



A word from our President



What a glorious Summer so far and by the time you read this Jane and I will be in the cooler climate of San Francisco visiting our son Euan and his wife Aimee.

The feedback about our recent communications has been very encouraging and I hope that you too will be further stimulated by the breadth of activity underway.

Certainly there's much going on and our little band of volunteers are trying hard to ensure we are responding and adopting members views whenever possible as well as ringing the changes where appropriate.

We are at your service and further input will be warmly welcomed.

Look forward to catching up with many of you at our evening with Craig Chalmers and friends on September 19th, if not beforehand.

David Mackay

Our New Brand

In a bid to increase membership, we are trying to reach out not only to the younger age group, but also to a wider audience.

As you are all probably aware, the Friends of Scottish Rugby arose from the ashes of the Westminster Business Club. Our logo of a postage stamp bearing a silhouette of Westminster has served us well over the years, but is very much reflective of our beginnings and no longer represents who we are today.

You will no doubt have noticed, our banner at the top of the page has changed and we have created a new logo for ourselves. The new logo will appear on all future documents and correspondence, as well as on our website.

We have also had pin badges produced so that you can show that you are a member, and hopefully attract comments and discussion to give you the opportunity to encourage others to join us.

To celebrate our new brand, anyone introducing a new member will receive a bottle of Caledonian Club Malt Whisky. Should any member introduce 5 or more new members they will be invited to attend the President's Suite at Murrayfield where they will be hosted by the SRU for a major event.

To go along with the new logo, Neil McNair has had a Tartan designed and registered for us. It is planned that we have ties, bow-ties, trews and kilts made for anyone who wishes to purchase them. Prices for each of the items will be available shortly.

An image of our tartan can be seen on page 3 of this Newsletter



Les Fordham

Our New Ambassadors

In our last Newsletter we introduced Craig Chalmers as our Ambassador and this month, we have been very fortunate in attracting 2 more (see below). But what will they do?

The Ambassadors will use their positions of influence and network of contacts to further our aims by:

- Raising awareness of our work by attending events to talk about our mission and what we do, and encourage others to get involved in fundraising activity.
- Reaching new people and recruiting new members.
- Helping identify sponsors and supporters who would be willing to support FoSR.
- Inspiring new fundraising activity and assist the organising committee with events.
- Thanking our supporters for the work they are doing and the funds donated.

Graeme Morrison

Born in Hong Kong on 17th October 1982, Graeme attended Dollar Academy in Scotland from an early age as a border. Here, he was introduced to rugby by the late John Foster, who served as a coach and mentor throughout his time at Dollar and beyond.

Graeme joined the Glasgow Hawks and played in the Scotland U21 side, coached by Sean Lineen, who upon becoming the Glasgow Warriors backs coach in 2003, signed Graeme. He spent the next 10 years as a professional rugby player for the Warriors where he played 176 times; a number surpassed by only one other individual in the history of the club.

Graeme gained 35 international caps for Scotland in the centre, including the Rugby World Cup in New Zealand in 2011. He was a member of the victorious 2008 Calcutta Cup side and was in the team that beat Ireland in their last ever game at Croke Park, Dublin in 2010.

Unfortunately, following a series of knee injuries, Graeme was forced into retirement from the game in 2013. He then embarked on a new career, training as a Chartered Accountant, achieving the qualification in 2017. Graeme now works in Corporate Finance and is based in Glasgow.

Louise Newton



With a diverse and experienced background in media, event, charity, sport and mental health sectors, Louise has over 25 years of experience in print and digital publishing, media strategy, event management, fundraising, creative writing and psychological yoga therapy.

Currently Publishing and Events Director at Premier Property Media Ltd, Louise is responsible for their print and digital magazines and events portfolio. She has launched and managed several of the UK's biggest selling weekly and monthly magazines, created and managed bespoke targeted events on behalf of a range of clients, raised significant monies for various charities including the National Trust for Scotland, and pioneered the practice of Psychological Yoga Therapy for service users in low secure mental health hospitals. She set up Take A Breath Ltd in March 2017 to facilitate the trade, operation and management of her portfolio of business and consultancy interests.

Louise is a member of The Caledonian Club and sits on both the editorial and membership committees.

FoSR are delighted to have Louise and Graeme on our team!

Don't forget ...

Our next big event will be "An evening with..." at the Caledonian Club on 19th September. Entertainment will consist of a panel of Scottish rugby celebrities hosted by Craig Chalmers himself, and will include, Kelly Brown, Damian Cronin and more discussing Scottish Rugby, past, present and future.

Keeping them in-line will be our Master of Ceremonies, Louise Newton, one of our recently introduced Ambassadors.

Invitations will be issued shortly.

Autumn Internationals match tickets:

We have a pair of debenture tickets available at Murrayfield for:

Fiji: 10 November 2018 Kick Off: 2:30pm £38 each

Argentina: 24 November 2018 Kick Off: 2:30pm £64 each

The seats are located in the west stand (22BB6 and 22BB7) and tickets will be passed on to members (and their guest) at face value. If you would like to purchase these tickets, please contact Simon Frost (simon@f-s-r.org).

Friends of Scottish Rugby Tartan



Scots in Great War London

Friends of Scottish Rugby members will be interested in this new examination of World War One which pulls together the often untold stories of ten Scottish organisations in London to which many FoSR members today have links.

HRH The Princess Royal is patron to the group's events and in her foreword to the book writes, "These are not just the dry-as-dust tales of the long-forgotten ... their humanity and sacrifice strike chords with us today, and a century later these organisations remain shaped by the Great War."

London Scottish FC features heavily: the players were quick to join up, and more than three quarters of the 60 who turned out in the last weeks before the war never returned. Altogether the Club War Memorial lists 103 names. Club Secretary Paul McFarland has written an 11,000 word chapter which tells the story of many of those who died, 20 of whom were full Scottish internationals, and of some of those who survived and returned to help rebuild the club.

Paul also edited the rest of the book which opens with how St Columba's Church of Scotland in Knightsbridge fed and entertained nearly 50,000 Scottish troops heading home on leave or returning to the trenches. Moving letters from grateful families are quoted. John Buchan was an elder of the church, so too Sir Douglas Haig after the war.

There are chapters also on the other Scottish Kirk in London, Crown Court, the London Scottish Regiment - the first territorials to see action after being rushed to the frontline close to Ypres in October 1914 - and Scots Guards, The Caledonian Club, Caledonian Society, Burns Club of London, ScotsCare and Royal Caledonian Education Trust.

The book is also central to a programme of events organised by the Scots in Great War London Group.

To find out more about the group and it's activities or to buy the book from any of the organisations, please visit them on-line:

www.scotsingreatwar.london

Paul McFarland

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