

SRU AGM - 26 NOVEMBER 2025 – MEETING QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

CLUB	QUESTION	RESPONSE
QUESTIONS RECEIVED PRIOR TO THE AGM		
Kenny Hamilton Glasgow Hawks	<p><i>Can we have a report on the Sheriff David Mackie review established in the wake of the financial performance reported in 22/23?</i></p> <p><i>In advising that the Review would be established in November 2024, Professor Crerar stated (it) "will also consider how and why the governance arrangements did not provide the necessary insight into the operations of Scottish Rugby for financial year '22/23."</i></p> <p><i>I think it important that the outcome of the review and any lessons learned are shared with member clubs to inform future consideration of the Governance structure.</i></p>	<p>Thank you, Kenny, for your question.</p> <p>The SRU Board are in complete agreement with you that the outcome of Sheriff Mackie's Review and any lessons learned are shared with Member Clubs and we will use the lessons learned to inform the Governance structures and consequent operations going forward.</p> <p>The Review is independent and it is accordingly important that we don't interfere nor press the Review on progress. Additional members have been appointed to the Review by Sheriff Mackie and further admin support requested and been provided. As I mentioned in the Annual Report, the conclusions of the Review are expected in the early part of 2026.</p>
Martin Coombes Moffat RFC	<p><i>Fixture call-offs due to a lack of players are becoming a major challenge across community rugby. What steps will Scottish Rugby take, in partnership with clubs, to improve fixture fulfilment — whether through reviewing league structures, strengthening player support, or considering stronger sanctions — so we can protect the competitiveness and sustainability of the game?</i></p>	<p>There is on-going review of the male adult game to ensure our competition structures are suitable for the different challenges modern lifestyles present.</p> <p>We will be running consultations in 2026 with clubs on league structure and season length to ensure we get quality feedback from key decision makers, players and coaches across our clubs on the future of competition and season structures for the male adult game.</p>
	<p><i>Moffat RFC are concerned about a reduction in funding from Scottish Rugby for community clubs like ours. There is a risk of widening the gap between larger and smaller clubs and could ultimately reduce participation in grassroots rugby.</i></p>	<p>Scottish Rugby continues to be committed to investing in all Clubs across the country.</p>

	<p><i>What steps will Scottish Rugby take to engage with and listen to community clubs to have constructive dialogue and collaboration to ensure that Scottish Rugby's investment strategy helps sustain and grow the game at every level?</i></p>	<p>This is demonstrated by an increase in its Direct Funding to Clubs and Schools from £5.1M last season to £5.35M this season. That funding has risen from £3.1M in 2019/20.</p> <p>Investment is balanced across our strategic areas: stimulating and awarding participation numbers, improving the quality of the game through coaching, MO and volunteer support and capital funding.</p> <p>An example of how we have evolved our funding to ensure it is better aligned to strategy and rewarding team participation in clubs has been the significant reduction in Male Adult league-based funding to allow an increase in funding for all teams (adult, youth, male, female) across clubs. Those clubs who are producing more teams, with good development environment and strong governance will continue to receive more funding.</p> <p>We are committed to continuing to listen to feedback from our clubs and are open to evolving our investment to ensure it is fit for purpose and meets the needs of the game in Scotland.</p> <p>Feedback can be achieved through regular engagement with Regional teams, end of season regional club roadshows and through your Club Rugby Board representative.</p>
<p>Jason Conlin Stewart's Melville RFC</p>	<p><i>Are the board aware that member clubs allocation for away tickets for the Six Nations was delayed this year, then subsequently reduced dramatically (especially for the Ireland game) which coincided with the launch of Scottish Rugby's new official travel company https://scottishrugby.org/scottish-rugby-to-launch-new-official-travel-company/. Furthermore, are the board aware that the clubs rely on these types of membership benefits to attract new club members in the same way we are aware that this reduction will not have been an IRFU decision, as the number of tickets they pass to the SRU is fixed under the participation agreement.</i></p>	<p>Thank you for your question.</p> <p>The ticket allocations for matches fall within the operational responsibility of SRL rather than SRU, so we have asked SRL for some information to answer your question.</p> <p>There was indeed a delay in confirming allocations this year. This was due to a delay in receiving pricing from IRFU and then a need to deal with oversubscription of the tickets available.</p>

	<p>Ireland historically is the most popular away game and therefore oversubscribed.</p> <p>Some reductions against applications are inevitable because of that.</p> <p>The percentage of ticket applications actually then allocated to clubs for the 2026 game is almost identical to 2024 - namely 84% in 2024 against 85% for 2026.</p> <p>The number of tickets being received from the IRFU has not changed, although it is less than we receive from other unions due to the size of the Aviva stadium.</p> <p>The only material difference in the number of tickets available for clubs this time is because we have agreed to support <u>mynameisdoddie</u> charity with an allocation of tickets for their cycle for that game.</p> <p>Should any tickets be returned/unpaid by clubs we go back out to those clubs who have been reduced and offer them additional tickets to supplement their reduction if we have some available.</p> <p>The number of tickets allocated to travel packages for 2026 has actually reduced from 2 yrs ago (400 previously, 140 this time round) although that may not necessarily be the case in future as Scottish Rugby Travel grows.</p> <p>We are clearly aware that clubs value the ability to apply for tickets, although we do need to strike a balance with wider considerations including support of good causes and the generation of additional revenue, such as from travel packages where the added value generates an additional return. Ultimately the club game then benefits from that increased revenue through the budget 15% allocation process.</p>
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QUESTIONS TAKEN DURING THE AGM		
After finance presentation:		
Dominic Ward Grangemouth RFC	<i>Asked about the current percentage of turnover figure allocated to club funding based on the 4 year average.</i>	<p>D White (CFO) confirmed that the current figure is about 15% taking account of revenue from the last 4 years' audited accounts excluding FY24/25. Adjustments were also needed such as for the pass-through costs to promoters of concerts without any profit margin, where revenue and cost offset equally, and value-in-kind revenue adjustments, for example for kit and equipment from Macron, where no cash is received. If the base calculation was done, taking 15% of the last 4 years, that would not come to the numbers in the report. Revenue increases expected in the next few years would help see the value of the number for Rugby Development increasing over that period.</p> <p>Post Meeting Note for Information</p> <p>It remains an obligation under the Relationship Management Agreement for SRL to report on any reduction in budget available to CRB to less than the 15%. This is being adhered to, and much work has been done to see how various items should be treated, but as with any business there will be fluctuations between budget and actual (Eg Travel which depends on games actually played and cup draws, staffing in terms of vacancies etc) and also how items of income specifically related to Rugby Development are accounted for (Eg Scottish Gas Net Zero funding and when it is accessed). This current year budget has increased to £10.8m which equates to 15.5%. Going forwards the recent appointment of a commercial lead for Rugby Development should increase the levels of direct funding to club rugby (through sponsorship etc), making it easier for SRL to maintain (or indeed exceed) its obligation.</p>
Q & A Session:		

<p>Dominic Ward Grangemouth RFC</p>	<p><i>Under reference to for registered and active male players on pp26 and 27 of the Annual Report, queried why so many games were postponed or cancelled when Scottish Rugby has so many active players (8,000+) and asked why the figures on games played were not presented in the same way as in the previous year.</i></p>	<p>Keith Wallace (President) – from memory actual numbers of games played stable, possibly just a few percent down. Games were cancelled for a number of reasons and not just because of the number of players. KW believed the number of games played was not declining but a lot of games were cancelled. Many players were not playing many /enough games.</p> <p>Gav Scott (Director of Rugby Development) explained that data available suggested the adult male population was playing less. Around 40 players were needed for each team to be able to fulfil its league fixtures. This was relatively stable and related to modern playing habit and lifestyles. The majority of players now played 10 games or less per season and there was need to adapt to that with the rugby products on offer.</p> <p>The information was available and the Rugby Development Department was happy to share that with clubs if desired. The reporting had been changed this year for the Annual Report but the information was shared at the annual club conference and through regional teams.</p>
<p>Bill Faulds Falkirk RFC</p>	<p><i>We understand the desire and are supportive of the best club players getting the opportunity to play against the best private school players.</i></p> <p><i>However, in setting up, what is in effect, a Super 3 Club arrangement for U18 & U16 players, and after the first season's competition, what are the reflections of Rugby Development?</i></p> <p><i>In particular, what thoughts do RD have re the potential for indiscriminate player recruitment on the promise of a Scotland jersey, concern over poaching of players developed by club coaches over a number of years, and what options should be considered re Controls, Mitigations and Consequences ?</i></p>	<p>Gav Scott advised that player movement was a recurring issue across the country for various reasons. The open conference was being reviewed on an ongoing basis. So far ,the figures for player movement across the country were not dramatically different than in previous years .</p> <p>A review of player movement in general had been actioned via the Club Rugby Board both in adult and youth games. Scottish Rugby did not want to be in a situation where players or parents were caught in a choice between clubs, ultimately with a desire in encouraging kids to play the game.</p>

	<p><i>Although unrestricted recruitment could be seen as a good business model for a club - it leads to additional membership for clubs poaching and holds back opponents, but should there be consequences for over-recruitment if there are no Controls or Mitigation?</i></p> <p><i>Registered a concern that kids were moving clubs on the dream or promise of a jersey and a depth of feeling among a number of clubs that the new approach had created a "Super"3".</i></p>	<p>Underlying principle to date was that young players should not feel pressured to play for a particular club and should be entirely free to choose where they wished to play.</p> <p>Results of the review with the CRB would be available in the Spring of 2026 with numbers and accurate information provided and proposals on how to move things forward.</p>
Stuart Cruikshank Birkmyre RFC	<p><i>Commented that music was played in main bar areas in the stadium such as the Up and Under while other rugby matches were being shown on TV screens. Feedback was that customers would prefer to be able to hear the rugby commentary with a request that changes be considered.</i></p>	LC confirmed this would be looked at.
Phil Murphy Liberton FP RFC	<p><i>Explained that a number of unsubstantiated accusations had been made against Liberton by a number of female players who had since left the club. Numerous emails had been exchanged and the club had asked that the Union investigate what the club had done but the Union had not investigated. The episode had been damaging to the club and its ability to attract members and sponsors. The club requested that Scottish Rugby look at the club's procedures, or if not, that another club independent of the Edinburgh district be asked to investigate.</i></p>	The Chair undertook to look into the matter and come back to Liberton within 7 days with a response on the appropriate way forward for Scottish Rugby Union as the regulatory body.