



Glasgow Lions Chairpersons Report 2016

Executive Summary

Overall this year the club has built on the success of the previous season following the changes that were made in the club in 2015. The club successfully recruited a number of new members in April this year following its new style touch fit session in February and March, bringing total membership to 80 members for the season. The club also published its new Development Strategy and already has achieved some of the goals as laid out in the strategy to make it a successful season. In terms of performance, the club has improved its overall performance from last season finishing within the top 8 teams in the STS series and has improved performance in a number of tournaments and leagues this year. Maintaining our current base of players, along with more training to develop new and existing players, the club will be in a good place to continue to improve performance in 2017. The club continues to remain popular for touch players in Glasgow. Continued attendance by existing players for training and tournaments will be required if the club is to continue to improve on performance and achieve more success in 2017.

Key messages for 2017 season.

- **Continue to implement the club strategy and achieve further performance success in 2017**
- **Continued focus on development of all player squads and retention of existing players**
- **Review of feedback following end of season survey and look at ways to encourage more feedback from players.**
- **Improve Club standings in STS and overall club competitiveness whilst remaining a ‘touch for all’ club.**
- **Continue with Social events throughout the season**
- **Grow team participation in tournaments.**
- **Commence with youth development for 16/17yr olds within the club.**

The following provides a summary of the 2016 season and outlines proposals for the 2017 season ahead.

Training & Coaching

The Club commenced indoor touch fit sessions February/March for eight weeks at St Mungos School as part of Pre-season training and this was well received by members. The evening training sessions commenced in March to September. This year the club introduced a number of new members at the start of the season and they have developed, progressed and integrated well into the club. In addition Gillian ran a number of sessions for new players after the Glasgow League. Our retention of existing players was good this season although numbers attendance at training for the Tornadoes squad was down at a number of sessions. This meant that often the squad had to join in with Cyclones to train. A focus on members of this squad to encourage their attendance next year is being looked at by the coaches for 2017. Player numbers attending the Force training squad was improved overall this year when compared to last year. This has led to the success of this squad and overall team performance at tournaments. The club also continued with the hire Glasgow Green Football Centre and plans to continue this in 2017.

Following the Glasgow League the club continued with its pitch up and play evenings on Tuesdays and commenced its club league on Thursday evenings for six weeks. Unfortunately player numbers were down on the club league this year when compared to the previous season. The club league still attracts more players participating post the Glasgow League over running training sessions. This is the principal aspect of the club league and remains an important activity in the clubs calendar.

In 2017 it is planned to continue to build on the success of the 2016 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 continue with its ‘touch for all’ ethos to grow the player base within the club.

The coaches did a great job throughout the year and on behalf of the club I would like to thank Gillian and all the coaches for their hard work and efforts this season which has led to the improved overall performance of the club in 2016. The coaches have already met to review this year’s season and outline plans for next season. The coaches will meet again before the end of the year to plan out the training season for 2017 and to discuss the key areas of focus in 2017 for the coaching squad and the results of the end of season survey.

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.



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Unfortunately this year the club experienced incidents of poor player conduct during the season from both players and coaches, in particular toward referees and officials during the Glasgow league and club internal league and at times towards our teammates on and off the field. The club prides itself on a social friendly inclusive 'touch for all' club and behaviours like these are not in line with our club values. I would like to take this opportunity to remind all players that the club has a strict player code of conduct in place which applies to ALL members are required adhere to and behave in an appropriate way amongst fellow players, officials, coaches, referees and members within the club as well as external players and referees at tournaments or other touch events out with the club. Going forward in 2017 poor conduct from coaches or players will not be tolerated and will be addressed immediately.

More details for 2016 on Coaching are contained within the Coaches report.

Tournaments & League

In terms of club ranking, the club finished 8th this year in the STS. This was the goal for the club this year and I'm pleased to see that the club has achieved this. I would like to thank all players involved and particularly the coaches who have done a great job in player development this season. A key focus next year will be for the club to improve on its STS ranking as per the club development strategy.

In terms of other tournaments & league, we had the beginners team as runners up in the Beginners Tournament and our Women's Force team were winners of this year's Glasgow League. Congratulations to all those who took part. In 2017 the club will aim to improve performance across all teams in the Glasgow League.

In addition to club level, a number of our players travelled to Jersey to represent Scotland in the 2016 Euros. Well done to all players who represented Scotland in Jersey [Gavin Byres MO; Carmen Cree WO; Gillian Bond, Lesley Mulgrew & Jo Campbell W27; David Anderson, Brian McCluskey, Adrian O'Sullivan & Dominic Wild M30].

Club & Youth Development

In terms of **club development**, as mentioned earlier, the club developed and published its new club strategy to 2019 at the beginning of the season. This strategy will help steer the club in the short and medium term to achieve the goals as set out in the strategy. I would encourage all members to familiarise themselves with the Strategy as this outlines how the club will develop in the coming years. I would like to thank Stewart Robinson and the Club Development Sub-committee in helping to develop the strategy early in 2016. The club also submitted its Club Mark folder at the end of 2015 to renew its Club Mark accreditation with Glasgow Life. This is an important award to maintain as it underlines our core values and policies as a club and its position within the community. 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 2016. It is planned that the club will introduce youth players (16/17yr olds) into the club in 2017. Stewart Robinson has agreed to become the Clubs Safeguarding Officer who will, with the assistance of a sub-committee help deliver youth development for 2017.

One of the tasks for the 2017 committee and (as part of the club and youth development) is that the clubs player code of conduct will be updated to include all members and officers within the club. In addition a disciplinary panel will need to be established as part of youth development and it was agreed by the current committee that this would be extended to cover all club members and officers.

Social

An important part of the club, besides the competitive aspect of the Club, is the social side. In 2016 the Social Convening Sub-Committee continued on the success of last year headed by Lesley and a number of successful events and social nights were held including a Race Night in January which brought in valuable funding for 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 2017 that will plan new and exciting social events in the new season.

Finances

In terms of finances, the club did not pursue any grant applications in 2016 as the club received monies from the Race Night as well as the GTA help for clubs initiative. Funding and grants will be looked at again in 2017 by the



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committee. Other main sources of income in 2016 were generated by hosting the Men's & Women's tournament & Beginners tournament and Sponsorship from DRAM.

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

I would like to thank Cathy for her work as Treasurer in keeping the Club accounts up to date throughout the 2016 season.

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

Committee and Management

In terms of Committee and Management, three **Sub-Committees** were set up to focus on key areas within the club. These sub-committees consisted of Club Development; Grants & Funding; the Social. I would like to thank all those who were involved in the Sub-committees this season for their efforts.

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 2016:

- All the coaching Staff lead by Gillian [Terry, Brian, Alan, Dominic, David, Elaine Adrian]. They have all put in a lot of work this season to deliver the coaching plan within the club throughout the 2016 season.
- Terry for organising and running the Touch Fit Training Sessions.
- Brian for his work with running the club league.
- Carolyn for running pre-training fitness.
- Lindsay for her work as Tournament manager including organising of club run tournaments as well as her work on managing club communications throughout the season.
- The Sub-Committee members for their involvement and contribution:
 - Club Development chaired by Stewart [Gillian, Brian, Lindsay, Adrian]
 - Grants & Funding chaired by David [Karen & Paul]
 - Social Convening chaired by Lesley [John Dunne, Anne Marie, Felix]
- Pete Benson for managing the Website
- Club Captain Gavin and all the Squad & Team Captains over the season who all did a great job.
- All those members who volunteered during the season during Lions run tournaments and with other aspect of the club.
- Finally, I would like to thank the Committee Members for their support and work throughout 2016. Their work often goes unnoticed and requires a lot of additional time and planning outside of the training sessions and tournaments and again this year have done a great Job in keeping the club running throughout the year.

It is always sad when members of the Committee decide to step down. This year Brian, Lesley & Paul have decided to step down from their respective positions on the Committee. Brian & Lesley have made a large contribution to the running of the club, and have left a lasting legacy. On behalf of the Committee and club, I would like to thank all of them for 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.



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To guarantee a thriving club we do need to continue to bring in more members and the committee and coaches will continue with a membership drive in 2017. However we do know that our members are our best way of recruitment, so we would encourage you all to try and bring a new player(s) along in 2017.

Finally, as this will be my last report as Chair after 6 years in the role, I have decided to step down as Chair and from the Committee. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those Lions both past and present with whom I have shared many good memories and enjoyable moments both on and off the field since joining the club back in 2009. Since joining the committee in 2010 I have seen the club grow from a small club to where it is today, the biggest club in Scotland. This has been the result of the hard work and dedication of the many volunteers that have served the club over the years on Committees as well as Coaching. It's been a pleasure to be involved both as a player and to have served on the committee over the past 7 years and work and play with many great people along the way. I wish the new committee and club the very best for the future and look forward to supporting the club next season.

Thank you for your continued support in 2016 and we look forward to your support in 2017.

Adrian O'Sullivan
Chairperson