



A word from our President

I am delighted to confirm that we have had a lot of very positive feedback about our recent AGM and Spring Dinner which was very well supported and indeed proved to be a most enjoyable evening.

Our guest speaker, Hollie Davidson, was absolutely first class in every respect and I am delighted to confirm that Hollie is now an Honorary Life Member of FoSR.

I am a great believer in “nothing stands still!” and, there is much current and probably long overdue activity and concentration on Women’s Rugby. So it was also therefore very appropriate to have Shona Campbell and Hollie as recipients of the magnificent Macpherson Women’s Trophy as well as two very talented and charming Corstorphine Cougars, Emma Wood and Ailsa Clark - not to forget Caitlin Gould from the SRU who was their official custodian of the magnificent Calcutta Cup.....not many organisations can claim to have had two visits from that historic trophy!

Our ongoing joint venture with the SRU’s balls for school project goes from strength to strength and was rightly praised at the AGM. I also think that the presence again of the SRU President, Colin Rigby, and his delightful wife Christina, speaks volumes - as does the attendance of the very impressive Shona Bell, Chief People and Engagement Officer at Murrayfield.

It was also reassuring to welcome a strong contingent from London Scottish.

Anyway, I hear that the presentation of our superb FoSR tartan shawls was very well received and seemed to cap a wonderful event which, for some, continued merrily into the wee small hours!

Roll on the next big get together which is our Autumn Dinner on 5th October.

Best wishes and have a good summer.

David Mackay

Spring Dinner and Annual General Meeting

Friends of Scottish Rugby (FoSR) held their Annual General Meeting and Spring Dinner at the Caledonian Club on the 23rd March. After the formalities of the AGM, members joined their guests for dinner in the Johnnie Walker Room, to be welcomed by the President David Mackay.

The principal guest and speaker for the evening was Ms Hollie Davidson, who was the Scottish Rugby Union’s (SRU) first female full-time referee when she was appointed in 2017. She has subsequently refereed in the Melrose Sevens, and the Super 6. In 2021 she refereed her first professional men’s game, Munster v Benetton. She refereed in the 2019 Women’s Six Nations. In 2021 she refereed the final of the Rugby World Cup between the hosts New Zealand and England.

In recognition of her contribution to Women’s Rugby, she was presented with the Lady Jean MacPherson Women’s Trophy.



Hollie Davidson
Guest Speaker and Women’s Trophy
winner

Among the 76 members and guests present were Colin Rigby President of the Scottish Rugby Union, and his wife Christina.

Women's rugby was also represented by Shona Bell, Chief People and Engagement Officer from the SRU. Also present were Emma Wood and Ailsa Clark from Corstorphine Cougars, Corstorphine being one of the Clubs that FoSR has supported financially by assisting with their ground drainage works.

The dinner started with Grace by the Rev Alastair Cumming followed by The Address to the Haggis by Neil McNair. The Loyal Toast was given by Ian Burrell, and the Vote of Thanks by Debs Thompson.

A Dundee Collection (a silent paper only collection) was made on behalf of AVUK (a charity supporting deaf children) and the Royal Marsden Hospital, these being the choice of guest speaker Hollie Davidson.

The Lady Jean Macpherson Women's trophy was first presented to Shona Campbell who was awarded it in 2022 and then Shona presented it to Hollie Davidson. This was followed by the presentation of the Sir Tommy Macpherson's Quaich was awarded by Brian Redpath to Cam Anderson London a Scottish back three player who has represented Scotland U20's. A large and vocal crowd of London Scottish supporters greeted both presentations. The Sir Willie Purves quach was awarded in to Luke Crosbie of Edinburgh Rugby and Scotland, in his absence.



Cam Anderson receiving his quaich from Brian Redpath



Neil McNair addressing the haggis with Ralph Potter

At the conclusion of the dinner members and guests were given the opportunity to be photographed holding the Calcutta Cup. Thanks are due to Caitlan Gould for arranging its transport from Edinburgh and security while in London.

After dinner members and guests retired to the Members Bar, where many were introduced to snuff from the rams head for the first time.



Shona Campbell (left) with Hollie Davidson



Women's Trophy with the Calcutta Cup

Neil McNair

Sir Willie Purves Quaich

Rory Darge was chosen as the 2022 Scottish young outstanding player of the year, but he was not available to receive the quaich.

On Friday 14th April David and Jane were thrilled and indeed honoured to be warmly welcomed at Scotstoun, the home of Glasgow Warriors, where they presented Rory with the magnificent Sir Willie Purves Quaich.

Jane presents Luke with the Sir Willie Purves Quaich

Jane, David and Luke at Scotstoun

Off-field Rory is an unassuming and very charming young man but a somewhat different proposition as an International Flanker!

Aged only 23 Rory is surely destined to be winning International Honours across the globe for many years to come. Heartiest congratulations Rory!

David Mackay

This year, the Sir Willie Purves quaich was awarded to Luke Crosbie, who was not able to be present on the night. It was subsequently presented to Luke at Murrayfield by Neil McNair. Luke is a Scotland flanker who has played against Tonga and Chile and is clearly a player to watch out for in the future.

Neil presenting Luke Crosbie with his Quaich

Luke proudly holding the Sir Willie Purves Quaich

Neil McNair

Donations....

Friends of Scottish Rugby have made the following donations since the last Annual General Meeting.

London Scottish FC

Brechin RFC

Balls 4 Schools

Motor Neurone Association

Oban Lorne RFC

AVUK (a charity supporting deaf children)

Royal Marsden Hospital

Future events

Following requests from a number of members, we are holding a Summer Lunch at the New Club in Edinburgh held on 21st June.

The FoSR Autumn Dinner will be on Thursday 5th October, at the Caledonian Club.

Members and guests with the Calcutta Cup



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