

Toronto Scottish R.F.C.



AGM Reports

Thursday, January 26th, 2012

Duke of Kent (upstairs)

7:00pm

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President's Report

2011 Tasks:

- Build the club's revenue stream
- Partner with the ORU with league structures
- Strategic Planning with new corporate partners

Build the club's revenue stream

every year the club seeks new sponsorship and revenue to build the bottom line and keep up with expenses as our club grows. This past year we were able to secure two new sponsors to the club which generated:

Sons of Scotland = \$1,250.00 + \$350.00 (donation of in-kind materials)

Fervent Events = \$500.00

Aside from the financial gains, the second new sponsor created new work placements for our membership which made our club more appealing to attract new players.

Partner with the ORU with league structures

The ongoing debate of league structures was again a hot topic for the ORU and being one of Ontario's premier clubs allowed us to have input on the league structure for the entire ORU and how the leagues should be developed for future promotion and relegations.

Strategic Planning with new corporate partners

The Toronto Scottish's new corporate partner, the Toronto District School Board allows the club to alleviate the growing issue of field space and training facilities. The new partnership will have the club training at North Toronto C.I.'s state-of-art field-turf field one day a week throughout the summer. The partnership not only acts as a partnership for field usage, but also as an outlet for community awareness as well as gives the club a new base of rugby players to solicit for our junior programs.

The Toronto Scottish will provide the following in exchanges for field usage during peak times:

- Access to our state-of-the-art scrum machine
- Give access to the club's on-field training equipment
- Provide coaching support for program development
- Provide a monetary investment to the facilities at North Toronto CI

The second phase of the partnership with the TDSB will have the club having access to re-development Forrest Hill Park, located on Chaplin Cres. This part of the plan was developed in response to the motion from last year's AGM asking the board to begin the search and an exit plan from Fletchers Field.

Phase two of the deal with the TDSB will come forth over the next 4-5 years after site surveying and negotiations are completed between the TDSB and City of Toronto. Through initial conversations the TDSB will allow the club to build changing facilities and washrooms on the proposed site while staying in a certain footprint, In return, the Scottish will redevelop the land and make the field usable for the TDSB. Although no concrete price negotiations or plans have been set between the club and the TDSB,

we have been identified by the TDSB as a preferred partner. This is the beginning of a long road to finalizing a deal with which will have the club return to playing rugby in the city.

Vice President's Report

2011 Tasks:

- Growth of the Alumni and liaising with Chris Stafford
- Growth of player sponsorship program
- Stewarding our current sponsors to ensure the club is meeting our responsibilities
- Getting more media exposure of the club
- working with the ORU on league structures and the Seal of Approval

Alumni and Player Sponsorships

While the Alumni membership did not grow this year in terms of membership, there were a number of key successes, which were achieved, mostly due to a few alumni members who dedicated their time and effort. Jason Lewis helped re-establish our playing "Old Blue" team, and we seem poised to continue to grow that squad in 2012. Chris Stafford was instrumental in forming an Alumni board which helped facilitate an increased level of communication from the Club to players from the past. I'd also like to acknowledge the efforts of Mike Homer who was another key contributor to the "Second Wind" Alumni newsletter, and somebody we hope will continue to help connect the Club with Alumni members. As well, we established an accurate Club History section on the website. Lastly, we will continue to expand the Player Sponsorship program in 2012.

Club Sponsors

This year we were lucky to add a number of sponsors to the Club. Fervent Events and Sons of Scotland signed up, and we were able to leverage a number of Club contacts for 'in-kind' sponsorships from Silverback Guerilla, Kukri and Ceann designs.

Media Exposure

We took a number of steps to increase our media exposure in 2011. The Club was prominently featured in a number of community newspapers for our work for the Cancer Society (Daffodil Day) as well as Rugby Rumble 2. Additionally, the club upgraded its website and became more involved in social media.

Rugby Ontario

In what must be considered a 'win' for the Club, RO opted to adopt a league format that was consistent with the Club's desires (8 team league, 14 game season). As well, the Club continued to adopt RO's Seal Of Approval program by adding an Emergency Action Plan and Child Protection Policy.

Goals for 2012

This year I'll be working on expanding our reach in the community through enhanced involvement with local charities as well as media coverage. As well, I will work with the President to establish a long-term vision for the Club in order to make sure we have an appropriate succession plan in place.

Women's Director of Rugby Report

It was another great year for the Women's team in 2011. The season started off extremely well, with a

big win over the Brampton Beavers. The remainder of the early part of the season did not go so well; we faced problems reproducing our initial form, and encountered difficulties with a wet spring. Our early training was hampered by a lack of access to fields and many of our games needed to be rescheduled. Later in the season, the 1st team's efforts to win the league took a major hit when we suffered our first loss in a number of years, to the York Lions. Despite these challenges, we persevered: in the end, the both the 1s and 2s won their respective League and Cup Championships.

This year, like last year, our success can be attributed to Eddie Sun's return as head coach and an influx of new players. We were again lucky to get a number of new players who added depth to our side after a year that saw a large number of senior players leave through retirement or injury.

Eddie gave us another early start in January and it was a long build up to the regular season. We struggled to find preseason opposition and fields to test ourselves and in the end played a single warm up tournament in Oshawa, which we won. This year, Eddie had more challenges to deal with from a coaching perspective, but he was always ready to adapt to those challenges. Eddie has always gone well above and beyond the call of duty with the women's team, dedicating many, many hours to planning our practices, line-ups and developing his skills as a coach. However, this coming year, Eddie has decided to return to playing and is looking to pursue other opportunities in coaching women.

This year was a successful year for the junior side. We chose not to run an official team; instead we tried to set up exhibition games against other sides. We experienced mixed success with this. While we had a larger number of dedicated players, we had trouble finding teams to play. Despite that, it was a big step up from last year and much of the success of the junior program can also be attributed to the dedication of the coaches, Jeremy Cairnie and Gideon Weisman and also the involvement of several senior players. Recruitment came through a Scottish presence in local high schools, something we hope to build on and expand in 2012. To that end, we also held a high school skills clinic this year in the spring in cooperation with the men's team, inviting schools such as Earl Haig, Branksome, Havergal, Pickering High School, Leaside, Lawrence Park, William McKenzie and others.

There were several players with representative honours:

Canada:

Cheryl Phillips, Ghislaine Landry, Arielle Dubiset-Boris, Giselle Panton (on Canada 7's development squad), Maggie Cogger-Orr (on U-20, non-travelling reserve)

Ontario Senior Women:

Cheryl Phillips, Fiona Boyd, Ghislaine Landry, Giselle Panton, Arielle Dubiset-Doris

Ontario U23 Women:

Louise Chen, Rosie Lang

Ontario U20:

Maggie Cogger-Orr, Samantha Beal

Ontario U18:

Sara Kaljuvee

Things to do in 2012:

Finding a new head coach for the women's team will be our first priority. We have a few people who are interested in the job and we are currently trying to assess who the best fit for our team will be. Our second priority will be ongoing recruitment. We hope to try and match the recruitment numbers from 2011. Most of our recruitment was done via word of mouth and through personal connections of the current players. We will be looking at other options to try and connect with a larger pool.

Junior development:

As per the ORU's strategic outlook, a junior side will be deemed mandatory for 2012. The goal is to set up the infrastructure and recruitment practices to ensure depth and development for the future.

Men's Director of Rugby Report

I want to thank Rahim and the rest of the Board for providing guidance during the season.

This year there was a change in the format of the Marshall Premiership Division. The ORU decided that the Marshall Premiership division would drop 2 teams from last year and run an 8 team league with a home and home series. This created some concerns around the clubs in the ORU as the decision was made late in the year and some clubs felt there should have been more discussion. The Brampton Beaver's petitioned this decision and at a Special General Meeting of the ORU the decision was upheld. The ORU also decided that the Marshall Premiership would now only require the clubs to run a First and Second team in the Marshall Premiership. With this Rugby Ontario decision, the Marshall Premiership no longer operated a 3rd team division. All clubs playing in the Marshall Premier division decided to continue playing 3rds and formed an Exhibition league with their 3rds teams.

There were very good numbers for our men's registration with over 100 registered players between the ages of 18 and 35. With these numbers the men also were able to secure 3 coaches for part of the season. Sandro Fiorino returned as the full-time head coach. Sandro was assisted at the beginning of the season by Mario Domingues until his mid-season departure to the West Coast. We were also able to have Terry Farrell, a long time Irish Canadian player and coach, come on board to help coach our 3rd team. I want to thank Sandro, Terry and Mario for providing their time to coach the men's teams.

At the beginning of the season, with over 100 registered players the numbers each week were very strong. Unfortunately, we were not able to get a consistent number each week to allow us to look to field a 4th team. Next year if the numbers continue to grow I hope the club is able field some 4th team games.

The 3rd team this year contained a lot of youth which bodes well for the club. Because it was an exhibition league, as the season progressed a few Marshall Division clubs were not able to fulfill their commitments. Also, the conveners stopped keeping track of the scores and standing. Going into next year, we will need to have the ORU confirm a league.

The 2nd team finished 4th in their league this year. They were entered into the Gee Gage Cup (the 2nd team Playoff). The Gee Gage Cup consisted of two 3 team divisions with the first place team in each division playing each other for the Cup. The first game of the Cup saw the Scottish playing in Oakville. After losing the 2 regular season games to Oakville the Scottish were in for a tough match. The Scottish played a very hard game just falling short 24-22 in the end. The next game was against the previously undefeated Balmy Beach 3rd team. The Scottish took it to the Beach winning 12 – 0.

The parity in the Marshall Premiership was very evident this year. Every win and bonus point was crucial. The difference between 2nd and 8th was 9 points. With injuries and players unavailable at points during the season the Scottish finished 5th. The Scottish 1st team entered the McCormick Cup with a road game in Peterborough on the same day as the 2nd team was playing their first playoff game in Oakville. With creative experienced backs and strong loose play the Scottish were able to secure a 46-24 win. The 2nd round of the McCormick Cup had the men playing against the Markham Irish Canadians. After 144 minutes of hard fought rugby and having 2 tries called back, the men lost 16-11 on a lucky play by the Markham Irish. The Balmy Beach were the eventual winners of the McCormick Cup going undefeated in league and cup play with a win over last year's winner the Aurora Barbarians .

Though a tough season in the won and lost column, the future continues to look bright for the men's side. The numbers are strong, there is a lot of youth in the sides and lastly our club members are continuing to be recognized for the skill they possess. This year Creag Johnston and Craig Marshall represented the Scottish playing for the Ontario Blues provincial team.

Junior Development Officer Report

The 2011 started off with a hiccup as we were unable to cement a date and time for the junior clinic due to Sunnybrook being closed due to weather. We then transferred the clinic to UCC on Monday evenings (general training day for the senior club) on back to back Mondays. It was less than ideal and as a result not the numbers we had hoped. The boys section went from 60 participants in 2010 to about 40 over the two Mondays in 2011.

Even with this set back the u18s had another strong season making it again to the consolidation final, losing out to the Markham Irish RFC. The coaching and managing of the team was once again lead by Bob McArthur and Don Haag.

The team had 2 representatives in 2011, one playing for TRU u18s and the other representing Canada u18s. A number of the u18s played senior rugby with a couple taking the field for the 2nds team towards the end of the season.

The Toronto Scottish again were out in force coaching/supporting high school rugby in 2011 with no less than 11 High schools and will again look to up the number of HS with Scottish presence in 2012.

Mini Director of Rugby Report

The 2011 Mini Rugby season was probably the most successful in the short history of the Toronto Scottish Mini Rugby with over 30 registered/paid up members. With boys and several girls from the ages

of 4 to 14 this bodes well for the future of the sport and the growth of the club. The majority of the boys and girls are in the Under 8 and 12 year old with only a few U10s and 1 U14. This year we once again teamed up with the Saracens when playing in tournaments. We would alternate wearing each other's jersey for games but the Scottish kids never wanted to wear the Saracen's jersey and vice versa. As part of the registration we gave the kids a Scottish rugby jersey and to see the pride these young kids showed when wear it was truly amazing! One of the highlights of the season was seeing a complete squad of Scottish U12s all kitted out in the Scottish jersey, white shorts and red socks!

With the increase in the number of boys and girls playing I am happy to say there is an increase in the participation and support from the parents. I would like to thank Colin Shaw, Andy Smyth, Jason Lewis, Bill Webb, Steph Charlebois, Mike Homer, Roger Cattell, Spargo and I'm sure I am missing others.

2012 brings new challenges especially how to grow the sport in the city at a quicker pace. The initial plan is to merge Mini rugby in the city of Toronto. We will be in discussion this month with the Saracens, Beach and perhaps the Nomads on merging all the age groups from all the clubs into one called Inner City Rugby. The kids would wear the Inner City jersey with their individual club socks. The benefits will be more kids out for better practices where they will learn more about the game. Also with more bodies we will be able to enter all the tournaments. This brings up the usual issue of finding a practice field that is large enough and centrally located for all three clubs. I believe this is the only way kid's rugby will grow in the city and be able to compete with the likes of the Oakville Crusaders.

I am looking forward to a very successful season and will be looking to the support form the parents again this, especially in the administration side of things.

Yours in rugby

Dave "Tiger" Williams

Director of Registration Report

Registration this year was not as successful as it has been in years past. One factor for this was the fact that I, the registration director, was absent for a significant portion of the season. Dues were not collected on time and the total percentage was not as high as in previous years. Despite this a number of areas improved the registration process. The inclusion of a junior registration representative in addition the women's registration representative made the collection of dues from junior players easier. This process should be continued next year.

Areas where improvements could be made

There were two areas where the registration process could be improved upon; a more direct link from the registration director to the bank account and a clearer designation of player sponsorships

The link between the registration director and the treasurer did not work efficiently. With both members at times being away from training and games throughout the season, the process of collecting the membership dues, recording the dues collected, transferring the dues to the treasurer, and

depositing the dues collected into the bank inevitably broke down. The solution to this problem would be to create a system where the registration director can deposit the dues in the bank directly. This may involve creating greater checks and balances.

A second area to improve upon which may not be necessarily a registration issue, but a club issue generally would be a clearer distinction of who should receive sponsorships. Many times over the past three years while I have been registration director I have asked player for their dues, to later discover that they were to receive a sponsorship. I set criteria for awarding sponsorships would be beneficial. Additionally, deciding earlier in the season who the candidates for sponsorship are would stop the registration director from asking for dues from players who are covered by sponsorship. A list of the previous year's sponsored players would be sufficient.

Director of Fixtures Report

The role had both victories and challenges in the 2011 season.

The "Who's The Ref" (WTR) system, which was rolled out by Rugby Ontario in 2011 was had a big impact on the Fixtures Rep. role. The communication for referee allocation with the WTR system automatically emails home teams once games have been matched with referees and also notifies clubs of games which need Club Refs.

The system was convenient as all the necessary contact information was passed to the home team with ample time before game day. However, at times communication was not passed along in a timely manner and this caused confusion for the refs, players and club management. The future looks to be bright for the role as the WTR system, once running properly, automates much of the common headaches that go along with role.

The main objective for 2012 is to train and certify at least 2 male club referees. These individuals will need to be called upon in various times throughout the year to fill the gaps in which Rugby Ontario cannot fill.

Social Directors Report

The social side of the Toronto Scottish ran several events during the year. An early trivia night started in March 2011, followed by another successful Rugby Rumble in April. Thanks to the tremendous efforts of all involved the rumble raised significant funds for our juniors programs.

May 2011 was quiet as many games were upset by poor weather; however things picked up again in June. With no official events planned for the month the men's side had a very successful team bonding trip to Stoney Creek, which included an impromptu bowling tournament in St. Catherines, a team night at the Duke and a strong showing from the 2012 rookies. The Women also enjoyed a "celebration of newcomers" in fine fashion.

The beautiful July weather allowed for people to test out a variety of spandex outfits with the annual tight and bright night. There were talks of trying a downtown crawl, but to accommodate all, a Yonge and Eglinton crawl sufficed and the unicorn gladly accepted us with open arms to end the night in style.

In addition, a large group of Scottish members attended the Canada, US International at BMO field. The after party was held at Cadillac Lounge with a strong showing from both sides, allowing for an enjoyable patio experience.

In August, the entire club came out to celebrate the women's successful season, showing strong club unity. August also welcomed the return of the streetcar party. A few new venues were added this year and a slightly smaller crowd allowed us to turn a profit and many found the size of the party more favorable.

Another achievement was the St. Andrew's dinner held at the Duke of Westminster. We had record breaking numbers (over 90 guests) and turned a solid profit. The after parties were not as formal this year with half the team enjoying the Duke's services and the other half opting for an always entertaining evening at the Croc.

Overall the Scottish enjoyed a strong social calendar. In the coming year, we will look to add one more group event and assess whether the Streetcar can remain profitable with the increasing rate hikes by the TTC.

Fletcher's Field Report

Unfortunately, there is no official Fletcher's report as the two Directors stepped down and could not fulfill their duties as Directors.

Treasurer's Report

See attached appendix