



# Club Newsletter

## December 2005

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### Editorial

This is the fourth newsletter to be issued sent out by e-mail. As has been previously stated, the savings to the club of this means of publishing are substantial and, in addition, the news letter can be issued more regularly and therefore with much more up to date information. The appeal for e-mail addresses to known members was generally successful, we now have a listing of close on 400 Old Boys who will receive an instant update of future events. We want to expand this number with your help by sending e-mail addresses of any old boy's who you know, whether they are members or not.

Remember, it neither costs more nor does it take any more time to despatch a newsletter to Glasgow, London or London, Ontario.

For those who you know don't have internet connections the simple solution to receive the newsletter is to send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to the secretary, Ian Dale (address in the right panel).

Articles, letters etc for the newsletter to me please:-

Alan McLellan,  
3 First Avenue,  
Netherlee,  
GLASGOW G44 3UA

or by e-mail to [newsletter@allanglens.com](mailto:newsletter@allanglens.com)

### School Photographs

The initial response has been encouraging and the collection is growing.

Thanks to all who have managed to identify the boys shown in the pictures. When we get them together this will be a great bonus.

I intend to wait a while to see how the collection can be made available to the members - So keep the pictures coming.

(to [photos@allanglens.com](mailto:photos@allanglens.com)).

Mike McCreery

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#### Committee

J McGuinness	A McLellan
I McLennan	G Smith
D Lindsay	N Kilpatrick
R Graham	D Reid
A McLaren	I Dale
D Shaw	R Leckie
G Day	H Wilson
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## 2005 Dinner

The 2005 Dinner was a splendid affair, held in the historic Trades Hall in Glasgow, to which Allan Glen was of course affiliated. Over 120 people attended the dinner, chaired by President John Macdonald. The guest of honour was Dr David Love, Deputy Chairman of the BMA Scotland's GP committee, and himself a former Glen's boy. He spoke of his time at Glen's and of the current difficulties facing the health service in Scotland, also pointing out a very positive act of the Scottish Parliament in that this would be the last Dinner where smoking would be allowed!

The toast to the Club was proposed by Ian

Macpherson, who gave a "speech of two halves", initially humorous and then switching to thoughtful mode. He reminded us of the conditions in Allan Glen's time which prompted him to found the school, and also pointed out that Allan Glen was alive at the same time as Robert Burns, and that he was ten when the French Revolution started. A stimulating speech which reminded us how much we, and indeed Glasgow, owe to Allan Glen.

The reply from the guests was given by Sandy Strang in suitably jocular form, poking fun at both himself and the other "Kindred" school clubs represented on the night.



# ALLAN GLEN'S SPORTS CLUB

The sports club is very healthy at the moment achieving a turn over of more than £250k per annum.

The club is going through a bit of a change for the better at the moment by having a new bar manager whose background is food and catering rather than the licensing trade. As a result food /meals are on offer on Fridays through the weekend, snacks being available over the bar or full meals for a party by arrangement.

The club also has a new President in Jim Sinclair who incidentally is also ground convener and Director of Rugby.

The fact that he spends so much time at the club and is very much involved with most of the sporting members he is able to know what is going on and can react quickly to any questions or grievances.

At one time sports played at the Bearyards, as the ground has become known, included shinty, archery, cricket and even hockey for one season but these have gone due to lack of support leaving the rugby club as the main sporting activity. A football club, namely Glasgow Harp trains at the ground and plays on the 2<sup>nd</sup> XV pitch when it is not required for rugby. There is of course the indoor activities of ladies aerobics two evenings per week and bingo one evening.

The club is used during the day for three days by East Dunbartonshire Council, although this contract is likely to finish by April 2006, and used by the Weight Watchers Club on a Friday morning.

Very few ex pupils use the club and this is a pity because it is a great facility and your Allan Glen's School Club membership card is accepted as membership of the Sports Club.

## The Rugby Club.

The Rugby Club gained promotion last year and now plays in the National League Division 2. Although the 1<sup>st</sup> XV is struggling at the moment due to an horrendous injury list, the overall playing strength is better than it has been since the days the school existed. The club runs two, occasionally three senior teams, three secondary school age teams, and a team for every primary school age year. ie P1 to P7.

All profits from the bar go to the upkeep of the ground and clubhouse and so the rugby club has to find its own financial support through mainly advertising, subscriptions and functions.

As a means of acquiring finance this season the club is offering pre match lunches on league and cup games. It is envisaged that a company or a group of supporters getting together and taking a table for say six or more people. A three course lunch would be provided with a bottle of wine between two on the table. Cost would be £25 per head and lunch would commence about two hours before kick off.

After lunch you would be free to go outside and support the team or indeed stay inside and continue to enjoy the comforts of the bar.

The first pre-match lunch took place on 29th October - game against Ross High.

23 people took part, 14 explayers and friends, a party of 8 by one of the local business men and the president of Ross High RFC.

All seemed to enjoy themselves and are keen to do it again.

The game the explayers will almost definitely come to will be the one on the 4th February, the game being against Glasgow Academicals. The fixture list is attached to this newsletter.

If you would care to participate and support your club contact Bob Leckie on 0141 772 5028 or the bar manager Brian Heneghan at the club on 0141 772 1330.

## Southern Necropolis Lights up

The centrepiece of Glasgow's southern Necropolis is to become the latest city landmark to be bathed in light. - (*Glasgow Herald report on 14 September 2005*)

Glasgow City Council announced yesterday that the main gatehouse of the southern Necropolis, on Caledonia Road, will be illuminated from later this week.

The gatehouse was designed by Charles Wilson, one of Glasgow's most famous architects, who was also responsible for the city's Park Circus and the Gallery of Modern Art in Royal Exchange Square.

The southern Necropolis is the last resting place for scores of prominent citizens, including Alexander Greek Thomson and Thomas Lipton. (*and Allan Glen - ED*)

James Mutter, councillor for Hutchesontown, will switch on the lights at a ceremony on Friday night.

Members of Tram Direct Theatre Company and Gorbals Youth and Community Theatre will also perform at the event.

Glasgow: City of Light is a city-wide lighting strategy. Prominent buildings that have been lit up include the Gallery of Modern Art, Concert Hall, City Chambers, St George's Tron Church and Tolbooth Steeple at Glasgow Cross. On the Clyde, the Glasgow Weir and the George V, Victoria, Kingston and Glasgow bridges have all been illuminated. Other buildings due to be lit include the Mitchell Library in November and the Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum next June.

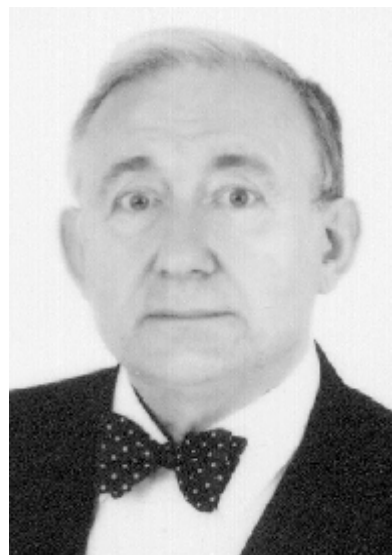
(*Editorial comment - maybe we started something by re-clearing Allan Glen's grave!*)

## How old Cary Grant? Old Cary Grant fine; how you old boy?

(An alleged telegram exchange)

Most Allan Glens Old Boys know about Dirk Bogarde and Duncan Macrae. Then there's me, the other thespian. I joined the school in 1950 and in 1951 I joined the junior course of the Drama College, which had been set up as part of the Royal Scottish Academy of Music, in order to bring me out of myself in the hope of becoming a distinguished after-dinner speaker, like my grandfather who was also a distinguished AGS Old Boy. It was intended that I should also follow him into the medical profession so I had to have Latin and thus came under the tutelage of Gussie Hodge.

The drama college recommended me to BBC Children's Hour's Scottish producer the legendary "Auntie Kathleen" Garscadden and by the time I was in my second year at school I was broadcasting regularly. The following spring I was treading the boards of the Citizens' Theatre as well. This required the odd bit of time off school, and signing my early pass Mr McKimmie used to ask me if I was to be the new Dirk or Duncan and I used to reply that I hoped to be the first David, for by then I had decided that medicine should be abandoned in favour of preventative medicine in the form of entertainment.



David McKail

The first thing you have to learn is rejection and I was not so much rejected as remembered too late to be a contender for the wee boy in "The Maggie". Next was rejection by Ralph Cowan from the casting process for the centenary school plays but that decision was overturned by Mr McKimmie and I duly appeared in both of them. I also set hearts aflutter in centenary year by being possibly the only third generation pupil in the school but I had to disappoint the school historian. My grandmother had insisted that my father went to the High School like her father and brother.

After school, a year in newspapers and national service as the medical officer's secretary, having been rejected as a potential officer together with another AGSOB because we were unorthodox on Suez, I joined the RSAM Drama College and emerged three years later with a gold medal and a contract for a season at the Citizens' Theatre. I've made a living as an actor ever since.

It's been very interesting. It's taken me to Germany, The Netherlands, Canada and South Africa as well as various parts of England and most places in Scotland that have stages, from Lerwick to Newton Stewart and Stornoway to Duns. I've appeared in two West End plays in one of which for a year as the Earl of Bothwell I had to make passionate love to Mary Queen of Scots in the form of Sarah Miles eight times a week. I've appeared in a few films most notably in "The Battle of Britain"; I'm the one who shouts "Scramble" all the time.

But mostly I do television, just the way these things turn out, nothing planned you understand. And on television I play mostly middle class authority figures, lawyers, doctors, civil servants. Since 1992 I've been turning up regularly in "A Touch of Frost" as the police surgeon, Dr McKenzie. Earlier this year we filmed what is probably the last of them; it is yet to be shown.

To celebrate the school's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary I arranged to wear an old boys club tie in one scene of a "Frost" episode filmed that year but it ended up on the cutting-room floor as they say. So that was a communal rejection, which has been kept from you until now.

For those who have got this far and still want to know more you can visit my web site at [www.mckail.com](http://www.mckail.com) where there are more delights including pictures, comic and serious.

But my main claim to fame is being the first boy to wear a duffel coat to Alan Glen's School. As usual no one noticed but me and Robin Hall who was the second.

# ALLAN GLEN'S ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIP TRUST

A very significant event occurred in the City Chambers on Monday 19th September 2005. On that evening the fourth annual ceremony of awarding the **Allan Glen's Endowment Scholarships** took place, presented jointly by our President and the City Council's Convenor of Education Services. It was a very happy occasion and it was a delight to see the two students, about to start engineering studies, receive their awards with their proud parents and relatives watching. It is such occasions that remind old codgers like me how much such things mean at that stage in life.

Each received an award of £ 1,000 per year for the duration of their course. We now have eight students receiving this amount, representing a yearly output of at least £8,000, possibly more if any become involved in honours.

I am sure that you will all agree that these scholarships are very much in keeping with the wishes of Allan Glen when he founded the school and he would be well pleased to see his ideals continued in this way. Since its inception this scheme has gradually become to many of us the most important activity of the club and we are anxious to see it thrive.

The initial appeal for donations was made two years ago and I take this opportunity to remind you of that. At the moment we are not having to use capital to meet our commitments but the margin is small and as time goes on capital will be consumed and hence the interest from that capital which currently provides the Scholarships.

In view of all these considerations I would ask you, if you have not already done so (or if you would like to do so again), to consider donating. A standing order is easy to organise using the form and is a reassuring predictable source of income for the treasurer. Using the gift-aid option is also very valuable (we recently received a cheque for £ 2,000 through this scheme). The regular and one-time donation forms are attached with this Newsletter or can be downloaded from [www.allanglens.com](http://www.allanglens.com).

I hope you have a good Christmas and I hope that you will consider the Endowment Trust for part of your Christmas giving.

Jack McGuinness.

## BY CAR TO BLACKPOOL - from the Allan Glen's School magazine 1923

The early part of the journey was through the drab and dreary towns of Larkhall and Hamilton. Miners were conspicuous on the landscape. Shortly the view changed. We were running through the pleasant valley of the Clyde, where the orchard trees were in full bloom. Lanark reached, we had before us the long pull up to Beattock Summit. The car climbed well, but could not compete with the express train, which was roaring up near by. We lunched at Moffat.

Afterwards we came to Ecclefechan. Here, of course, we could not pass without visiting the house in which Tam Carlyle was born. A short run then brought us to Gretna Green. Memories of old days, other ways-coaching days-still cling about this place. They sell views-twopence coloured-of the ancient smithy.

We entered England *via* Sark's Bridge, and we took our dinner in Carlisle, at the hostelry of the Red Lion. I might say here that you can't enter England without knowing it. The rain stops.

We spent quite a time in the Lake District. Keswick is one of the quaintest towns; it is situated on the most beautiful of the lakes. Ambleside is interesting through its graveyard. A poet, Hartley Coleridge, is buried there. The scenery of the lovely Lake District, especially about Keswick, merits description; but I am afraid my pen is not talented enough to do it justice.

Our road, now a perfect surface, led us through Carnforth to Lancaster. Thereafter we raced another car and ultimately gave up at the market town of Garstang, where we turned sharply to the right. A straight, short run led to our terminus, Blackpool, "House of Carnival."  
I. P. G. (V.B.).

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## Jack Skilling - 17th May 1912 27th December 2001.

Jack Skilling is best remembered for the many years he spent as Glasgow City Chambers correspondent for the Evening Times.

Skilling took great pride in covering the city chambers beat. Although he lived in Eaglesham, his roots were in the city. He was born the youngest of 9 in Harlaw Street, long since demolished, to make way for the Buchanan St. Bus Station. He was deeply proud of the fact that his parents managed to send him to **Allan Glen's school** and he wore the school tie to the end.

His journalistic career began in the Rutherglen Reformer but, when the Second World War broke out, he was drafted into the intelligence service where it was reckoned that his skills at conducting interviews and sizing people up could be used to best advantage. He recalled that he once caught a spy at Glasgow's docks.

Shortly after 'D-day, he was dispatched to Burma as a press officer with Field-Marshal Sir Claude Auchinleck. During his time in Burma he was promoted to the rank of captain.

As a press officer, he covered the first surrender of the Japanese in the field, near the River Sittang. Fifty years later, while doing research for a Herald article on the VJ-Day anniversary, he came across his own words, enshrined in regimental archives. It was the first time that he had seen any example of how his work in the field had been used at home.

On his return to Glasgow, Skilling served first as a sheriff court reporter with the Evening Times before being assigned to the city chambers. When he retired in 1977, the then Lord Provost, David Hodge, gave a dinner in his honour.

In 1998 he suffered a stroke while visiting his son Gordon, and his family in Guildford, Surrey. A return to Eaglesham proved impossible and he moved into a residential home in Guildford, and latterly a nursing home.

Jack's wife, Jean, died in 1989. He is survived by his sons, Iain and Gordon.



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## Kenneth Paterson 5th October 1926 - 30th September 2005

Kenneth Paterson was the 1st Financial Director of Strathclyde Region (the largest local authority in the United Kingdom.) His chief claim to fame was that, during his successful spell as the Director of Finance, he warned Margaret Thatcher that the Poll Tax was unworkable. She ignored these warnings to her cost - and the Poll Tax proved her undoing. He was appointed to the new Strathclyde Region in 1974. He was a modest man but he held to his view that the Government had done little to research the collecting of the Community Charge and this was proved to be true.

Strathclyde Region was a juggernaut amongst local authorities, and it was predicted that it would be ungovernable. However, Paterson's unflappable courtesy brought the various factions together and he succeeded in advising the politicians to make cuts, whilst simultaneously negotiating with Central Government the increase in expenditure for future years.

Speaking at a conference in Peebles in 1984, he hit the national headlines when he criticised the "awesome powers" sought by the Secretary of State for Scotland, George Younger over rates and spending of Local Authorities. The Scotsman reported that "the case against Mr Younger's excessive control has seldom been reported with such cogency."

Being essentially a modest man, when he was congratulated on receiving the CBE he responded, "It's just a badge."

He was the son of a Glasgow Newsagent and was a **Bursary Boy at Glen's**. He became Chief Accountant for the previous Glasgow Corporation and then Deputy City Chamberlain prior to the formation of Strathclyde Region.

He was active in the Chartered Institute for Public Finance, serving on the National Council and was Chairman for Scotland.



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## James McLaughland 1929-2005

A mechanical engineer and master craftsman, James McLaughland, believed that traditional skills would become more precious as our craftsmen become more scarce. As a fellow of the Institute of Mechanical Engineers, a member of the Institution of Engineers and Shipbuilders in Scotland and supporter of the Guild of Woodworkers, he encouraged the development of skills and technologies. Born in Clydebank on February 3, 1929, his childhood years were disrupted by the Second World War, when the family was evacuated to Stonehouse in Lanarkshire following the Clydebank blitz in March 1941. His father, an engineering draughtsman at Singer in Clydebank, introduced him at a young age to precision manufacturing and the application of such skills. His professional development as a craftsman in wood and precious metals was inspired by the beauty and heritage of shipbuilding. Later in life, he was a collector of the most intricate artefacts and precision memorabilia.



At **Allan Glen's School** in Glasgow, he excelled in mathematics and technical subjects. He captained the school golf team and won the **Jack McLean Golf Trophy for three consecutive years**, gaining him a place in the boys' amateur golf championship at Bruntsfield Links, Edinburgh, in August 1946.

National service was with the Royal Air Force at Coningsby and, in 1953, he was proud to complete his engineering apprenticeship with Barr and Stroud at its Anniesland works. He graduated BSc with honours in Mechanical Engineering from Glasgow University the same year and became an associate of the Royal Technical College, Glasgow in December 1954.

Between 1955 and 1957 he worked with ICI and Howdens, before becoming a member of the academic staff at the Royal College of Science and Technology, which became the University of Strathclyde in 1964, where he lectured in engineering drawing and mechanical dynamics.

He expanded his craftsmanship by attending evening classes in silversmithing at Glasgow School of Art. He rejoined Barr and Stroud in 1984, now owned by Pilkington Optronics, and remained there until his retirement.

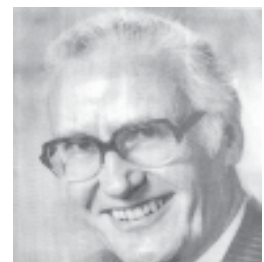
In 1947, Jim became a life member of **Allan Glen's School Old Boys' Club**, in which he had a long-lasting interest. He crafted in hardwood a casket and mallet in the form of a lectern for use at committee meetings. He successfully campaigned for the re-naming of the approach road at the top of Montrose Street, Glasgow, as Allan Glen's Place, where he carved and painted the school insignia within the street signs, and the naming of a street within a new housing scheme in Bishopbriggs as Allan Glen's Gardens. At the Southern Necropolis he traced and restored the grave of Allan Glen.

He died, aged 76, and is survived by his daughter, Inez, and two grandsons.

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## Rev Duncan McLachlan 1926 - 2005

BORN in Glasgow in 1926, Duncan McLachlan worked as a Church of Scotland minister for all his adult life and is perhaps best remembered as minister at Sherwood Church in Paisley, where he served for more than a quarter of a century. After leaving **Allan Glen's school**, Duncan intended to pursue a career as a chartered surveyor and joined the firm of Keir and Cawdor in Bishopbriggs. However, he was called up for National Service and spent much of his time in the army in Germany. He served as a second lieutenant in the Royal Engineers, and then decided to go into full-time ministry in the Church.



He graduated MA, BD from Glasgow University and won a Fulbright scholarship to Princeton Theological Seminary. He graduated Master of Theology and returned to Scotland in 1955. He was a Church of Scotland parish minister, first in St Margaret's Kim, then St Margaret's Dunfermline, before moving to the Paisley congregation in 1965, remaining until his retirement in 1992.

He married Nancy Fenwick in 1952 and their son, David, was born in 1956. Two years later, tragedy struck the family when Nancy collapsed and died while pregnant with their second child. It was the darkest moment of Duncan's life.

It also forced him to ask hard questions of his beliefs, yet his faith remained intact. In later days, he would reflect that, in the end, it probably made him a better minister - more able to understand and empathise with others in their worst times.

Happily, Duncan met Anna Smithland they were married in 1960, moving to a new church in Dunfermline in the same year. Together, they had two children, Sheila and Elspeth, who with son, David, completed the family.

In the wider work of the Church of Scotland, he served as convener for education for the ministry committee. He also oversaw the training of a succession of probationer ministers, as well as acting as Moderator of Paisley Presbytery.

# Season's Greetings from Allan Glen's Club



Card Designed by the late Ralph Cowan 1965 and reproduced with kind permission from his daughter Diana



	1 <sup>st</sup> XV		2 <sup>nd</sup> XV		3 <sup>rd</sup> XV		Internationals
Aug 16 Tues	Lenzie	A	Lenzie	A			
20	Cambuslang	A	Clydebank 10s	A			
27	Greenock	H	Dalziel	A			
Sept 3	Irvine	L A	West of Scotland	A			
10	Morgan Acad.	L H	Newton Stewart	L H			
17	Garnock	L A	Garnock	L A			
24	Stewarty	L H	GHK	L H			
Oct 1	Linlithgow	L A	Lenzie	L H			
8	Islay Cup 2	H	Marr	L A			
15	Howe of Fife	L H	Annan	L H			
22	Glasgow Acads.	L A	Strathclyde Uni	L A			
29	Ross High	L H	Shawlands	L A			
Nov 5	Cup 3		Strathendrick	L H			
12	Kilmarnock	L H	Whitecraigs	H			Argentina – Murrayfield KO 5-30
19	Irvine	L H	Dalziel	H			
20 Sun							Samoa – Murrayfield KO 3-00
26	Dalziel	H	Greenock	A			New Zealand – Murrayfield KO 3-30
Dec 3	Cup 4		Annan	L A			
10	Morgan Acad.	L A	Newton Stewart	L A			
17	Garnock	L H	Garnock	H			
24							
Jan 7	Stewarty	L A	West of Scotland	H			
14	Linlithgow	L H	GHK	L A			
21	Cup 5		Lenzie	L A			
28	Howe of Fife	L A	Marr	L H			
Feb 4	Glasgow Acads.	L H	Strathendrick	A			
5 Sun							France - Murrayfield KO 3-00
11	Irvine- re scheduled	L A	Whitecraigs	A			
12							Wales - Millenium Stadium KO 3-00
18	Cup 6 or Greenock	A					
25	Hillfoots	H	Waysiders/Drum	H			England - Murrayfield KO 5-30
Mar 4	Ross High	L A	Shawlands	H			
11			Greenock	H			Ireland - Lansdowne Rd KO 3-30
18	Hillfoots	A	Waysiders/Drum	A			Italy - Stadio Flaninio KO 1-30
25	Kilmarnock	L A	Strathclyde Uni.	H			
April 1							
8							

**Allan Glen's Endowment Trust**

Assistance for two engineering students per year



To:

Bill Brown  
Secretary  
Allan Glen's Trust  
Education Improvement Service  
Wheatley House  
25 Cochrane St,  
Glasgow G1 1HL

I enclose a cheque for a donation of £ ..... made out to **The Allan Glen's Endowment Scholarship Trust**

Signature .....

Date .....

Donor's name (Capitals) and address

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Post code .....

**Allan Glen's Endowment Scholarship Trust is registered as a charity - No. SC028159**

**Allan Glen's Endowment Trust**

Assistance for two engineering students per year



Please print this page and when completed, return it to the address below

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To:- (Name and full address of Donor's bank)

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Please pay to : "The Allan Glen's Endowment Scholarship Trust". Account no. ....\*\*, at the Royal Bank of Scotland (83-54-60)

the sum of £ .....(figures)..... (words) each month/year \*  
beginning on .....(date)

Signature .....Date .....

Name of account .....Account No  
.....

Donor's address

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Post code .....

\* Please delete as required \*\* For security, the club will fill in the account number on receipt.

**Allan Glen's Endowment Scholarship Trust is registered as a charity - No. SC028159**

When completed, please send this form to:

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Glasgow G1 1HL