

T H E
Bill McLaren
F O U N D A T I O N

PRESS INFORMATION
For Immediate Release

BILL McLAREN FOUNDATION LAUNCHED

The Bill McLaren Foundation was officially launched today 4th March at Murrayfield.

Bill, before his death in January, and Bette gave their full support to the initiative, which has been set up for three purposes:

- To develop and promote the sport of rugby union and its values
- To encourage and provide sporting opportunities for young people
- To create an Educative Centre which will include the Bill McLaren Archive.

Linda Lawson, Bill's daughter, commented – "My father lived his life for his family and friends, for Hawick and The Borders, and of course for rugby and sport. But when this Foundation was suggested, to him and Mum, they were pleased but maybe a little embarrassed to think that anyone would want to pursue the Foundations aims, all in his name. I am so glad he was persuaded!"

Attending were Linda Lawson, charity directors, former Scotland and British Lions backs Andy Irvine and John Rutherford, Foundation Chair Malcolm Murray and John Thorburn, who will take on the role of Foundation secretary. Both Murray and Thorburn are well-known figures in the Hawick and Scottish rugby communities.

Representatives from founder sponsors The Famous Grouse, Johnstons Cashmere and Scottish Widows Bank were also present.

Director Andy Irvine said – "All of the directors are proud to be involved with Bill's Foundation and to help it achieve so much that will bring opportunity and benefit, to young people in sport. I urge the rugby community and anyone who took pleasure from Bill's commentaries to support the memory and aspirations of this great rugby man."

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It is intended that a supporters' scheme for individuals and for families will be set up and that rugby and sports' lovers worldwide will want to be a part of Bill's legacy, and to remain in touch with the Foundation's work.

Plans and full detail for how applications may be addressed to the Foundation will be publicly detailed soon. This process will be implemented through the website.

It is the directors' intention that the Foundation will be actively involved in events, to raise funds and profile, with supporters worldwide encouraged to run their own.

More information and the opportunity to donate online can be found at www.billmclarenfoundation.co.uk or www.justgiving.com/billmclarenfoundation. Alternatively, cheques can be sent to The Bill McLaren Foundation, Mansfield Park, Mansfield Road, Hawick TD9 8AW.

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Notes for editors

For more information on any aspect of The Bill McLaren Foundation, please contact John Thorburn – john@billmclarenfoundation.co.uk or 07929 655132.