



## A word from our President

Spring at last, although the lack of warmth in the temperature belies that and heavy snowfalls are apparently forecast at the weekend. Perhaps good reason to be all the more pleased about the warmth expressed at our Spring Dinner which was held in the Caledonian Club on 19<sup>th</sup> March.

The excellent photographs clearly indicate a very happy gathering and once again the food and fayre were first class.

We were delighted to have Lady Jean Macpherson gracing our event and fabulously supported by an impressive number of members of the “Clan”, both young and old.

Sometimes, ringing in the changes is refreshing and we were particularly privileged to enjoy the dulcet tones of the wonderful Scottish soprano, Mary Fraser – no accompanying music, a wonderful voice like a bell and rounded off with “Ae fond kiss” – not a dry eye in the house!

The SRU, led by President, Colin Rigby, were in great form and he was ably supported by non executive directors, Alexandra Wheelan and Mike Souter at the table chaired by the one and only Alan Laing.

We very much look forward to seeing many of you again at one of our future events.

Meanwhile, very best to you all!

**David Mackay**

Friends of Scottish Rugby held their Annual General Meeting and Spring Dinner at the Caledonian Club on the 19<sup>th</sup> March. After the formalities of the AGM, which was held in the Library of the Caledonian Club, members joined their guests for pre-dinner drinks in the Johnnie Walker Room. The call to dinner was played on the pipes by Ralph Potter.

The President David Mackay welcomed the fifty three members and their guests to dinner.



Ralph Potter piped The Haggis (*above*)

Neil McNair “addressed the Haggis (*left*)”



Grace was said by our Treasurer, Simon Frost. Ralph Potter piped the haggis around the room, after which it was addressed by Neil McNair.

After dinner the Loyal Toast was given by Louise Newton.

A new innovation for this dinner was having a guest singer. On this occasion it was Mary Fraser a very accomplished professional soprano, wife of Callum Fraser, Vice Chairman of the Caledonian Club. Mary sang, unaccompanied, a wide variety of songs from traditional Scottish to extracts from opera.



Mary Fraser

Lord Offord of Garvel presented the quaich to Jack Ingall

(right)



As usual at the Spring Dinner the annual trophy awards were made. The Macpherson Quaich was presented by Lord Offord of Garvel to Jack Ingall. His career details can be found on the London Scottish website: [london-scottish.com/players/ingall-2](http://london-scottish.com/players/ingall-2)



(left) SRU President, Colin Rigby, accepted the quaich from Alan Laing



(Right) Alexandra Wheelan accepted the Women's Trophy from Lady Jean

The Willie Purves Trophy was presented by Alan Laing to Colin Rigby, President of the Scottish Rugby Union, who accepted the trophy on behalf of Harry Paterson who was not able to be present due to training commitments. Details can be found at: [scottishrugby.org/teams/Scotland-men/harry-paterson](http://scottishrugby.org/teams/Scotland-men/harry-paterson)

The Lady MacPherson Women's Trophy was presented by Lady MacPherson to Alexandra Wheelan, Non-Executive Director of the Scottish Rugby Union who received it on behalf of Emma Orr, who due to training commitments was unable to be present. [scottishrugby.org/Scotland-women/emma.orr](http://scottishrugby.org/Scotland-women/emma.orr)

On behalf of the Friends of Scottish Rugby (FoSR) a shawl in the FoSR tartan was presented to Alexandra Wheelan.

The Vote of Thanks was given by Vice Chairman of the Caledonian Club, Callum Fraser.

A Dundee collection was called for on behalf of Mary Fraser's chosen charity, Doorstep Library - a community-focused literacy charity.

After the dinner the guests retired to the Members Bar where lively discussion ensued about the impending Six Nations games.

Neil McNair



## Future Events (save the date!)

We have 2 events scheduled for 2024:

Following the very successful Summer Lunch at the New Club last year, Neil McNair is organising a repeat this year. It will be held on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June at Myreside home of Watsonsonians RFC.

The second event will be the Autumn Dinner on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October at the Caledonian Club.

Further details and invitations will be issued nearer the time.



(All photos courtesy - John Nicholls Photography)

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