



A word from our President

Jane and I were so sorry to have to miss the recent AGM but obviously delighted to hear that it was a very enjoyable and successful evening.

As I write British Summer Time is fast approaching and please forgive the pun, but that seems to put a real spring into our steps after a rather dismal spell!!

Anyway there are interesting and indeed stimulating times ahead with a proposed participation and partnership with the SRU. This is a major initiative being launched by Murrayfield and described as a five year Growth and Participation Fund which is tagged Future Proofing the Community Game and is funded at 1 million pounds per year for the next five years, using Scottish Government monies allocated in support of the recovery from the Pandemic. Half of this money will support major capital investments and the other half will be split to support Club-led projects in three distinct areas; Women and Girls (£150K per annum), Development Environments (£150K per annum) and State Schools (£200K per annum).

This is a 5 year partnership and we will probably focus on jointly branded rugby balls (in much the same way as we have been doing with the Balls 4 Schools initiative) for participating State Schools, for both boys and girls.

Pete Burgon, who is the SRU's Glasgow and North Regional Director will be our main point of contact but we will also have free access to the other Regional Directors. Meantime Pete will be our Guest Speaker at the Summer Dinner.

This is a significant game changing strategy in Scotland and a really unique opportunity to highlight the role FoSR has and will continue to play in Scottish Rugby.

David Mackay

Spring Dinner

On 24^h March we held our AGM and Spring Dinner. Always a bit of a logistical challenge due to the amount going on, your Secretary we feeling pretty smug when he had completed all the seating plans, reports, etc. a few days before the event. But Covid had other ideas...

We had 63 members and guests booked in but one by one people were dropping out with several testing positive on the day of the event and we ended up with 54 sitting down to dinner!

Twas a mad panic to find replacements for saying grace, accepting the trophies and a few other "duties" but as always the members pulled together and everything went seamlessly.

Mike Mclashan piped in the Haggis

All photos courtesy - John Nicholls Photography

Continued overleaf...



The members and guests were piped to dinner by Mike McGlashan and Les Fordham (standing in for our President) welcomed everyone and asked John Noble to say Grace.

Not wanting to let Mike get too comfortable, he was called on to pipe in the haggis, followed by a word perfect Address delivered by Nick Grecian.

So now we had time to draw breath and leave the hard work to the Banqueting Staff while we enjoyed a great meal and even better company. The noise level increased dramatically as we chatted to those around us, many of whom we had not seen for some time.

Following the dinner Les asked everyone to give generously to our "Dundee" collection. The recipient (nominated by Nick Grecian) was to be LATCH, a charity supporting children with cancer and Leukemia

Following a short break, we returned for the main event - awarding the Trophies but first a couple more traditions were to be observed... Ian Black gave the Loyal Toast and Simon Frost have the toast to Absent Friends.



John Noble gave us Grace



Nick Grecian gave the Address to a Haggis

We normally try to keep these events light and humorous, but these are not normal times. So it was that Les called on Ishbel Macpherson to give us a Prayer for those suffering in Ukraine and elsewhere. The prayer was written by Reverend Alistair Cumming and Ishbel did him proud! And so to the awards...



Ian Black gave the Loyal Toast

Our next event will be the **Summer Dinner on Tuesday 31st May**, followed by the **Autumn Dinner on Thursday 13th October**.

Awards Background

Each year at the Friends of Scottish Rugby Annual General Meeting Dinner, two quaiches are presented to up and coming players.

The Sir Willie Purves Quaich was first awarded to Donnie MacFadyen in 2000 and this was followed by the Sir Tommy Macpherson Quaich in 2011 and was presented to Anthony Kent.

In March 2019 we introduced the Lady Jean Macpherson Women's Trophy which is presented to the most aspiring female Scottish player.

To date, there have been 35 winners (see table on following page for details) and between them, they have won 666 caps for Scotland and amassed 666 points.

Continued overleaf...

Winners Table

With thanks to Douglas Hutchison for conducting the research. This table is continually updated and can be viewed at anytime by visiting our website at www.f-s-r.org

	SIR WILLIAM PURVES QUAICH			SIR TOMMY MACPHERSON QUAICH			LADY JEAN MACPHERSON TROPHY		
Year	Winner	Caps	Points	Winner	Caps	Points	Winner	Caps	Points
2000	Donnie MacFadyen	11	10	First presented in 2011			First presented in 2019		
2001	Andrew Wilson	1	0						
2002	Allister Hogg	48	50						
2003	Chris Cusiter	70	15						
2004	Mark McMillan								
2005	Stuart Corsar								
2006	James Eddie								
2007	Moray Low	37	0						
2008	Sean Crombie								
2009	Richie Gray	67	15						
2010	A.P. Blair								
2011	Duncan Weir	30	80	Anthony Kent					
2012	David Denton	42	0	Daniel Mugford					
2013	Sean Kennedy			Jamie Stevenson					
2014	Jonny Gray	66	20	Tommy Spinks					
2015	Finn Russell	63	234	Alec Coombes					
2016	Mark Bennett	24	30	George Horne	17	32			
2017	Magnus Bradbury	17	15	Ally Miller					
2018	Matt Fagerson	21	0	Isaac Miller					
2019	Darcy Graham	26	60	Lewis Wynne			Rachel McLachlan	25	5
2020	Jamie Ritchie	32	5	James Malcolm			Rhona Lloyd	34	80
2021	Scott Cummings	20	5	Matas Jurevicius			Evie Gallagher	8	5
2021	Rory Darge	4	5	Harry Sheppard			Shona Campbell	3	0
Total		579	544		17	32		70	90
Grand Total								666	666

The **Sir Willie Purves Quach** was awarded to Glasgow Warriors Open-side Flanker, Rory Darge

Rory came through the Edinburgh academy, signing his first professional contract in July 2020 and making his debut for Edinburgh in Round 6 of the 2020–21 Pro14 against Leinster.

In April 2021 it was announced that he would move to Glasgow Warriors where his work rate and speed both with ball in hand and at the breakdown typify a player who has impressed many onlookers.

Darge won 13 caps for Scotland U20 and made his Scotland debut against Wales in the Guinness Six Nations.

The quach was presented by Sir Willie Purves and accepted by Douglas Hutchison on behalf of Rory Darge

Continued overleaf...



Douglas Hutchison (left) receiving the Quaich from Sir Willie Purves

The **Sir Tommy Macpherson Quaich** was awarded to London Scottish Fly-half, Harry Sheppard.

Harry started his adult career with Wasps during the 2014/2015 season before joining London Scottish for 2 seasons. He then moved to Bedford Blues for a couple of seasons before returning to London Scottish.

Harry is predominantly a Fly-half but can also play at inside centre. He is recognised for his ferocious defence as well as his deft ball handling and accurate kicking game.

He was very much looking forward to accepting the quaich in person but unfortunately he tested positive for Covid on the morning of the event.

The quaich was presented by Ishbel Macpherson and accepted by Noah Ferdinand and Brian Tualagi on Harry's behalf.



Ishbel Macpherson presents the Sir Tommy Quaich to Noah Ferdinand and Brian Tualagi



Louise Newton receives the Women's Trophy from Fiona Macpherson

The **Lady Jean Macpherson Women's Trophy** was awarded to Edinburgh University Left Wing Shona Campbell

A former pupil at High School of Dundee, Campbell currently plays for Edinburgh University while studying for a degree in psychology.

The 20-year old has also competed at a national level in touch rugby and was a part of the Scottish mixed team who claimed bronze in the World Cup finals in Malaysia in 2019.

Shona made her international debut during Scotland's 36-12 victory against Japan in November 2021.

Fiona Macpherson presented the trophy to Louise Newton on behalf of Shona Campbell

Les Fordham



LSFC Sponsorship

We have been supporting the LSFC Professional Entry Programme (PEP) for the last couple of years but due to structural changes at London Scottish, the PEP no longer exists.

This year we are continuing our support of the Colts but are now sponsoring 4 Scottish Qualified players (Leo Fielding, Ed Hoadley, Aaron Purewal and James Tyas) instead of the PEP.

Leo Fielding
Fullback

Ed Hoadley
Scrum Half

Aaron Purewal
Wing

James Tyas
Back Row

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

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