



Friends of Scottish Rugby

January 2014 Issue No. 3



Chairman's Report—December 2013

May I thank all of you for the magnificent support you have given me and your committee during this year.

This has been probably the least financially successful year since we formed some 17 years ago. However, I am confident that 2014 will be again be successful. Using funds carefully nurtured over the years we still managed to maintain donations to junior Scottish clubs and of course the London Scottish Academy.

Our magnificent President Sir Willie Purves has stood down after 7 years, but David Mackay a long term member and a VP for 10 years has kindly stepped in.

AGM

Sir William presided and Stewart presented the accounts, 24 members attended. Some changes in management were agreed. Simon Frost took over from Stewart Lait as treasurer. Stewart Lait became secretary.

It was also agreed that a number of changes and new ventures would be attempted.

1. To establish a web page and try to organise a news letter.

Les Fordham agreed to organise these and has been very successful. Iain Craig Wood has agreed to be the author and it is hoped that we will be able to organise 3 issues each year.

2. A change of bankers with proper banking facilities.

These have now been accomplished. HSBC are our bankers and Simon installed direct banking facilities and will be issuing detailed accounts.

The **AGM dinner** was very successful and the majority of members were able to attend. As you will recall Sean Lineen, SRU director of junior rugby was our guest speaker.

Events during the year

Ian Macleod sponsored a dinner in the London office of Odgers Berndtson to introduce Rob Brierley the Performance manager of SRU and a number of potential new members.

Dick Bilborough helped to organise Prof Patrick Minford for our annual look at the UK financial picture. As always he was both instructive and amusing.

Gala Dinner

Financial results from the Gala dinner were disappointing. We had less than half the number of tables than the previous years. Andy MacDonald was the highly entertaining guest speaker at the Gala. Ian Robertson, though in considerable pain after a very recent operation was again our auctioneer.

Rod Lynch kindly sponsored 2 LSFC tables and other tables were also sponsored by Sir William Francis and Rick Burnett.

We are most grateful to so many who offered auction items including Mike Philip, John Noble, Alastair Douglas and the Pinstripe Highlanders, who both played and offered themselves as prizes.

To round off the year Iain Mackay kindly sponsored a lunch in HSBC with Andy Irvine the manager of the "Successful Lions' Tour" as the guest speaker.

This was probably the most outstanding event of the year and I can only apologise that I had to turn down so many requests for places.

The future, 2014

Stewart Lait has sadly decided to resign to concentrate fully on his business interests and we wish him well in his endeavours. Les Fordham has agreed to take over as secretary.

We are also looking to see whether we should look for an alternative venue and style for the Gala dinner. Your committee will be meeting to discuss the issues early in 2014.

May I wish you all a happy and successful 2014 and thank you all for helping me through this somewhat difficult year.

I look forward to meeting you again.

Donald

London Scottish Academy

To All members of FoSR

We view FoSR as an absolutely core supporter of the LSA, especially as we continue to receive zero support from the SRU. Your funding has been key to the recruitment of Corne du Rand and Ross Peacock last year who are the two key operatives behind the re-establishment of the LSA this season. We now have a nucleus of 30 players and have played two matches so far this season. Five Individuals on the LSIL Board have each contributed £5k to get the ball rolling and we are now on the hunt for a major corporate sponsor.

It's little acorns at the moment but our ambition is to grow a mighty oak.

FoSR has been absolutely key to our efforts here and you have certainly helped us to keep the faith on this critical project. I would encourage FoSR to stick with the LSA - indeed make it even more of a priority going forward - as your donations to LSA are ring fenced from the professional club and are genuinely funding the grass roots rather than paying the wages of professional rugby payers!

London and the South East remains the single largest recruitment area for Scottish rugby outside of Scotland and is largely ignored by the SRU. That is why your contribution is so valuable to London Scottish. As a member of FoSR myself, I would actually make the case that FoSR is better off focussing exclusively on the LSA rather than making a plethora of small donations to small clubs in Scotland who fall within the funding remit of the SRU. I think LSA will give you more bang for your buck and will also simplify and clarify your own objectives as you move forward in these straightened times.

I would be very happy to fix a meeting between FoSR and the newly appointed LSA Board/Staff to give you a full presentation of our plans and ambitions.

With thanks again and best regards

Malcolm Offord
Director London Scottish Academy

Forthcoming Events

The **AGM** will be held on the **30th April** in the Caledonian Club. Forms will go out in good time. Our guest speaker will be Malcolm Offord the Director of the London Scottish Academy.

We have been fortunate that Ian MacLeod, Malcolm Offord and David Guild have kindly offered to sponsor lunches during the year. Dates have yet to be set.

We are currently arranging the much applauded annual Professor Patrick Minford lunch. Further information will be available soon.

A Scotsman, a Welshman and an Englishman...

T'was the Scotland/Wales rugby International weekend in Edinburgh and as the crowds made their way down Princes Street towards Murrayfield, a Rottweiler suddenly lunged towards an eight year old Scottish lass, with its jaws wide open ready to attack.

The crowd nearby gasped in horror but, quick as a flash, a man in red jumped out of the crowd, grabbed the dog by the throat and throttled it.

As the dead dog lay there and the crowd cheered in admiration, a journalist from The Scotsman, who had witnessed the heroic deed, went up to the man and said, 'That was brilliant, I can see the headline now - 'Welsh Rugby Fan Saves Young Girl From Certain Death'.

The man replied, 'No, you've got it wrong. I'm not here for the rugby!'

'Don't worry' said the journalist, 'I can see the headline now - 'Welshman Saves Girl From Jaws Of Rottweiler'.

The man replied, 'No, you're wrong again. I'm not Welsh; I'm from London.'

The journalist said, 'Don't worry; I can see the headline now - 'English Bastard Strangles Family Pet'.

Editors Note

Members, sponsors and friends, this is your newsletter so if you have any items or comments that are printable! send an email to admin@f-s-r.org.

If you have a story, an amusing anecdote, or just something that you feel needs airing, we will do our best to include it in a future edition.

Ed.

Happy New Year to all our readers

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and Supporters for their generosity**

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