



Friends of Scottish Rugby

April 2013 Issue No. 1



From the Chairman

The aim of this newsletter is to give the members information about our current activities, dates and speakers for forthcoming events. In the past you have only had my annual report and brief comments at the AGM, but thanks to the efforts of our new team you should get a newsletter three or four times a year.

The newsletter will also go out to other Scottish societies, schools and other bodies that we feel have an interest, however tenuous, in Scottish rugby. Scotland has the smallest player base of any of the Six Nations so the need to reach as many potential qualified players is vital.

London Scottish FC, through the academy to which we have been major sponsors for many years, are doing all they can to bring in new players. You will have noticed how successful LSFC have been in recent months. One day they might be as important to Scottish rugby as they once were. In fact London Scottish has produced more Scottish international players than any other club.

I thank you all for your magnificent support since we established ourselves so many years ago.

Donald

Editor's Notes

Welcome to our first edition. It will contain many areas which can be improved, and there will be activities and other things members would like to promote. Please bring these to our attention, knowing that you will be asked to do anything you want done!! Despite any imperfections, we thought it important to get this one out quickly.

Not only do we now have a newsletter, but we also have a website being managed by Les Fordham, to whom with Steve Fordham we are grateful.

Your management committee has been restructured because of the sad death of Bruce Durkie, subject to ratification at the AGM:

The president and chairman are Sir William Purves and Donald Stewart moves to secretary and Simon Frost has become treasurer. We welcome Douglas Flint as a new vice president. The managing committee is Ian Craig-Wood, Alan Laing, David Mackay, Colin McKerrow and Muir Moffat.

Donations (since 1 January 2012)

Biggar RFC
Christchurch Earthquake Appeal
Coll RFC
Glasgow Hawks
London Scottish FC Academy
Morgan Academy FP
North Berwick RFC
RHC Cougars RFC

There is no space to put the amounts in but they total £39,750. Each issue we plan to feature a club to which we have donated. This one is London Scottish.

LSFC academy

The club's development pathway is designed to produce professional players and top senior players for the club and ultimately for international rugby. With the continued support of Friends of Scottish Rugby, we have been making the necessary steps in the right direction with more players working their way through the club development systems, which are managed by coaches and Club Development Manager Corné du Rand.

The London Scottish Academy consists of a senior and junior section based at the Club's playing fields at the Richmond Athletic Ground. Effectively, the Senior Academy covers players over the age of 18 and the Junior Academy covers the U16 to U18 age groups. This structure helps us to bridge the gap between junior rugby and professional rugby here at the Club.

The Academy accommodates players with higher potential within our own Club's age groups as well as some external players from the Exiles program. Some players this year were invited to the Scottish age group trials and two players in particular made it to the final trial with James Lang making the U18 Scotland squad and Charlie Currie just missing out on U17 selection.

It has been a good year for the Club's plans to build the best non-RFU funded Academy in Britain here at London Scottish, as we continue to lay even stronger Academy foundations.

Forthcoming Events

The AGM 2 May at the Caledonian Club, followed by the annual dinner with speaker Sean Lineen, former Scotland international and Glasgow Warriors coach.

Lunch with Professor Patrick Minford, on 4 June, also in the Caledonian Club.

Gala Dinner on 3 October at the Landmark Hotel, hopefully avoiding the school half terms in both Scotland and England!

We are negotiating to have two speakers to inform us about the forthcoming referendum, but dates depend on availability.