

The Source

News from around Scottish Sea Farms and the sector

October 2026



Scottish Sea Farms marks 25th anniversary milestone

Technology has transformed the business over the years but it does not replace the knowledge, skill or care of our people, writes MD Jim Gallagher

Scottish Sea Farms celebrated its 25th anniversary last month, a very special milestone that brought the company together for two days in Glasgow.

With colleagues from across our farming regions, and their partners, as well as our Norwegian board members, we all marked the happy occasion in exuberant (as the photos over the next pages show!) Scottish Sea Farms style.

The anniversary gives us a chance to look back at what has changed, remember the people who built the business and champion what has remained constant.

When our Norwegian co-owners SalMar and Lerøy acquired what was then Hydro Seafood GSP in 2001, the company had 280 staff, a turnover of £42 million and annual harvest volumes of 21,000 tonnes.

Today, Scottish Sea Farms employs more than 600 people, has a turnover in

excess of £300 million, and will achieve a record harvest volume of 43,000 tonnes this year, rising to 50,000 tonnes in 2027 and a forecast 60,000 tonnes by 2030.

That growth reflects not just the investment to date from SalMar and Lerøy of £475 million, but the dedication and hard work of our staff. Technology may have transformed the business over the years, but it does not replace the knowledge, skill or care of our people.

Together we have created an environment that has given opportunities for everyone to learn, progress and build long-term careers within Scottish Sea Farms. Whenever we have faced challenging times, we have all leaned in to get through them and, most importantly, to find solutions so they don't happen again.

Turning points

Crucial to the company's development has been the investment in freshwater and the subsequent growth in the size of smolts at transfer to sea. In 2016, some 8.3 million smolts were put to sea with an average size of 62.6g.

Following the £68 million investment in our Barcaldine hatchery in 2019, the acquisition of Greig in Shetland in 2021, which gave us Girlsta, and the upgrade at Knock in 2025-2026, our total smolt capacity is 15 million and the size of our smolts has more than doubled.

This year, we will put 12.1 million smolts to sea, at an average size of 160g. That means our fish spend two months less in a marine farm to achieve harvest weight and marine sites are stocked to avoid the most challenging environment, spending just one summer at sea.

Investment in processing has increased capacity in our Lerwick facility, acquired with the purchase of Grieg Seafood, to more than 100 tonnes a day. A planned £2 million phase two of the upgrade next year will treble daily capacity through automation and allow us to process 50,000 tonnes a year.

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An upgrade at South Shian, meanwhile, will increase single shift capacity to 140 tonnes and gutting throughput by 25%.

Looking ahead

To continue farming the best salmon in the best conditions far into the future, our ongoing strategy involves raising salmon in fewer but bigger pens, and relocating the farm estate: resting farms with persistent challenges and developing new farms in better locations.

This month we will open Scotland's biggest salmon farm yet, Billy Baa in Shetland, a £7.1 million investment with an MAB (maximum allowable biomass) of 4,000 tonnes. And next year we will go even bigger, with Fish Holm, also in Shetland, a £9.5 million development with an MAB of 6,000 tonnes.

To mitigate biological challenges, we will enhance environmental surveillance, investing in new surveillance equipment across the estate, and continue daily water quality monitoring at every farm.

And we will increase treatment capacity with the addition of a new 3,000m³ wellboat in January 2027.

Scottish Sea Farms now exports salmon to 24 countries, including France, the US, China, Taiwan and Japan, and in the domestic market, we mark another important milestone this year, celebrating 20 years as the exclusive supplier of fresh Scottish salmon to M&S.

Our Heart of the Community fund, set up in 2011 to support the people we live and work alongside, has reached its own milestone, donating a total of more than £2 million to local causes and charities.

Scottish Sea Farms has achieved a great deal over the past 25 years and that has come from the efforts and contribution of the people who make the company what it is.

SalMar and Lerøy remain committed to developing and growing the business over the next 25 years and to helping us regain our position as Scotland's number one salmon farmer.

I am immensely proud of what we have built together, but I am even more excited about what lies ahead. We have a brilliant future and I know that the entire Scottish Sea Farms community will continue to make this company stronger in the years to come.

Growing Scottish salmon for over 57 years





Regional tasting events mark 20 years with M&S

Shared values are key to successful partnership

In another special milestone this year, Scottish Sea Farms celebrates 20 years as the exclusive supplier of fresh salmon to M&S Food.

To mark two decades together, M&S hosted regional smoked salmon tasting events at its stores in Edinburgh and Oban last month, along with members of Scottish Sea Farms' sales, farming and communications teams.

The tastings were held during Scottish Food & Drink September, a month-long celebration honouring Scottish producers.

'We're incredibly proud to be the exclusive fresh salmon supplier to M&S, bringing our delicious, premium produce to households across the UK through this partnership.' – Jim Gallagher



Scottish Sea Farms Managing Director Jim Gallagher said: 'We're incredibly proud to be the exclusive fresh salmon supplier to M&S, bringing our delicious, premium produce to households across the UK through this partnership.'

'Twenty years on, we are just as energised and excited about the partnership as ever, particularly as we enter a new chapter with the launch of our Billy Baa sea farm.'

The Shetland farm, Scotland's biggest to date, is being stocked this month. It has



SSF's Michael Keenan (left) and James Grant

a maximum allowable biomass of 4,091 tonnes and is sited further offshore than previous farms in the area.

Comprised of larger pens with deep waters and faster currents, the new farm will prioritise fish health, while all salmon produced will continue to meet M&S's rigorous Forever Fish standards and be RSPCA Assured.

Peter Kennedy, Head of Agriculture & Aquaculture at M&S, said: 'Scottish Food and Drink September is all about showcasing the fantastic quality of Scottish produce, which made it the perfect time to celebrate the 20-year anniversary of our long-standing, trusted partnership with Scottish Sea Farms.'

'Together, we are committed to supplying our customers with the best quality salmon sourced to the highest standards, and these shared values are key to the success of our partnership.'



Claire Hill, Elena Greblus and Michael Keenan

Highlights of a weekend to remember



Scottish Sea Farms kicked off the company's 25th anniversary celebrations in Glasgow last month with live entertainment, including from the incomparable SSF house band, kept under wraps until their debut on the Friday night (see page eight), and Scottish legends Deacon Blue. Both bands performed at the Old Fruitmarket, where the company also celebrated its 10th anniversary.



The Red Hot Chilli Pipers



Des Clarke



Motivational speaker Gavin Oattes



Deacon Blue



Members of Scottish Sea Farms' management team

On the following morning, Managing Director Jim Gallagher presented a company update, outlining Scottish Sea Farms' roadmap for the next five years, before motivational speaker Gavin Oattes took to the stage with his own roadmap for navigating life, work and everything in between.

Later, the action moved to the DoubleTree by Hilton, where party goers danced the night away to the Red Hot Chilli Pipers, singer Red, and the jazz band Champagne.

Peerless compere, comedian and radio host Des Clarke, brought his trademark wit and warmth to proceedings on both nights.

And, one of the surprises on the Saturday night, two films featuring

Scottish Sea Farms' many family connections and its longest serving staff - put together by Team Comms - captured the essence of the company ethos.

Highlights of a truly memorable weekend can be seen over the next few pages, including a tribute to the company's longest serving staff, many of whom were present and brought on stage for the occasion (page six).

Several of Scottish Sea Farms' family links are featured on pages ten and eleven, and a snapshot of the long-term support given by the company's Heart of the Community fund, championing local causes for 15 years, can be found on the back page.

'The line-up was excellent, the food was superb, and the whole event created a brilliant atmosphere for the celebratory weekend! It was a wonderful opportunity to spend time with colleagues, reflect on everything SSF has achieved over the past 25 years, and look ahead to the future' - *Celine Kimpflin, Head of Markets*

Long serving colleagues ‘the backbone of the business’



Scottish Sea Farms staff who have served more than 25 years with the company were honoured during the celebrations in Glasgow

Record years of service a
testament to the unique
culture in the company

Many colleagues have been with the company for more than 25 years, before it became Scottish Sea Farms.

Paying tribute to them, Managing Director Jim Gallagher (28 years) said they had ‘helped build this company and supported it through periods of enormous change’.

‘Those years represent knowledge, loyalty, friendships, challenges overcome, and countless occasions when colleagues have gone the extra mile.’

In honour of the long servers' contribution, Scottish Sea Farms' Norwegian owners SalMar and Lerøy announced a £30,000 fund during the celebrations in Glasgow last month to mark Scottish Sea Farms' 25th anniversary.

There are 35 employees who have served more than 25 years, and those present at the Glasgow event were invited on stage to accept honorary awards.

They included Alastair MacFarlane, Marine Technician at Shuna who is 'proud to be the longest serving member of the Scottish Sea farms team' with 43 years and counting.

Also recognised were brothers Ian (39 years) and Alastair (37 years) Fraser, Site Managers at Knock Hatchery and Fishnish respectively; Knock Senior Freshwater Technician Brian MacRae (38 years); Gonfirth Senior Marine Technician Colin Hughson (36 years); and Swinning Site Manager Robert Isbister (36 years).

'Our people are our greatest strength, to see so many colleagues reach these milestones is a testament not just to their commitment, but to the unique culture we've built together.' - *Jim Gallagher*

Senior Manager at Kishorn John McCrae has been with the company for 34 years; and Keith Fraser, Engineering and Projects Manager in Shetland, and David Duffy, Senior Site Manager at Nevis, both have 32 years.

Those achieving 31 years include Truck Driver Geoffrey Jeromson, Area Manager John Blance, and Marine Technician Robert Groat, all in Shetland; and Mainland Marine Area Manager Stephen Woods.

Four have accumulated 30 years: Senior Freshwater Technician at Barcaldine John Wilson, Site Manager at Setterness South Marshall Thomason, Trainer Mark Davies, and Accounts Assistant Pamela Wardrope.

Head Processing Engineer at South Shian Roy Jamieson has been at Scottish Sea Farms for 29 years, as have Marine Engineer (Shetland) Magnie Johnston, and Shetland Processing Senior Operative Colin Pearson.

Honoured on the night were sisters Angela Hand (28 years) in Team Comms and Claire Hill, Global Sales Coordinator (25 years), along with Dermot Anderson, Financial Controller, who has served 26 years, Primary Processing Manager Donald 'Spout' MacAulay (26 years), and Purchase Ledger Clerk Carol Alexander (25 years).

Steven Saunderson, Marine Technician at Score Holms, has worked in the company for 26 years, while others serving 25 years include: James MacDonald, Area Manager Shetland; Claire Scott, HR Business Partner; Richard Darbyshire, Regional Production

Manager for Shetland; Michael Abernethy, Maintenance Assistant, Shetland Engineers; David MacMillan, Farm Manager at Lismore; Philip Arthur, Marine Technician at West Burwick; and Alan Johnstone, Processing Operative at South Shian.

'Our people are our greatest strength,' said Jim Gallagher. 'To see so many colleagues reach these milestones is a testament not just to their commitment, but to the unique culture we've built together. They are the backbone of our business.'



Jim Gallagher and Dermot Anderson

Jim Gallagher with Colin Hughson, one of those celebrating his long service after 36 years at Scottish Sea Farms



House band triumph proves SSF's got talent

Putting a band together from scratch is challenging enough but assembling an all-star line-up in total secrecy posed special problems.

'How do you recruit your musicians when no one is allowed to know what you're up to,' said band manager (and Scottish Sea Farms head vet) Ronnie Soutar.

'We had to rely on word of mouth among a handful of guys we already knew were active on the music circuit and take it from there.'

But it was alright on the night, as anyone who attended the debut of the Scottish Sea Farms House Band at Glasgow's Old Fruitmarket would surely agree.

In fact, better than that: the six-piece group, support act for the slightly more famous Deacon Blue, was such a hit that future appearances are guaranteed.

With covers of hits such as Stuck in the Middle with You and Daydream Believer, the musicians soon had their colleagues up on the dance floor and demanding an encore.

All from the Northern Isles, they included lead vocalist Ross Stevenson, Jack Hunter on lead guitar, David Bissett on

vocals and rhythm guitar, Andrew Park on guitar, and Stephen Ferguson on bass.

Ronnie was given the task of managing the band because it had been his idea, discussed with Jim Gallagher during one of the inter-regional manager meetings.



Laura Cameron





The freshwater team with Jim Gallagher



Ronnie Soutar



'This has bubbled around for a while because the company has some really talented musicians and we toyed with using them for a social event after manager meetings. Then, with the 25th anniversary coming up, we decided it would be the perfect opportunity to showcase our home-grown talent.

'All those involved play semi-professionally in Shetland or Orkney, in local bands and for gigs and festivals.

'I'd have liked to have included musicians from across the company and avoided an all-male line-up, but it was an absolute Catch-22, because I couldn't mention it to anyone. That said, I can't imagine having

a better group to work with in the end.

'We also had the problem of getting them in the same place to rehearse. The idea was that the Orkney guys would go up to Shetland but it was our busy time of year and we couldn't make that happen.

'So I booked rehearsal space in Glasgow on the Thursday and Friday before the concert, which was the first time they all got together.

'To add to the complications, our drummer, Will Scott, wasn't well and unfortunately had to drop out but we were very lucky that a friend of David's,

Anthony Peart, was able to stand in. He did a great job and thankfully Will is doing fine now.'

In the end the performance was such a triumph, Ronnie believes 'there is every chance there will be other gatherings where we could get the band back together'.

And does Ronnie, who says he has no musical talent, see a future for himself as a band manager?

'Well, I am retiring next year so who knows? Although, by comparison, I now know that being a fish vet isn't stressful at all!'

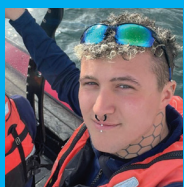
People on the move

Bringing you up to date with the latest internal promotions

Louie Buchanan has been promoted from Marine Technician at Shuna to Senior Marine Technician at Dunstaffnage, while Gordon Macleod, also at Shuna, has moved from Marine Technician to Senior Marine Technician.

In Orkney, Martin Bateman has moved from Marine Technician to Senior Marine Technician at Wyre.

And Tommy Fraser has been promoted from Deckhand to First Mate on Courageous in Shetland.



Louie Buchanan



Gordon MacLeod



Martin Bateman



Tommy Fraser

Going far with different roles but a common goal

For Mike and Amanda Tresise, Scottish Sea Farms was not just a joint professional destination but a geographical one, after they moved from their native South Africa to take up jobs in Scotland.

While working together in an aquaculture company at home, Amanda, with a background in environmental consultancy, applied successfully for a post in Scottish Sea Farms' environmental team, based at Barcaldine.

Mike followed her, naturally, and after initially being turned down for a technician role at the hatchery, was re-interviewed and asked to start the next day.

'I would have worked for one of the other salmon companies if a job had come up but I got the call back from Scottish Sea Farms first and here I am,' said Mike.

He didn't know anyone because the couple came over during Covid in 2020 and, with Amanda working from home, it was a full year before she met her colleagues in person. Now, they have both learnt more about the business from each other's roles.

'Our departments are physically separated but Amanda knows what's happening in freshwater because I give her updates about the hatchery and she gives me updates on environment, sustainability, and the marine farms.'

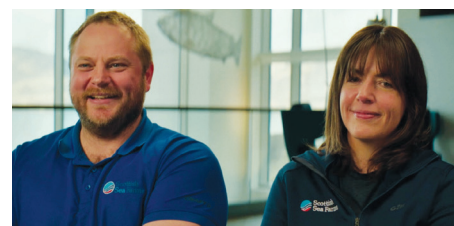
Amanda added: 'It's good to get a more in-depth understanding of freshwater for the sustainability side because my role deals with the whole company, from freshwater to marine and processing.'

Both have progressed in the past six years, with Amanda now Principal Sustainability Officer and Mike Mainland Freshwater Operations Manager, which also means he conducts many of the hatchery tours, bringing him into Amanda's realm.

'He has this bad habit when he comes down my corridor of introducing me to visitors as 'his wife' so people think I'm employed in that role, but I was here first so technically he is 'my husband'!

That aside, the couple feel very much at home, especially since Amanda's father, engineer Rob Mooney, has also joined the company, and her parents live in a neighbouring cottage a few minutes' walk from Barcaldine.

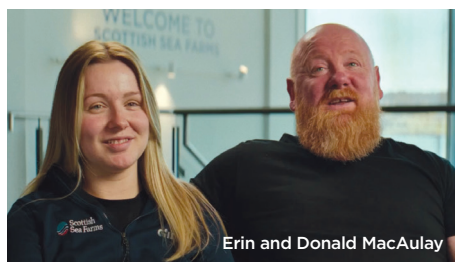
'There are so many varied roles in Scottish Sea Farms, so although we all have very different skills we can work for the same company, while enjoying a lovely lifestyle in a rural location,' said Amanda.



Mike and Amanda Tresise

Daughters do dad proud in 'MacAulay takeover'

Scottish Sea Farms Primary Processing Manager Donald MacAulay, or Spout as he is known, must have brought his enthusiasm for salmon farming home with him over the years because his daughters, Erin and Emma, both opted to join the business.



Erin and Donald MacAulay

Spout, who has been with the company 'officially' for 26 years but actually first started almost 30 years ago, is 'part of the furniture', said Erin, Learning and Development Coordinator.

'Dad is a bit of a legend in the company and everyone used to ask me if I was Spout's daughter, but I don't get that much now, after almost eight years here,' she said.

In fact, the tables have turned and Spout has been asked if he is the father of Processing Operative Emma, the

most recent MacAulay arrival.

Both girls acknowledge that growing up within the salmon farming culture has been an advantage.

'You can come into a company and not know anything but for us it was a bit easier because we already had an understanding of what went on,' said Erin.

Emma, who joined a year ago, followed her sister, working part-time as a cleaner at South Shian while still at school before securing a full-time role after college.

Spout, who runs the processing factories in Shian and Lerwick, is used to the girls being around at work as well as at home and takes pride in their achievements.

'I knew exactly what they were capable of but I didn't have to help them, it's more about their can-do attitude. They have good jobs and have progressed since they have been here.'

Although they all see each other every day, and Emma lives at home and Erin next door, they still find plenty to talk about.

'We probably talk a lot more about work than we should, but more about the people and funny stuff that's happened than the quality of the salmon!' said Erin.

'Mum just zones out,' said Emma.

Spout said he hasn't managed to persuade his wife to join the company but at one point his brother and niece also worked for Scottish Sea Farms - 'it was a MacAulay takeover'.

While his daughters' jobs are very different to his, he said he could see the opportunities for their long-term career progression at Scottish Sea Farms.

'I like what the company does and the way it develops young people and, to be honest, if I didn't feel this was the good place that I think it is, I wouldn't have the girls working here.'

Working together makes family life more manageable



Craig and Laura Cameron

Working and living together has made managing family life easier, said Laura Cameron, Scottish Sea Farms Learning and Development Coordinator, who was encouraged to join the company by her husband Craig four and a half years ago.

Working in hospitality previously, she felt stuck in a rut and, post-Covid, with new baby Rose, son Archie, now eight, and older daughter Hollie, 14 (SSF landing craft Hollie Rose was named after the girls), she decided to take on a new challenge.

'Craig suggested I come and work here and after starting as holiday cover in administration at Barcaldine I moved on

to a permanent position in HR.

'My role has changed a lot since then but it's always exciting, and being based at Barcaldine, near where we live, makes it an ideal arrangement.'

Craig, Scottish Sea Farms' Mainland and Orkney Engineering Manager, who has worked for the company for nearly 18 years, agrees.

'It works well because we can plan our working week around the kids and with both of us in the same place during the day, we can have a chat and see who's best placed to deal with things.'

Craig, based in the boatyard over the fence from the hatchery when he is not travelling for work, said they can pop into each other's offices to discuss family matters and even get together to walk the dogs at lunchtime when time allows.

'It's nice seeing each other at work and we also share all the same friends, many of whom are colleagues,' said Laura.

'We do often end up talking about work at home because we go over our day and sometimes that leads to conversations about the job because we know the same people.'

The couple see themselves working in tandem for the foreseeable future and there may one day be another Cameron on the company payroll, as five-year-old Rose wants to be a vet and, while it's early days, has not ruled out fish.

Keeping farming in the family

Gonfirth Farm Manager Laurie Manson and his brother, Aqua Technician Magnie, have worked in salmon farming together for more than 13 years and wouldn't have it any other way.

Both joined Scottish Sea Farms from Grieg Seafood, where they had been employed since 2010 and 2013 respectively, and are now the longest serving members of the Gonfirth marine team.

Laurie believes he was lucky to start his life in salmon farming some 20 years ago, when the pens were just 70m and fish were hand fed.

'I saw that side of the business before it got more automated and that helped me learn a lot. It's hard to beat hands on experience and I try to teach in the same fashion here at Gonfirth.'

Magnie, who also has the maintenance role for the area and looks after all the boats for the farm, said he has learnt a lot from his older brother over the years.

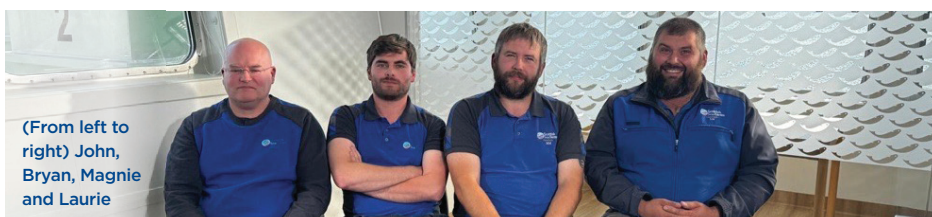
'I've worked on pretty much every site in Shetland, when our farm is followed,

and everyone does things differently but because of how I've been trained by Laurie, I respect whatever the farm manager wants to do.'

Laurie, who has been Farm Manager since 2019, said he encourages his team to go out on other farms: 'I think it's a very good thing because I never want anyone to work for me who doesn't want to work for me. If they are thinking of leaving, I let them go, except for Magnie!'

They are not the only Mansons in Scottish Sea Farms, with their uncle John and cousin Bryan employed in the hatchery at Girdsta. The brothers' father also had a stint at Gonfirth and the next generation may continue the family tradition.

'My four-year-old thinks he's going to come and work for me when he's old enough,' said Laurie.



(From left to right) John, Bryan, Magnie and Laurie

Career spotlight



Alexandra Cocuti
Aqua Technician,
Freshwater Shetland

What does your role involve?

I have two roles at the hatchery: I am the feed coordinator, forecasting two months ahead and ordering feed, and keeping track of any feed trials on site. My second role involves assisting the freshwater biologist on site visits, coordinating sampling, vaccination audits, pre-transfer assessment for seawater readiness, and health checks.

What's your background?

I came to Shetland from Romania with my husband Gabi (Scottish Sea Farms Marine Site Manager) more than 10 years ago, starting in processing at Grieg Seafood. Scotland offered us opportunities and the plan was to give it five years and see how it went.

Why did you choose this job?

In 2017 I saw an internal job advertised working with lumpsuckers, it was more challenging but I wanted a change. The project only lasted a few months but I liked the hatchery work and moved to Girdsta full-time. I embarked on SVQ level 2 and went on to acquire many more qualifications. The more I could do in my role, the more they have given me to do.

What are the biggest challenges?

Managing fish health and juggling the different aspects of my job. But I don't like it when it's too quiet! I like the busy times, particularly ahead of pre-transfer to sea, changing the photo period, putting fish on a sea transfer diet, making plans and maybe having to alter them when the weather is not favourable for sea transfers.

And the greatest rewards?

Seeing the fish growing is a reward in itself - from counting the eggs to hatching, and then growing them to the next stages. There is a lot of problem solving and the more you care, the more you look at the fish, so you will spot issues early enough to address them. And I like working with the team here, we have good banter, we like to joke and have a bit of a laugh.

Supporting sport across Scottish Sea Farms' farming regions

Scottish Sea Farms has always had a mission to contribute more than jobs in the regions it operates and in 2011 it set up the Heart of the Community scheme to support good causes in rural and remote locations.

The fund has since donated more than £2 million to a record number of organisations and projects, from Argyll to the Highlands and across Orkney and Shetland.

Sports clubs have long been at the top of the list, embedded in farming areas, benefiting a broad cross section of the community and often directly linked to Scottish Sea Farms staff.

One of these is Orkney Football Club, which has received £65,000 to date, with ongoing annual sponsorship of £5,000 going back to the early days of the club.

The funding, which helps towards the cost of travelling to away matches, has been a lifeline, said Orkney Football Club Secretary Euain Penny.

'When we entered the North Caledonian League for the first time in 2014, we knew we had a big travel commitment. Back then, there were six teams in our league but there are now 13, which means even more trips away.

'We have been lucky enough to have Scottish Sea Farms as our sponsor since day one and we couldn't have done it without their support.'

Orkney has got off to a flying start this season, winning its first match six-nil, and its second two-nil. The club has a new chairman, manager and coaches and enthusiasm has never been greater, said Euain.

'This seems to be a golden era in Orkney for young players, there are so many talented under-16s coming through and we have a super squad, largely made up of teenagers.

'The Orkney Youth Development Group encourages the youngsters – boys and girls – and there is also the Orkney Football Academy, which has a very high standard of coaching.'

The club is also benefiting from a 200-seater stand at its ground being built at Kirkwall Grammar School, and

the grass pitch has been treated to ensure year-round play.

'It will provide a better viewing experience and hopefully generate even bigger crowds and all the buzz that goes with that,' said Euain.

Scottish Sea Farms Area Support Manager for Orkney Will Scott, who presents the man of the match awards, said: 'Many of our own team are long-standing supporters of Orkney FC and we are delighted to play a part in ensuring that the islands' top footballers have the opportunity to compete at a high level.'

Mull Rugby Club

The Heart of the Community has also provided consistent support for Mull Rugby Club, to the tune of around £45,000 since 2012, and has just renewed a three-year major sponsorship deal worth £21,000 in total.

Scottish Sea Farms Area Manager for Mull and Kishorn Andrew Macleannan, who used to play for the club and has served on the committee, said the funding helps maintain the ground and cover travel expenses, and sponsors the legendary Mull Sevens every May.

'This attracts interest from all over, with 24 men's teams and 12 women's teams invited. They come from across Scotland and England, and the furthest visiting team was from the US, flying in specially for what is known everywhere as 'the world's most Sociable Sevens'!



Orkney FC (from left to right): Edgar Balfour, OFC Chairman, Duncan Gray, OFC Coach, Raymond Rendall OFC Coach and SSF's Will Scott

'For a small island community, Mull plays very competitively at Rugby Sevens, having won a number of tournaments over the years, though not so much at 15s, but they have won the league (West Region) a couple of times.'

Scottish Sea Farms is part of an aquaculture hub supporting the club, which is based at Garmony, with Inverlussa, Scale AQ and BioMar also now on board.

Oban Mixed Martial Arts



The Oban MMA club caters for all ages

For Scottish Sea Farms Primary Processing Manager Mateusz Grabiec, martial arts are a passion rather than just a hobby and he is part of the coaching team at Oban Mixed Martial Arts.

The club, which focuses on boxing, wrestling and Brazilian jiu jitsu, has been funded by Heart of the Community for the past decade, after Mateusz approached the company for help.

'We are a small club and when we first started, we needed appropriate matting and other equipment. Now the funding helps pay the rent on our premises, providing stability.

'We've never had a proper boxing gym in Oban so that's what we are trying to create. It's become very popular, with people from all backgrounds, girls as well as boys, and an age range from high school pupils up to pensioners.'

The long-term goal is to install a proper boxing ring and add more boxing bags but, as Mateusz says, 'we are more than grateful for what we've got.'

Heart of the Community at a glance



2026 so far
76 grants and donations given
£46,147 given

All time (2011-present)
1,391 grants and donations given
£2,215,514 given

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