



# Friends of Scottish Rugby

July 2015 Issue No. 8



## A Word from our President

I hope you are all enjoying the Summer although for those of us who live north of the Border sunshine has been elusive at best and there will be no shortage of water or energy for the wind farms for many a year.

Never mind hopefully there is much to look forward to and believe you me your new energetic Committee is now fully engaged. Mark you, whether or not the two new VPs anticipated the work load is a different matter which I will leave you to raise with them!

Meantime, in many respects it seems we are victims of our own success when it comes to supporting Scottish Rugby. Worthy applications continue to roll in and we have already donated £20k this year. However we have judiciously decided to call a moratorium until we can evaluate the success or otherwise of our vital Gala Dinner which is again being held In the Landmark Hotel on 15th October.

Sadly, so far, table sales, donations for the auction and raffle are quite frankly very disappointing indeed.

Some might say in some respects that mirrors the political and economic climate. However, please forgive me for urging one and all to reflect again for a few moments on how you might be able to rescue our very serious dilemma. The Gala promises to be a great evening, but without the tangible support of the many rather than the few it threatens to be an unmitigated disaster.

So sorry to be the prophet of doom and gloom but Friends of Scottish Rugby desperately and quickly needs your support.

To those who have already taken tables and or made donations a thousand thanks. To the many who have maybe delayed for one reason or another please, please reconsider and contact Les Fordham or me as soon as possible.

Thank you very much.

**David Mackay**



*The pinstripe Highlanders entertained us again at last year's Gala*

*Photos courtesy of James Finlay*



*Andrew Fox addressing the haggis!*

## Donations

Your committee are pleased to report to date this year the following clubs have benefited from your valued contributions and support:

Greenock Wanderers RFC, Howe of Fife RFC, Irvine RFC, London Scottish FC, Kircaldy RFC and Stirling County RFC

For more details on these clubs and how you have helped, please refer to our website: [www.f-s-r.org/success\\_stories](http://www.f-s-r.org/success_stories)

The "Dundee Collection" held at this year's AGM was donated to The Murrayfield Centenary Fund which was set up in Scottish Rugby's centenary season 1972-73 to provide assistance to injured Scottish rugby players

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

## Professor Minford Lunch

The Professor Patrick Minford lunch was held on 14<sup>th</sup> May at the Caledonian Club chaired by Douglas Hutchison. As usual the lunch was well attended with Patrick presenting his ever informative, amusing and and not a little worrying views of the financial and political situations both home and abroad.

Members raised a number of interesting questions which Patrick handled with typical informed response following which Donald McNab our Honorary Life President presented Patrick a sgian-dubh crafted by his own fair hand.

As is our norm, most attendees adjourned to the bar, capping another pleasurable and informative lunch with appropriate amounts of alcohol and friendly banter.

## Odgers-Berndtson Lunch

It was with great pleasure we welcomed Bill Sweeney, Chief Executive of the British Olympic Association to speak to an elite group of Friends of Scottish Rugby members last month.

We enjoyed a first class lunch at Odgers Berndtson's head office in London where Bill delivered an excellent talk and the lunch developed into more of an informal question and answer session with Bill fielding all sorts of topics around Team GB and sport in general. He is one of the most engaging speakers we have had.

We received fantastic feedback from the guests who attended – they thoroughly enjoyed the food, Bill's talk and the general ambience of the event.

Bill's feedback was just as glowing and he is definitely a name to keep in mind to host a bigger event.

**Ian Macleod**



## Quaiche Winners prove themselves

**Alec Coombes** - This year's winner of the Macpherson Quaiche, signed for London Scottish on an Academy contract in September 2014, after impressing in his pre-season trials.

Alec started in all 10 of Scotland under-20s' games during the 2014/15 season initially playing on the wing and then as outside centre for the final three games. He showed his true mettle during the World Rugby U20 Championship earlier this year, highlighted by scoring the opening try against Australia.

We look forward to seeing Alec's career develop and expect great things from him in the future.

**Finn Russell** - Winner of the Sir Willie Purves Quaich enjoyed a successful, if not a little controversial, Six-nations.

His contributions to Glasgow Warriors last season attest to his abilities which could prove of great benefit to Scotland during both the Autumn Internationals and the upcoming World Cup.

Finn has proved himself to be a worthy choice and will no doubt go on to do great things for Scotland.

## Forthcoming Events

Further to the very successful Odgers-Berndtson lunch, we have been fortunate to have offers of sponsorship for future lunches from Malcolm Offord, David Guild and Alan Laing. These will be scheduled in the near future, so keep an eye on you mail!

We are trying to gauge interest in attendance for a lunch in Edinburgh - if this would be of interest please let your secretary know ([les@f-s-r.org](mailto:les@f-s-r.org)).

As you will have read in our Presidents opening remarks, our major fund-raising event, The Gala Dinner - on the 15th October - is fast approaching.

As a reminder for members who have yet to confirm their attendance, it is £1250 for a table of 10 with individual Members and their Guests welcome to join us for £130 per seat.

There are only 4 tables seating 12 persons and these are allocated on a first come first served basis (2 have already been reserved!). For our more popular Members who may wish to take a advantage of the larger tables, please confirm your requirements as soon to avoid disappointment.

As always, your support for the above events is essential for our continued good of Scottish Rugby.

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

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