



### Introduction

The Club has enjoyed another successful year in 2013 in terms of performance, financially and increased player participation. Glasgow Lions remain a popular club for touch players who want to learn how to play the game, as well as those players who want to advance their touch skills.

### Training & Coaching

The Club continued with its **Beginners Academy** this year in Jan 2013 which ran for 6 weeks attracting a large attendance with 40+ new beginners attending some weeks. This year retention of new players from the Academy was not as good as previous years. This will be one of the main focuses of the new committee / coaches for 2014. It is proposed to achieve this by firstly to change the name of the Academy to a more appropriate name [name to be decided] that allows inclusion of new players as well as players with previous sporting backgrounds and secondly, with additional coaching & volunteers, the sessions will now focus more on splitting players in to groups with players of similar abilities so that new players are constantly challenged.

This year whilst we had a successful year in terms of playing ability we did at times not have our full complement of coaches available during some of the training sessions. To address this, the club has recently had four players [Lizzy, Louise, Alex & John] complete their level one coaching course bringing the total number of qualified coaches to 10 within the club. In addition next season, at times when required, coaches will call upon some senior players to assist coaches during some of the training sessions where required. By doing this we expect that this will allow players be split into specific groups at training sessions with players of similar experience and goals. This will allow coaches assigned to a particular group to focus on players within their group to allow players who what to progress to a higher level within the sport to do so.

### Tournaments & League

In terms of **club ranking** the club finished joint 7<sup>th</sup> in the STS series which up from 8<sup>th</sup> place in 2012. This year this competitiveness within the competition was higher than previous years and the senior side performed better this year as well as finishing higher in some individual STS tournaments. This improvement of the senior side was in part down to regular consistent attendance at training by senior players which allowed structured coaching and training session enabling players 1) improve skills, 2) learn new moves and 3) play & train as a regular group.

In terms of **tournaments** the club won the Beginners tournament in May as well as the Women's division in the Glasgow Cup in July. Congratulations to all those involved at the above tournaments. In addition some of our players were also awarded MVPs in two tournaments this year. Congratulations to Brian McCluskey and Julie Clarke for winning MVPs in Valencia and to Jen Kiernan for winning MVP at the Edinburgh STS.

The Club also entered two teams in most of the tournaments on the touch calendar including three teams in the Stirling STS a first for the club. Unfortunately this year the touch calendar was quiet compressed during the summer months and as a result the club did not have its full complement of players available for some tournaments during the holiday period. A request is to be submitted to the STS organisers to have the STS tournaments to one per month June – September in 2014.

The increase in new players this year also helped the clubs improved performance as well as allowing the club to enter a 4th Mixed and a 2nd Women's team taking the total number of Lions teams to 8 in the League. Congratulations to the Senior Women's Team who won their division in the league and to the Mixed Beginners who lost out in a drop off in the final.

The Club is also proud to have some of the best female players in Scotland.

In addition to the success at club level, a number of players (Jen, Lizzy, Elaine, Adrian, Steve, and John Hegarty) travelled to Dublin to represent the National sides for Scotland in the Home Nations



## Glasgow Lions Chairpersons Report 2013

2013. In addition Victor also represented Spain in the Mainland Cup in Vienna so congratulations to all those involved.

Also a number of Lions players have now been selected for Scotland National Training Squads in preparation for the 2014 Euros in Swansea [Diane, Jen, Laura, Lizzy, Elaine, Jo, Julie, Sinead, James, Steve, David and Adrian]. This is the most Lions players the club has had involved with the Nation Squads to date. Well done to all those who were selected and best of luck to those players who go forward following final selection in April 2014.

More on the above is contained in the Head Coaches Report

### Club & Youth Development

In terms of **club development** as the club looks forward to next season, the committee and coaching staff must remain focused on improving player retention as the club continues to grow, We must also focus on existing players of all levels to allow these players progress in the sport as they desire. It is planned to promote Terry Bauld to club coaching co-ordinator to assist the Head coach in development of coaching staff as well as coaching administrative duties to allow the Head coach concentrate more on overseeing Club Coaching as well as mentoring coaches within the club.

In terms of **youth development** it was stated at the last AGM that the club wished to roll out a youth development programme in 2013 in an effort to develop the sport further and allow youth participate in the sport. The club just completed a number of successful training sessions for youth players through Glasgow Sport for St. Mungos Academy, which followed taster sessions also run during the school year. A lot of hard work went into getting this off the ground and this would not have been possible without the great work that Jenny Johnstone did with youth development within the club through the year, from the detailed paperwork and assisting with PVG checks to co-ordinating & liaising with Glasgow life and St Mungos school and running the training sessions. On behalf of the club I would like to thank Jenny for all the hard work she put in to make this plan into reality. I would also like to thank Victor who also put in a lot of work on this over the past year and all those who help out along the way and volunteered at the training sessions. In addition I would also like to thank Fiona Sullivan St Mungos Academy and Vicki Equi of Glasgow Life for facilitating this programme and their help and guidance along the way. The club would like to continue this programme next season; however this will depend on coaching and volunteers availability in early 2014. Having attended some of the training sessions I would recommend anyone interested to get involved as it is great fun and a worthwhile experience. I would encourage anyone who is interested in volunteering to please get in touch with the Club before the end of the year.

More on this is contained in the Head Coaches Report

### Finances

In terms of **finances**, the Club was again successful in its application for the big lottery grant which secured valuable **funding** for the club and helped the club cover the financial costs in hosting the Beginners Academy, Beginners Tournament, New strips and transport cost to Aberdeen. I would like to thank Denis for helping to secure this essential funding for the club. Other sources of income generated for the club this year were obtained from hosting the Club Day, Men's and Women's & Beginners tournaments which the club made a small profit. The other main funding received this year was raised through a very successful Table Quiz fundraiser held in June raising over £1700 for the club. I would like to thank all those who attended and supported the club that night. I would especially like to thank Sean Batty for organising and running the event and for all the hard work he did in securing some great raffle and auction prizes.

Funding for the club is very important as it allows the club provide training equipment, playing kit, subsidise some of the tournaments fees, pays for courses for coach's development as well as cover other expenses such as Insurance, pitch hire, venue hire and subsidised transport to tournaments. In addition it enables the club to cover upfront entry fees for tournament and League and we continued this year not to charge players for entry to any Lions hosed tournaments.



## Glasgow Lions Chairpersons Report 2013

The club is in a good place financially for the commencement of the 2014 season, however in order to help the club to continue to grow in 2014 additional fundraising additional grant applications as well as potential sponsorship is required. This will be looked at through the new fundraising and grants sub-committee as one of the first tasks of this committee. More details of the club finances for 2013 are contained within the treasures report.

### Committee and Management

In terms of Committee and Management this year I decided to set-up a number of **sub committees** to focus on key areas within the club. This allowed the management committee concentrate on the day to day running of the club. These subcommittees consisted of Club Development, Fundraising and Sponsorship and Club Tournaments. It is planned to continue the above committees which may be expand in 2014. It is also proposed that a nominated management committee member shall chair and sit on a particular subcommittee in 2014 reporting back to the main committee, Additional members within each subcommittee will be sought from club members / volunteers, so please let us know if you are interested in getting involved in a subcommittee in 2014.

It is also proposed to create two new roles within the club which are a Youth Development Office to look after youth development and youth applications and a Membership and Player Liaison Office to look after Membership within the adult section as well as player liaison and leading the mentoring programme of new players within the club.

### Further Acknowledgements

In addition to those previously mentioned in my report I would like to thank a number of people on behalf of the club for their contribution in helping make this season a success and allowing the club continue to run smoothly in 2013:

All the coach's lead by Victor whose commitment is second to none as well as all the player mentors lead by Louise for their hard work throughout the season. Particular mention must go to Terry who made great progress with coaching the senior side this year.

The subcommittee members for their involvement and work within the subcommittees and contribution to the club as follows:

Club Development [Adrian, Elaine, Jenny, Laura T, Victor]

Fundraising / Sponsorship [Anne Marie, Adrian, Alex, Mungo & Sean]

Tournaments [Lindsay, Lizzy, Kelly, Adrian & John Dunne]

Terry Bauld for her work on the Clubs communications and weekly news letters over the year as well as Victor / Terry on communications emails.

Brian McCluskey for maintaining, monitoring and updating the website, Facebook and twitter accounts and assisting in other aspects of the clubs general day to day items, ordering new playing kit, securing tonight's venue & the Christmas venue.

Lindsay Dunlop for being tournaments manager for the 2013 season she did a great job throughout the season and the club appreciates her efforts with this.

Jen Kieran for being League manager and to Victor and Terry who did a great job managing the teams each night of the league often in times where numbers were reduced due to unavailability of players.

All the team' captains over the season. Special mention should go to Louise as Club Captain who will be stepping back next year as club captain. As well as being club captain her contribution to the club over last few years in getting involved and helping out with a numbers of areas including player mentoring and general club admin has been great and she has been a great asset to the club over the years. We look forward to her continued support going forward.



## Glasgow Lions Chairpersons Report 2013

Finally I would like to thank the committee members for their support and work throughout 2013. The committee does a huge amount of behind the scenes work which often can go unnoticed and we need to recognise their efforts for that. Your committee have done a lot this season to make sure the club has run efficiently and successfully as we possibly could whilst we continue to develop. This often requires lots additional time and planning outside of the training sessions and tournaments and as a club we are fortunate to have such an active and enthusiastic group of people that have contributed over the past year. As we grow as a club its success is only achieve by the people we have in it, this is why we always seek volunteers to come forward and help out, 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 we are to guarantee the success of the club going forward we would ask that you come forward and let us know if you can help out.

It is always sad when members of the committee decide to retire but both Elaine and Laura have decided to step down from their respective positions this year. On behalf of the committee and club I would like thank Elaine & Laura for all their efforts during their time on the committee and commitment to the club since joining 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, however we all know that successful recruitment of new players often comes from within the club by spreading the word amongst relative, 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 2014.

To close I would like to say to all of our players if you want to continue to improve and be successful, attending training session is hugely important to the development of the club and progress of the players We have seen this with the senior side this year where their regular attendance at training has allowed the team progress and be more successful this year, with that said we hope to see all of you back in 2014 regularly at the training sessions.

Thank you for your continued support.

Adrian O'Sullivan  
Chairman GLTFC