

Fundraiser celebrates rugby legend Bill McLaren



Bill McLaren's daughter Linda Lawson, with guest speakers Jim Renwick and Gareth Edwards, and David Leggat (left). *Picture: Angus Findlay Photography.*

A MAJOR fundraising event celebrating the sporting values of a legendary commentator was held in Perth for the first time at the weekend.

The Voice of Rugby Dinner, held at Perth Concert Hall in honour of Bill McLaren, aimed to raise tens of thousands of pounds for charity.

The glittering evening featured a stellar line-up of guests from the rugby world, including Jim Renwick, who made 52 appearances for Scotland, former Wales captain and British Lion Gareth Edwards and Bill's daughter Linda Lawson.

Sports broadcaster Jill Douglas compered the sell-out event, which raised

money for two bodies which support rugby at grassroots level, The Bill McLaren Foundation and Perthshire Rugby Club.

A 500 sell-out dinner in the name of the foundation held at the Prestonfield Hotel in Edinburgh earlier this year raised £60,000 and the Perth organisers are hoping their efforts have also brought in a considerable sum.

Central to the evening was an auction conducted by auctioneer David Leggat.

Among the lots were a chance to play the new Trump International Golf Links and stay at the five star Marcliffe Hotel and Spa, a picture of a hayfield on the Isle of Iona by one

of Scotland's best-loved artists, John Lowrie Morrison, which fetched £2,400, a week in a Swiss chalet which accommodates 10 and sold for £5,000, a signed Andy Murray shirt and even a chance to have lunch with Iain, Kenny and David Milne before heading to Murrayfield for the Scotland v Italy Six Nations match, which raised £2,000.

Another lot was one of Bill McLaren's famous "big sheets" of meticulous detail which he used when commentating on Australia's win over the Barbarians at Cardiff in 1988 which has been signed by David Campese, while private dining for 10 with Andy Nicol is also up for grabs.

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