



Friends of Scottish Rugby

February 2017 Issue No. 14



A Word from our President

Well, as we anticipated, the 6 Nations has certainly been exciting and I think we Scots can be rightly proud of our Team's overall performance. Mark you, England and Ireland have done pretty well too!

Twickenham of course beckons before the final game against Italy at Murrayfield on 18th March. The Italian tactics against England on Sunday past were fascinating to say the least and you can bet your boots that Messrs. Cotter and Jones will already be plotting something "special"!

Anyway what a joy it was to witness three of the recent recipients of the Sir William Purves Quaich playing so superbly. Richie and Jonny Gray and Fin Russell, as well as Mark Bennett on the bench. This years winner will be presented at our AGM Dinner later this month. I am, of course, sworn to secrecy but believe you me he is an absolute "cracker".

Meantime, seeing Warren Gatland sitting in the Murrayfield Stand gladdened my heart. What's the betting on at least four or five "Jocks" going on the Lions tour?

I am very much looking forward to catching up with many Friends at the AGM.

David Mackay

Forthcoming Events

This year's AGM is to be held on **23rd March 2017** at the Caledonian Club. If you have not received your invitation, or indeed have received it but not yet responded, please let me know if you would like to attend by contacting me at "les@f-s-r.org" or calling me on my mobile: 07885 595305.

We look forward to welcoming you all.

Donations

Your committee are pleased to report that we have made two further donations since we published the last Newsletter.

The first was made to Forrester Rugby Club: **Forrester React 2 Rugby** charity is approximately 10 years old and was set up to fund their Community Development Officer, they have steadily attracted new members and the grant from Friends of Scottish Rugby will help them to continue to grow their youth section and continue to deliver rugby in their schools.

The Second was to Stewartry RFC: **Stewartry RFC** have recently completed and will shortly officially open a gym and fitness suite, incorporating extra changing facilities and providing disabled access. Once opened this will provide a new and accessible facility available to all associated with Rugby and the wider public also. This will also provide an excellent facility to the local development officer who can run strength and conditioning training for male and female players.

More details can be seen by visiting your website "www.f-s-r.org" and following the links in the navigation bar to the "[Successes](#)" tab.

Visit us at "www.f-s-r.org"

Lunch at the Caledonian Club

On the 21st February 2017 we held our first lunch of the year, attended by 21 members and guests. Our guest speaker was Christine Esson of the Scottish Business Network. As far as anyone can recall, this was the first time that we had a lady speaker and it was well received by all in attendance.

A “Dundee” collection was held in support of Christine’s chosen charity: [St Margaret of Scotland Hospice](#)

[The Scottish Business Network](#) “SBN” - is a member organisation created to facilitate greater communication and connectivity across the global Scottish business community. Membership is by invitation or introduction and is restricted to those members of the Scottish diaspora who hold leadership roles.

Launched in January 2016 SBN is a not-for-profit, non-political, member led organisation founded by Economic Development leader Christine Esson and Serial Entrepreneur and Investor Russell Dalgleish.

The goals of the organisation are:

- To network and facilitate networking among members at local and global level
- To foster entrepreneurship and business growth
- To nurture Scottish global business leaders, business owners and founders

In order to deliver against these objectives monthly events are held in London to bring together senior Scottish business leaders in the City to meet with Scottish based entrepreneurs. Three Scottish based business leaders pitch at each event with each summarising their offering, their “ask” of the group who then offer support. The business acceleration support typically comprises advice, introductions and guidance. Post event SBN facilitates and encourages ongoing discussions to ensure value is delivered to participants.

Details of companies who have participated are listed on their website www.sbn.scot.

Their next London event is scheduled for March 21st and if you would be interested in attending please let me know and I would be happy to arrange introductions.

Les Fordham



Christine Esson (left) our guest speaker



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