



A word from our President

As I write Christmas is just around the corner and then there is another exciting New Year to look forward to.

Jane and I hope you and your families have a very happy time and we look forward to meeting many of you in 2019.....if all goes according to our plans a Guid New Year is likely despite Brexit!!!!!!

One of our fondest memories of this year was to be invited by the SRU to a pre and post match reception on the day of the Fiji game to meet with the youngsters who were on the trip to Nagasaki which we have covered in previous bulletins.

Al Kellock was the lead host along with several VIPs and an old friend of ours the learned Mike Proudfoot who was team Doctor. To say we were warmly welcomed is a huge understatement. The FoSR contribution, £3K, was applauded generously and the opportunity to meet the youngsters and their families was very touching and indeed really rewarding.

These kids, many from difficult backgrounds, were challenged daily in many ways they would never have experienced before and yet ALL eventually rose to the many challenges which in turn made them great young ambassadors for Scotland and Scottish Rugby. Jane and I mixed freely with kids, Mums and Dads and brothers and sisters none of whom will ever forget Nagasaki and who will continue to benefit from the adventure for many years to come.

AND finally here is a forecast from me..... at least one of these youngsters will play for Glasgow or Edinburgh, and maybe even Scotland. AND all of them will be better placed to cope with the many challenges ahead!

Thank you so very much for helping us to make this possible.

Happy New Year to you all.

David

David Mackay

London Scottish Colts looking good as they head into the Christmas break

London Scottish Colts have been putting in some impressive performances over recent weeks and rounded off this half of the season with a pleasing win against Finchley on Sunday. It was their first run out wearing the new Macron kit and the guys ended up deserved 33-17 winners after playing some very good rugby throughout.

The match ends a recent good run of results where the boys have translated their form from Wednesday night training into results on the field.

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It also comes on the back of a great showing for the London Scottish Colts the previous weekend when former Under 18 players Miles Wakeling and Taino Goveia both featured in the 1st XV Championship Cup game against Ealing Trailfinders, and five of the current Under 18s were out on County duties with:

- Scott Mitchell attending the Scottish Qualified Divisional Day for Eastern Counties.
- Finn Skinner selected for Surrey County.
- Harry Hardman, who has played for the England Touch side, selected for Middlesex along with Joseph Whittaker and Sam Pal Byrne.

Thanks to the sponsorship we get from Friends of Scottish Rugby the squad is coming together well under the coaching trio of Michael, Neil and current 1st Xv prop Phil.

Enjoy the break guys, we're looking forward to watching you play again in the New Year where we have some big games coming up against The Lambs (The Independent Schools team) and our friends from Modena Rugby who are over here on tour.

Ian Hannah, LSFC Colts Manager

Update on the Women's Trophy – December 2018

In October the Committee chose the winning design for the new Women's Trophy from amongst the entries made by the students of the University of Edinburgh, College of Art, Silversmithing Department. The winning design was made by Nadia Tahar. Originally from France, Nadia now lives in Fife.

Below is the prototype made in cardboard. The actual trophy is being made in silver and gold.

Nadia's work has already gained recognition through a variety of awards in jewellery making and design. Her work has been exhibited at the Elements in Edinburgh, the Lighthouse in Glasgow, the British Art Medal Society in various locations around the UK, and she has also been featured in national jewellery magazines for her creations.

Although the Department of Silversmithing is a small and specialised department, it has a world-class reputation for high quality craftsmanship and design. The Committee are grateful to Jennifer Gray, the Programme Director of the Department for her assistance, guidance and support throughout the competition and now in the production phase.

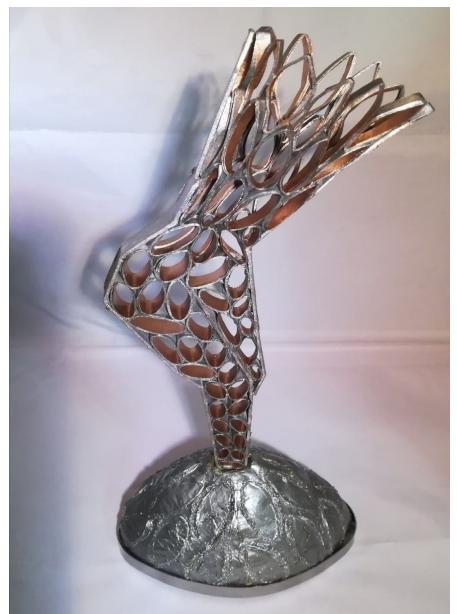
Nadia Tahar - Trophy Designer

Nadia described her trophy as celebrating Scottish Women's Rugby by representing strength, passion as well as femininity. The rugby ball base symbolises the grassroots passion that makes the ball grow. On the base there are ball shapes where the names of the winners will be engraved. The body is filled with growing rugby balls that gradually change shape to create a thistle at the top.

We are still looking for sponsorship for the trophy. If you would like to sponsor it, perhaps in the memory of a loved one, please contact the Secretary.

The new trophy will be presented for the first time at the Annual Dinner on 21st March next year, by the President of the SRU, Dee Bradbury.

Neil McNair



Scottish Rugby - Mascot for a day

Attendees at our Autumn dinner will recall that Graham Law (Scottish Rugby) arranged for the Calcutta Cup to join us. But this was not all that Scottish Rugby did to support us, they also donated an auction prize allowing the winning bidder (Adam Brodie) to take a youngster to BT Murrayfield as one of the Match-day Mascots.

"A proud day for the Brodie Clan, as Rory ran out for the first time at BT Murrayfield with Scotland ahead of the Springbok's test match.

At 5 years of age, Rory cut a diminutive figure amongst the older mascots let alone next to the towering Scottish blindside, Sam Skinner who he confidently led on the arduous journey from tunnel to touchline. Rory loved every second of being a mascot... the rehearsals, running out onto the pitch, belting out Flower of Scotland, the hot dog vouchers and not forgetting the post-match "selfies" and autographs with the players. A truly special father and son day out. Thank you FoSR for finding this auction prize and Scottish Rugby for donating it!"

Coming soon ...

The 2019 AGM (Spring Dinner) is scheduled for Thursday 21st March at the Caledonian Club. This is a members only meeting and will be followed by a black-tie Dinner at which guests are very welcome.

On 30th July 2019 we will be holding a Summer Dinner with the Leader of the Scottish Conservative Party, Ruth Davidson as our guest speaker.

6 Nations match tickets:

We have a pair of debenture tickets available at BT Murrayfield for both of the games below:

Italy: 2 February 2019 Kick Off: 2:15pm

Ireland: 9 February 2019 Kick Off: 2:15pm

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).

Adam Brodie

LSFC St Andrews Day Lunch at the Savoy – 30th November 2018

Our wonderful new ambassador Louise Newton, presented the committee with a unique opportunity to honour a lifelong supporter of Scottish Rugby generally, and of Friends of Scottish Rugby in particular, when she suggested that FoSR sponsor the Great London Scot Award for Lifetime Achievement. The award was being presented to Ian “Robbo” Robertson, the retiring BBC rugby correspondent, at the sixth annual London Scottish St Andrew’s Day Lunch at the Savoy.

Left to Right:

Simon Frost, Les Fordham,
David and Jane Mackay,
and Sir David Reid

The Lunch also provided the opportunity to show off our new FoSR tartan for the first time, and our President, Secretary and Treasurer all looked resplendent in their chosen styles. If you are interested in purchasing our tartan, we have ties and bow ties available, and can also provide the cloth to be made up into any item you desire including: trews, kilt, waistcoat, sash and shawl.

Organised by Louise, everyone agreed SADL 2018 was an outstanding event. The entertainment ranged from listening to the atmospheric Iona Consort Choir, to guest speaker Alistair McGowan all carefully and wittily managed by MC David Kurk. There was a spectacular number of prizes to be won in the silent and live auctions which raised over £100,000 for this year’s charity partner Warren’s Wish.

At FoSR we always need new members and the St Andrews Day Lunch was an amazing opportunity to raise awareness and improve our membership numbers; all of the committee networked amongst the guests and found several interested and valuable potential recruits. We were recognised for the great work we do for Scottish rugby, and featured in the programme, and the bespoke FoSR publicity pop ups on display. We are planning to attend next year and would like to make a co-ordinated effort to have as many FoSR members there as possible. The Secretary will be in touch with you regarding this nearer the time in 2019.

Neil McNair

***Season's Greetings to all our
Members and Supporters***

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