

# GAC and Marie Curie Trust



Operating a successful Sports Club is always a difficult and challenging task, as year-on-year the costs go up, especially so when you reach the dizzy heights of National rugby leagues. The travel costs incurred in playing in these leagues are enormous. Last season the rugby team travelled to Orkney at a huge cost in addition to bus journeys to Aberdeen, Inverness, Edinburgh and the Borders. These and other costs are covered by our generous sponsors but it has for some time been felt that rather than simply looking for a hand out we needed to give something back to society in return. So it was a breath of fresh air, when in 2015 John Watson

OBE, approached us with a brand new concept. Instead of a 'hand out' we should go for a 'hand up'. So this brilliant idea was launched that would encourage the players and officials at New Anniesland to look out with the club to see how they could help others. Mr Watson's plan was to tie in sponsorship of the rugby section with the Marie Curie Trust at Stobhill Hospital, where he and his Foundation were heavily involved in the creation of the new Marie Curie Hospice based in the grounds of Stobhill, as well as its long-term future.

The rugby section committee embraced the idea with instant enthusiasm and the players became involved from the start. Dr Jane Collins, the Director of Marie Curie, flew up from London especially to launch the first shirt to have the logo on it. (She can be seen here being presented



John Watson and Dr Jane Collins



with a shirt by Mr Watson himself.) As a result of its success it is hoped that this imaginative idea can be launched amongst some of the biggest rugby clubs in England.

The players have proudly worn the logo since then and the daffodil has now become the logo for all sections of the Sports Club, ladies Hockey, Cricket and the Mini section, (all 160 children)! The players have been involved in fund raising with a bucket collection outside Debenhams over the past two years, as well as getting sponsorship for their participation in the last two Edinburgh 10k runs. (Some of the runners can be seen resplendent in their Marie Curie yellow t-shirts!)

As a sports club, we are delighted to have been given the opportunity to get involved with this wonderful charity, who do so much to support everyone who is dealing with a terminal illness, and never forgetting their family and friends. We know the relationship will grow as the seasons go by and all those involved with the Sports Club at New Anniesland are proud to be involved with this great charity.

**Donald F Reid (1967)**



THE GLASGOW ACADEMICAL CLUB

## 136th ANNUAL DINNER

Cargill Hall, The Glasgow Academy  
Friday 9th November 2018 | 6.30pm for 7.15pm



**Guest speaker**

**Shiona McCallum** (2004), award-winning BBC Radio 1 and 1 Xtra radio journalist

**Tickets: £40 (or £30 if aged 25 and under) including welcome drinks reception and 3-course dinner.**

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