

FRONT ROW FORWARD IS BACK AS A WOMAN...



"STEPHEN"
RAE

A FORMER front-row rugby forward has reappeared in public life as an attractive blonde female council official.

Western Isles council chief, Mr A. W. S. "Stephen" Rae, 38, resigned from his legal and administration job in Stornoway and left the area.

Now, 18 months later, he has turned up in Inverness, again in a council legal post but this time as Miss A. W. S. "Alexandra" MacRae.

The 6ft. fashionably-dressed blonde is a legal assistant with Inverness District Council.

While in Stornoway, the St Andrews-born minister's son and former SNP candidate became involved in controversy when staff claimed he appeared in a local hotel in drag.

Apron

They insisted that the tall blonde in a miniskirt, who made inquiries about dinner in the Acres Hotel, then appeared for the meal in a long dress, was Mr Rae dressed as a woman.

Afterwards Mr Rae said he could not

deny such an incident might have taken place because a relative was using his car and his house that particular weekend while he was away in Edinburgh.

"They must have been mistaken for me," claimed the one-time Falkirk council lawyer and Edinburgh University law graduate.

Married to a coloured nurse from Ghana, called Bibi, he was also a player and secretary with Stornoway Rugby Club.

A former official of Stornoway Rugby Club, local hotelier Mr Bill Low, said yesterday: "There was nothing effeminate about Stephen Rae on the rugby field."

Last night, at her council flat in the village of Smithton, near Inverness, Miss MacRae, with a frilly apron round her waist, answered the door.

Asked about reports that she and Mr Rae were one and the same person, Miss MacRae replied, smiling: "What a fascinating suggestion."

Before shutting the door she said she lived alone in the flat.

The man who hired Miss MacRae is Inverness District Council's Chief Executive Mr Brian Wilson.

Asked if Miss MacRae and Mr Rae were one and the same person, he replied: "I can confirm that I have a legal assistant called Miss MacRae."

Western Islands Council Chief Executive Mr Roy McIver, a former friend and colleague of Stephen Rae, when asked about Mr Rae's new guise in Inverness said: "It's not the sort of thing I want to comment about."



Miss A. W. S. "Alexandra" MacRae.