

# Inaugural Burns Night - A Huge Success

The inaugural Burns Night at Norwich RFC was held on Friday 29th Jan 2010. Ok, we realise it wasn't strictly Burns Night but we're sure nobody was too concerned. All proceeds went to club funds.

The event was organised and coordinated by Colin Dunbar who, despite having a Scottish name is a



**Colin Dunbar carries in the Haggis**

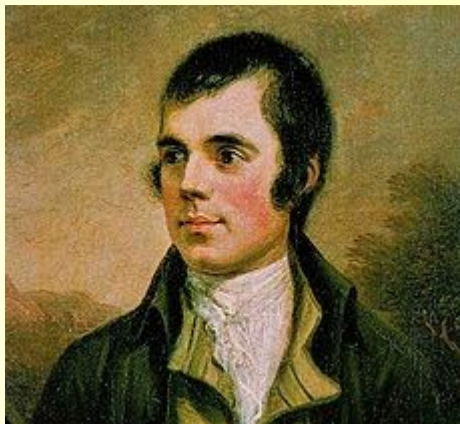
Yorkshireman with a Norfolk accent!

The Haggis was piped in and **George Tennant**, who is about as Scottish as they come, read the address. It sounded fantastic but the Sassenachs present had to concentrate hard to keep up with what he was saying as he read the poem. Thank you for lending some authenticity to the occasion George along with our outstanding piper **John Whelton**.

A five course meal was on the menu with the root vegetables being kindly provided by **McCarthy's fruit & vegetable merchants** of Norwich organised by **David Bond** who himself kindly donated the potatoes. The menu card was beautifully prepared,



printed and donated by **Simon Laskey** of **Catton Print**.



**Robert Burns 1759-1796**

Numerous people, too many to list, donated whisky for the raffle, thank you all.

**Brendan O'Brien** came along with some of his folk musician friends to entertain us. Brendan played the Bodhran, a hand held Irish drum. It brought back memories of a tour to Oxford when, without any musical accompaniment and after a few beers, Brendan played the drum and quite genuinely expected people to work out the tune from the rhythm. He was quite put out that nobody could pick the tune and that they were mostly falling off the chairs like the Cadbury's Smash Aliens at his honest dead-pan expectation that they should.

Burns night was attended by 110 revellers and it was wonderful to see the clubhouse so full of people enjoying themselves. A few people had gone the whole hog and dressed up in the



traditional regalia and the kilt wearers perhaps regretted their decision when they stepped outside into the teeth of a truly arctic gale with snow and ice at - 4!

The waiters, from the Under 16 team wore kilts and were fast, courteous and efficient attending to the tables. They were **Chris Parrott, Tom Riddell, Nic Cains, Jack Farrell, Jordi Walker, William Chisholm, Dave Micklethwaite, Aaron Beaumont & Matt Selby**.

The adult assistance in decorating, setting up, preparing and producing the food on time was superb and was the work of some of the U16 Mums & Dads too numerous to mention here but your efforts were appreciated by all.

Thanks to generous donations of single malt, there was quite a lot left over. Some was sold by the bottle at the end of the night, the rest will be retained and will be sold at a whisky bar for the discerning at the end of season touring festival where there will also be a mini beer festival for a different type of discerning drinker.

The final thank you must go to **Colin Dunbar** who's meticulous attention to detail and ability to engage willing volunteers was the main driving force behind such a successful and enjoyable occasion.

**Andy Mick.**

