at FoSR in the chilly Big Apple!

David Mackay

A Six Nations preview evening with Andy Nicol and friends

To start the New Year off with a bang we are planning a big event for Wednesday January 17th so make a note in your diaries. Andy Nicol will host the evening supported by Shane Horgan from Ireland, Brian Moore from England and Martyn Williams from Wales.

This promises to be a fun filled evening and we will be holding our usual auctions to raise money for deserving clubs and institutions. It's always a challenge to source auction prizes so if you are able to offer any items, it would be much appreciated.

The event will be hosted in the Caledonian Club and due to space constraints numbers will be limited (to about 150 members and guests). Invitations will be issued soon so please be prepared to respond quickly to avoid disappointment.

Les Fordham

Dee Bradbury Lunch

A large group of members and their guests, sat down to lunch in the Caledonian Club, where Neil McNair introduced the current Vice President of the Scottish Rugby Union, Dee Bradbury.

Next summer Dee is scheduled to become the President of the SRU, the first women to hold that role in any tier one rugby union. Dee talked extensively about the challenges that face Scottish Rugby and she also talked candidly about the many local issues that both help and hinder the development of Scottish rugby. After lunch Dee joined the members on the terrace of the Caledonian Club for more heated debate. We hope to see Dee again when she has become President.



Neil McNair

Neil McNair, Les Fordham, Dee Bradbury and David Mackay

Visit us at "www.f-s-r.org"

So what is Twitter... and what has it got to do with FoSR?

I'm sure that like me, many of you think that "Twitter" is something that teenagers do on their mobile phones and it has very little to do with the real world!

As Richard Black explains, it is much more than that - it is a powerful and much used communication tool. For example, when we awarded Mark Bennett the Sir William Purves Quaich last year, the SRU and Mark both thanked FoSR on Twitter. As it was, people who read the tweet probably didn't know who or what FoSR is (or bother to look further, so their experience of FoSR stopped there.)

However, If we had had our own Twitter account the SRU's and Mark's tweets would have linked to our account and potentially hundreds or thousands of people would have had the opportunity to click through to us and learn more. Maybe only a few hundred would have done so, but that's how you get the ball rolling.

So how do we get ourselves involved in this new world of Social Media? Step Forward Richard!

Social Media tends to be a "young man's" sport so it will come as no surprise that Richard is one of our younger members. He has set up a Twitter account for us and whilst for the moment, the FoSR's "tweets" are quite limited, we should think of it as just another way to publicise ourselves. What Richard has now started it doing, which takes time but is much more interesting, is to start building connections with the Scottish rugby world.

The objective of all of this is to attract more members and donations, so it goes without saying that the more good things FoSR does (donations, lunches, dinners, awards, and generally getting in the news) the better. That is the key focus. The Twitter account is just a small tool to help take the awareness and goodwill that donations and events generate and create even more awareness on a larger scale.

We now have a Twitter Link on our Home Page but if you have a Twitter account you can also follow us @F_O_S_R

Les Fordham

Donations

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

- Stirling County RFC
- Doddie Weir'5 Trust
- Leith Rugby Youth Development
- Stewartry RFC
- Forrester Rugby Club
- CHAS (a charity that provides hospice services in Scotland for children and young people)

**Friends of Scottish Rugby thank our Sponsors
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