

# HAZEL SWANKIE – STANDING FOR ELECTION AS SRU VP, 2024

31 August 2024

My name is Hazel Swankie and I am today submitting this letter of candidature for the position of Vice President of the Scottish Rugby Union (SRU). With a deep-seated passion for rugby, extensive experience in sports club administration, and a commitment to fostering an inclusive and sustainable rugby environment, I am excited – with your support - about the opportunity to contribute to the future success and growth of Scottish Rugby.

My association with rugby began in 1996 as a member of Dunfermline RFC. Over the years, I have held several key roles within the club, including Secretary since 2008 and Club President (2015- 17). These positions have afforded me a comprehensive understanding of the operational and strategic challenges that clubs face today. Furthermore, since 2018 I have served as the Midlands Representative on the Council and Club Rugby Board (CRB) and, in August 2021, I was honoured to be appointed as a Council-nominated Non-Executive Director on the SRUL/SRL Board.

I come from a rugby-oriented family, with my husband John and stepson Scott both having played, Scott progressing through the Scotland age-grade system from U16 to U21. Their unwavering support has been instrumental in my decision to stand for election as Vice President and my retirement from our family building business now allows me to fully dedicate my time and energy to this pivotal role.

As a Scottish Senior Curling Champion, having represented Scotland at the 2011 Minnesota World Championships, I understand the dedication, discipline, and focus required to represent our nation on the international stage. This experience has profoundly shaped my appreciation for the values and responsibilities inherent in leadership roles within sport.

Throughout my tenure with Dunfermline RFC and my involvement in the wider rugby community, I have been an enthusiastic advocate for club sustainability and financial viability. I have striven to the very best of my abilities through direct club consultation and contribution to the output of various committees to ensure that players, coaches, volunteers, and match officials operate in an environment that is not only inclusive, but also conducive to growth and development. I believe my role as an independent Trustee of the Murrayfield Injured Players Foundation also reflects my deep concern for player welfare and as a past member of the Standing Committee on Governance (SCOG) I was able to make a significant contribution to the introduction of our new governance structures. I firmly believe these will, when allowed to fully bed-in, foster greater collaboration, accountability, and transparency within Scottish Rugby.

Keith Wallace, our current Vice President and CRB Chair, has given the club game renewed focus at key decision-making levels within EH12. But I believe more can be done particularly in respect of the operational structures of the Fora and CRB so as to ensure even greater transparency and accountability. If elected, I am committed to building on work done to date, my overarching aim being to ensure that the CRB is supported by an active and engaged Fora structure. While I do not claim to have all the solutions, I pledge to raise issues appropriately and represent the interests of each and every member club with the utmost dedication and integrity.

Additionally, my commitment to diversity and inclusion is unwavering. I have actively championed opportunities for underrepresented groups, ensuring our sport is accessible to all whilst, and without fear or favour, continue to call out actions when and wherever they deserve to be challenged.

It would be a profound honour to serve as Vice President of the Scottish Rugby Union. I am eager to bring my skills, experience, and passion to this role, working collaboratively to achieve new milestones for Scottish Rugby.

Thank you for considering my candidacy. If you'd like to discuss any aspect of my candidacy, please do not hesitate to get in touch directly.

Yours in rugby,

*Hazel Swankie*

Dunfermline RFC