

Development Report – 2009/10

During the first 4 months of the season, Andrew Mackintosh was in post as our National Development Officer. During this time he delivered coaching sessions at Glasgow High School, Strathaven Academy, and Park Road Primary School, Dunfermline. He worked with Edinburgh City Lacrosse Club to submit an Awards for All Application for equipment and delivered a coaching inservice for staff at Monifieth High School, Dundee. He also met with Bruce Crawford, a consultant employed by SportScotland to help Lacrosse Scotland prepare a Strategic Plan for the next three years.

Unfortunately for Lacrosse Scotland, Andrew chose to leave the position of NDO in January of this year. We wish him luck with his future.

As we were in the midst of writing our next plan, we felt it would not be beneficial to employ a new NDO at this stage. As such, it was agreed that I would simply ensure the sustainability of the existing programmes including the Regional and National Pop Lacrosse Tournaments.

Since January, I have been very busy delivering coaching courses and accommodating all the coaching requests we have been receiving. This is in addition to co-ordinating the Regional and National Pop Lacrosse Tournaments.

I have delivered two Level 1 Development Coach Awards (Strathaven Academy & St Andrew's University) and a Pop Lacrosse Leaders Course (Dalgety Bay Sports Centre). This has resulted in 42 new Level 1 Coaches and 9 Pop Lacrosse Leaders across Scotland.

Following the Level 1 held at St Andrew's University a number of the students have been working with Active Schools Co-ordinators for the local secondary schools (Bell Baxter, Waid Academy and Madras College) in East Fife to run extra-curricular lacrosse clubs. The feedback from the schools has been great and meetings are currently being held to ensure that these can be sustained next school session. The Fife Lacrosse Association was established and a successful grant application submitted to purchase equipment.

Being based in Aberdeen (and working full-time) has meant I have had to rely on coaches based in Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Glasgow to satisfy the coaching requests that have been coming in. A massive thank you to Louise Livingstone, Chris Paton, Magnus Pole, Nick Smith, Laura Taylor, Matthew Hayman and Charlotte Bascombe who have enabled the delivery of sessions in the following schools:

| | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| Park Road PS, Fife | Donibristle PS, Fife | Eaglesfield PS, D&G |
| Cummertrees PS, D&G | St Teresa's RC PS, D&G | Troqueer PS, D&G |
| Penpont PS, D&G | Lochmaben PS, D&G | Aberdour PS, Fife |
| Inverkeithing PS, Fife | Newington PS, D&G | Sanquhar PS, D&G |
| Strathaven Academy, S. Lanarkshire | Clifton Hall School, Edinburgh | Waid Academy, Fife |

| | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Craigholme School, Glasgow | Bell Baxter HS, Fife | Robert Gordon's College, Aberdeen |
| Lathallan School, Angus | Mile End PS, Aberdeen | Ashley Road PS, Aberdeen |
| St Joseph's RC PS, Aberdeen | Broomhill PS, Aberdeen | Hanover Street PS, Aberdeen |
| St Kenneth's PS, Fife | St Margaret's PS, Fife | Holy Name PS, Fife |
| St Serf's PS, Fife | | |

The U14 Development afternoon took place at Loretto School in January and was attended by pupils from Glenalmond, St George's, Loretto and St Leonard's. It was great to see so many people playing lacrosse at one time in one place and I hope that the girls had a beneficial afternoon in terms of developing their skills. Unfortunately, the weather prevented the U15 Development afternoon from going ahead this year. Thank you to Emily Bryson for co-ordinating this.

Four of the five Regional Pop Lacrosse Tournaments took place in March – Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Fife and Dumfries & Galloway. The Stirling Tournament was postponed due to freak weather conditions and took place in April. In total, 48 different teams competed in the Regional Tournaments to secure one of the 20 spaces available at Meadowbank.

As always, the National Tournament was a hectic day not without controversial decisions and the occasional sudden death situation. However, all the pupils put on a fantastic display of lacrosse and their enthusiasm to succeed was virtually unstoppable.

The final top 3 placings at the National Tournament were:

| | Under 11 | Open |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 st | Lochmaben, Fife | Killearn, Stirling |
| 2 nd | James Gillespies A, Edinburgh | Drymen, Stirling |
| 3 rd | Drymen, Stirling | Donibristle, Fife |

Lochmaben will now be representing Scotland at the British Pop Lacrosse Championships in June. Good luck!

Many thanks to Kelsey Bisset, Rebecca Halpin, Nick Smith, Louise Livingstone, Chris Paton, Emily Salvesen, Fiona Reid, Giles MacNair, Jenifer Davidson and Jane Claydon who helped with the umpiring (never an easy task) and the table, to make the day the success it was – I could not have done it without you. Also, thanks to the St Andrew's Ambulance Association and Meadowbank Stadium.

An influx of lacrosse players to the Elgin and Inverness areas has generated some interest and over the next six months Lacrosse Scotland will be working with them to establish new clubs. So far a partnership has been established with the Sports Development and Active Schools team in Elgin and equipment has been provided by Lacrosse Scotland and the North East Lacrosse Association to get things going. Anybody based in or around Elgin or Inverness should get in touch to see how you can get involved.

Lacrosse Scotland is currently working with the English and Welsh Lacrosse Associations to develop a UKCC (UK Coaching Certificate) accredited Coach Education Programme. We hope that, once implemented, this will encourage more people to become coaches, but also to improve the standard of coaches across the UK.

The last six months have been difficult for me, trying to juggle work, league and development but I am pleased to say that we have come out of the other side! I think we have also proved that with some dedicated coaches we can provide lacrosse to a number of schools and communities across the country quite successfully. If anybody is interested in coaching and supporting our development programme please get in touch.

Thank you to those that have supported Andrew and me this season. I could not have kept things going without you.

Rebecca Lovie

**Development Chair
2009/10**