



Glasgow Lions Chairpersons Report 2015

Executive Summary

At the start of the season the committee outlined a number of proposed changes that would be implemented for the 2015 season. These were outlined in a letter from the Chair early in 2015 and were based on feedback from members. The changes have made a positive impact on the club and helped make this season a success in terms of increased club membership, increased player participation across all levels at tournaments and training and an improved atmosphere within the club through a number of social events held during the season. In terms of performance, the number of new player intake this year was the highest in the history of the club, and considering teams and squads were relatively new the club performed well overall in terms of tournaments and league. With the clubs current solid base of players and maintaining this along with more time and training to develop new and existing players, the club is in a good place to continue to improve performance in 2016. The club continues to remain popular for touch players who want to learn how to play the game, as well as those players who want to advance their touch skills. Continued attendance by existing players for training and tournaments will be required if the club is to continue to improve on performance in 2016.

Key messages for 2016 season.

- **Continue work in development of a short and medium term club development strategy for next 5-10 yrs.**
- **Continue to focus on development of existing players & squads and retention of existing & new players**
- **Recruitment of new additional coaches from players within Club.**
- **Improve Club standings in STS and overall club competitiveness whilst remaining a ‘touch for all’ club.**
- **Continue with Social events throughout the season, including club internal Autumn League**
- **Grow team participation in tournaments.**
- **Continue with hired training facilities in 2016.**

Key Challenges

- **Additional Coaching Staff to fulfil growth in squads and player numbers.**

The following provides a summary of the 2015 season and outlines proposals for the 2016 season ahead.

Training & Coaching

The Club commenced its Try Touch sessions at the later time of mid-March this year for six weeks to take advantage of availability of coaches and better weather. This year the sessions attracted a large number of new players to the sport with 40+ new beginners attending at its peak. I'm happy to report the retention of new players was the highest in the clubs history which was one of the clubs main aims this year. In addition the new players have integrated very well within the club. This is thanks to the hard word put in by coaches throughout the season and the commitment and enthusiasm of the players.

These try touch sessions coincided with Pre-Season training for existing players with the main season training commencing from Mid-April. The club also saw an increase in the number of existing players attending regularly throughout the season, compared to the previous season which was another positive step in the club's development in 2015.

In addition the club moved from its old training area at Glasgow Green to hired facilities of Glasgow Green Football Centre. This provided members with improved training facilities as well as parking and changing room facilities.

This year the coaches under their new Coaching, Co-Ordinator Gillian & Technical Director, Terry rolled out a number of changes in the way the club trains and plays touch together as well as the structure of playing squads. Overall the feedback has been positive from members. The coaches will meet before the end of the year to plan out the training season for 2016 and to discuss the results of the end of season survey for the 2015 season.

In addition the club ran its own internal club league for the first time in the clubs history. It was a great success and the club saw its greatest numbers attending at that time in the season than we ever had before.

In 2016 it is planned to continue to build on the success of the 2015 season with continued focus on retention of existing players to maintain continuity in training and overall performance within the club. The club will also continue to welcome new players and continuing with its ‘touch for all’ ethos to grow the player base within the club. The club



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will look at starting its Pre-Season training earlier in February for existing players to allow them more time once the training season commences to play and train together before the summer League. This will depend on coaching availability as well as availability of suitable training facilities.

Unfortunately this year the club experienced a few incidents of poor player conduct during the season, some of which required disciplinary actions by the coaching team. This was disappointing for coaches who already have a busy workload and the club as a whole as the club prides itself on a social friendly inclusive 'touch for all' club. I would like to take this opportunity to remind all players that the club has a strict player code of conduct in place which each member is required adhere to and behave in an appropriate way amongst fellow players, coaches, referees and members within the club as well as external players and referees at tournaments or other touch events out with the club.

Finally for the club to remain competitive and to improve performance the coaches cannot highlight enough the importance of players regularly attending training throughout the season. It is vital in development of players and helping the club improve performance.

More details for 2015 are contained within the Coaches report.

Tournaments & League

In terms of club ranking, the club finished 11th this year in the STS. As mentioned earlier this was a good performance considering the change in direction the club took in 2015 and the number of new players playing in tournaments as well as player availability. A key focus next year will be for the club to improve on its STS ranking and to move into the top 8 teams to guarantee us a place in STS tournaments. This will also help with the club securing a second and third team in some of these tournaments from the remaining places outside the top 8 places.

In terms of other tournaments & league, the Club won the Tankard division in the Glasgow Open. Our Women's Force team were runners up in this year's league. Congratulations to all those who took part.

In addition to club level, a number of our players travelled to Australia to represent Scotland in the 2015 World Cup. Well done to Elaine, Gillian & Jo who played in the Women's 27's. This year also saw the highest number of club players being selected for the National Squad trials weekend in December. Congratulations to all those selected for this weekend and hopefully all will make it through to the final squad selections.

Club & Youth Development

In terms of **club development**, the club intends to apply for renewal of its Club Mark Status from Glasgow Life & Glasgow Sport in 2016. Club Mark underlines our core values as a club and its position within the community, as well as acknowledging the policies that we have in place. In addition, it provides promotion of our sport within the wider Glasgow community, as well helping with applications for additional funding and grants to help finance the club.

In terms of **youth development** the club put this on hold for 2015. It remains a long-term goal to establish a youth section in order to provide the opportunity for young people of all ages to participate in the sport. Development of youth within the club will be dependent on 2 key factors 1) in line with where the Club is at and what can be realistically delivered based on the available resources (including youth coaching capacity and commitment/availability of coaches) next season and 2) the development of recognisable Governing and Regional Bodies that can effectively support their affiliated Clubs in the appropriate ways. Through Jenny Johnstone, our Safeguarding policy remains up to date for 2015 and on behalf of the Club; I would like to thank Jenny for her continued input with this aspect of the club.

Social

Besides the competitive aspect of the Club, a large part of the club is the social aspect. In 2015 a new Social Convening Sub-Committee was set-up headed by Felix and as a result a number of successful events and social nights were held including a Race Night, a night at the dogs, Country Pubs Tour, Edinburgh Fringe and post tournaments nights out etc. The Social side of the club was another main focus for the club this year to further integrating new and old members and help towards the success of 2015 as well as creating a positive atmosphere within the club. I would like to thank the members of this Sub-Committee for their efforts this season. It is proposed to continue with Social Convening Subcommittee in 2016 who will plan new and exciting social events in 2016.



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Finances

In terms of finances, the Club received grants from Glasgow Sport through its Club mark programme. The club did not pursue any further grant applications in 2015 as the club received the Big lottery fund grant late in 2014 which carried over to the 2015 season. Funding and Grants will be looked at again in 2016. Other main sources of income in 2015 were generated by hosting the Men's & Women's tournament & Beginners tournament.

In addition to the grants and funding the club also secured a sponsorship deal with DRAM which will be delivered in 2 parts and will be based on expenditure by the Lions through events and members spends throughout the season. The monies that we receive from the DRAM will go towards new strips and training equipment. DRAM will now be the venue for any social events the club hosts. I would like to thank Felix, Lesley & Ann-Marie who helped secure this sponsorship for the club.

Funding for the club is very important as it allows the Club to provide training equipment, players kit, subsidises pitch hire for training as well as some tournaments fees, coaches development courses as well as covering other expenses such as insurance & venue hire, and transport to and from tournaments.

I would like to thank Cathy for her great work as treasurer in keeping the Club accounts up to date throughout the 2015 season.

More details of the Club finances for 2015 are contained within the Treasurers report.

Committee and Management

In terms of Committee and Management two **Sub-Committees** were set up to focus on key areas within the club. These sub-committees consisted of Grants & Funding & as mentioned previously the Social Sub- Committee. It is planned to continue the above Sub-Committees in 2016 reporting back to the main committee, Additional Sub-Committees will be considered where required and members within each Sub-Committee will be sought from club members / volunteers, so please let us know if you are interested in getting involved in a Sub-Committee in 2016.

As the club looks forward to the next season, the Committee and Coaching staff will need to remain focused key areas within the club such as club development and performance, retention of players and growth of club as well as social events which help make the club a success.

Further Acknowledgements

In addition to those acknowledgements already mentioned in my report, I would like to thank a number of people on behalf of the club for their contribution to the success and in helping the club continue to run smoothly in 2015:

- All the coaching Staff [Brian, Alan, John] and Player Coaches [James/Jen/Elaine] who were led by Gillian & Terry. With the new direction the club took in 2015 there was a lot of work put in by the coaches to plan the season and deliver the coaching plan through the 2015 season.
- Brian for his work with running the club league and maintaining the coaching and squad Facebook pages with coaching info.
- Lindsay for her work Tournament manager including organising and running of Beginners & Men's & Women's tournament and as tournament Manager as well as her work on managing club communications throughout the season.
- The Sub-Committee members for their involvement and contribution to the Club:
 - Grants & Funding chaired by Denis [Anne Marie & James]
 - Social Convening chaired by Felix & Lesley [John Dunne]
- Club Captain Terry and all the Squad & Team Captains over the season who all did a great job and helped with the success of 2015.
- Finally, I would like to thank the Committee Members for their support and work throughout 2015. There were a lot of changes implemented in the club this season and your Committee has does a commendable job



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implementing the changes to allow the club to continue to run smoothly and efficiently in 2016. This work often goes unnoticed and requires a lot of additional time and planning spent by many of the committee outside of the training sessions and tournaments. As a Club, we are fortunate to have such a dedicated and enthusiastic group of people that have contributed immensely over the past year.

It is great to see so many members that completed the end of season survey requesting to volunteer. As the club grows, its success is only achieved by the people we have in it and so we need volunteers to come forward to help with the running of the club; be it coaching, administrative, sitting on Sub-Committees, there is always a job or task within the club that needs doing throughout the year. So if you have not indicated to us previously and you are available to volunteer, please let us know.

It is always sad when members of the Committee decide to step down. This year Ann Marie, Alan, Denis, Felix, Jenny & Mungo, have all decided to step down from their respective positions on the Committee. They all have made a large contribution to the running of the club during their time on the Committee and have left a lasting legacy within the different aspects of club they were involved with. For me personally, it has been a pleasure to work with them in helping the club to develop. On behalf of the Committee and club, I would like thank them for all their efforts during their time on the Committee and for their commitment to the club and we look forward to their continued support going forward.

To guarantee a thriving club we do need more members and the Committee will continue with a membership drive in 2016, however we do know that successful recruitment of new players often comes from within the club by spreading the word amongst relatives, friends and work colleagues as you are the best way of advertising the club and the sport as players and members, so we would encourage you all to try and bring a new player(s) along in 2016.

To close, I would like to say to all of our players if you want to continue to improve and grow as a club and be successful, attending training sessions and being available for tournaments are hugely important to the development of the club and the progress of you as players. With that said, we hope to see all of you back regularly in 2016.

Thank you for your continued support in 2015 and we look forward to your support to help build on the success of 2015 in 2016.

Adrian O'Sullivan
Chairperson