

## Presidents Report HJRFC 2023/24

Hillhead/Jordanhill men's and women's rugby has again grown in strength in being now able to field five teams (three men's and two women's) throughout the season 2023/24.

We achieved a 1<sup>st</sup> place for the womens 2<sup>nd</sup> XV and a 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and two 4<sup>th</sup> place finishes in the other teams respective leagues which is no mean achievement. I would like to thank all the backroom staff especially Andy Scott Senior, Bernie Mitchell and Philippa Abernethy in particular for their help and commitment to the cause of Hills rugby. As of next season both Bernie and myself have intimated to the committee that we are stepping down from our current roles. We will not disappear in to the aether but we feel it is time for some new blood to take over the reins. Both of us have put a huge commitment into Hills, and none more so than Bernie for which I thank him for nearly 50 years of service. We are merely custodians of the present era and the club will survive and thrive within our ever changing society.

The highlight of the year was the women's 2<sup>nd</sup> XV who won their league. Also congratulations to the women's 1<sup>st</sup> XV on achieving yet another Sarah Beany final appearance, may their success continue next season.

The men's teams all did their respective leagues credit and we aim to push for three promotions next year.

Youth and junior rugby continue to grow, and the schools players are starting to shine in the senior teams.

Looking forward the rugby committee are working harder than ever into improving the Hills experience at the club next season. The section is becoming increasingly put upon by the rise in transport, food, equipment and other costs in order to be able to fulfil their commitment to fielding teams in the various leagues and we are mindful that we must run a tighter budget. We hope that with new blood and fresh ideas we can improve the finances next year.

The addition of Glasgow University Men's students to our ranks has been a great success and we look forward to more events with them.

I would also like to wish all our representative players the best and never forgot we are 'HTID'

Next season will again be a tough year but I think it is safe to say we are still here, alive and kicking and whatever season 24/25 brings we shall deal with it in the Hills way, with unity and fun.

Gary Kitchener (President HJRFC)