



## The Sportsman's Charity Dinner 2014

### Master of Ceremonies

#### Dougie Donnelly



In 2013, Dougie broke with tradition to join our ranks of after-Dinner speakers, but this year we are delighted to welcome him back as our Master of Ceremonies. Dougie needs little introduction. He is one of Scotland's best known faces having commented on football, rugby, and the Olympics. Dougie is now focused on his great passion golf and broadcasts from golf courses around the globe to audiences of 400 million, so feels well qualified to handle the needs of The Sportsman's Charity Dinner.

### The Speakers

#### Members of the 1984 Grand Slam Team

**Jim Calder**

**Roy Laidlaw**

**Iain Milne**

**Iain Paxton**

**John Rutherford**



In 2014 it will 30 years since Jim Aitken's team reached "The Turning Point", as immortalised by artist Ronnie Brown, and won Scotland's first Grand Slam in 59 years by beating France 21-12 at Murrayfield on 17 March 1984. Jim and some of that team will be with us at this year's Dinner when Dougie Donnelly's interview will bring back memories of that momentous day.

A copy of Ronnie Brown's painting, signed by every one of the players, coaches, and 1984 SRU President Adam Robson, whose daughter Shona donated the print, will be auctioned at the Dinner.



## Alan Tait

Alan is a PGA "Fellow" Professional and is also The Director of Golf at The Marriott Dalmahoy Hotel & Country Club. Alan other role is as top golf pundit and every Sunday from April to October he co-hosts Radio Scotland's "The Golf Show". He also provides BBC's on course commentary at The Aberdeen Asset Management Scottish Open and The Open Championship.

Alan's 1994 record as the first ever player to shoot 64 at the famous Carnoustie Championship Course – regarded as one of the toughest in the world, still stands and he may mention it once or twice in his after dinner routine)!

Alan hails from Irvine and is immensely proud to be a "Lifetime Honorary Member" of The Irvine Golf Club (Bogside).



## Tom Allen

Continuing The Sportsman's Charity's policy of introducing new names to our line up we welcome Tom Allen to the 2014 Dinner. Winner of So You Think You're Funny and the BBC New Comedy Award, he has performed at the Edinburgh Festival, the Montreal festival Just For Laughs, toured the US, and made his debut at Sydney, Adelaide and Melbourne Comedy Festivals. His BBC credits include the News Quiz,

The Now Show, Bleak Expectations, The Correspondent and the Dr Who Companion Chronicles. Tom also hosts his own live chat show interviewing Margaret Cho, Sarah Millican, Ed Byrne, Mark Gatiss, Jack Whitehall, Amy Lamé, and Dr Who himself, Matt Smith.

"Otherworldly...a delight of raconteurship" *The Scotsman*

"Tom Allen, a great storyteller whose ability to provide riotous entertainment deserves to net him a wider audience...his live work sees him telling outlandish tales from his seemingly very eventful life. Allen is one of life's true eccentrics, a being who exists at an angle to the rest of us". *James Kettle The Guardian*

## Special Guest



## Denis Ribas

A proud Catalan, Denis Ribas was born in Perpignan in 1954. During his childhood his father, a famous mountaineer and writer, instilled in him his passion for nature. Denis originally trained at the Perpignan School of Fine Arts. Denis only paints *en plein air* (outdoors).

As well as being an internationally renowned artist, Denis's early career included representing France as a middle distance runner against the likes of Seb Coe and Steve Ovett.

Denis much admired the late John Bellany and has donated his recent work, an homage to the East Lothian painter, for auction in aid of the Teenage Cancer Trust.