

Gentlemen of Scotland LX Masters,

It may appear that since Barcelona all has gone quiet - but nothing can be further from the truth! This short newsletter will attempt to summarise what is going on behind the scenes to prepare our club for a bright future. Here we will not go into great detail about the various initiatives - but rather give a reasonable flavour of what is happening and what is planned.

The inspiration behind these plans lies in the thoughts expressed by members at our last AGM, the success of the various teams last season and the recent feedback from members - but crucially the realisation that future and increasing success on the park demands a more professional and proactive organisation behind it. This is not to demean the work of those in the past. Rather it reflects the fact that our success in terms of member and team numbers, invitations to Tournaments, multiple logistical arrangements, legal and health obligations etc, coupled with the need to be more accountable to our members and the demands of various National and International bodies, makes this essential.

The elected Management Committee (now known as the Executive Management Committee) has led these initiatives. The cornerstone of these has been the setting up of an International Sub Committee (led by Niall Sturrock) and representative of all three age groupings, and a Scottish Thistles Sub Committee (led by Mike McInally) Their role has been to reflect on the feedback submitted by members following Barcelona and based on this to recommend to the Executive how these comments can be put into practice in the future. These Sub Committees have spent considerable time discussing the implications of any organisational changes and their thoughts are passed to the Executive for approval.

What is being proposed is that a large measure of devolved authority be given to our constituent teams. Whilst discussion is still ongoing as to the "nuts and bolts" of devolved powers essentially:

- the Executive Management Committee continues to be responsible for the overall direction Scotland LX Masters takes
- the International Sub Committee and Scottish Thistles Committee will be responsible for the overall direction of the playing side of their respective groups
- each age group will take on more responsibility for the planning and organisation of its activities

It is appreciated that most, if not all members, are aware of these developments. However clear communication is a key aspect of this process and it is appreciated that we need to find a better way of promoting this. Webmaster Ian Downie will be central to this development.

Already the website contains some information regarding some of these developments and more will be posted in the weeks to come on such matters as Roles and Responsibilities, Coaching Appointments, Medical Forms, Manager Manual, Physio Provision, Tournament Venues and Dates, Training Arrangements etc. Please keep up to date with this information and respond timely to any relevant request.

Apologies if we have missed out on providing any essential information in this newsletter or if we have duplicated information of which you are fully conversant. If you have any questions or comments to make please contact your Team Co-ordinator or our Secretary.

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Finally, the process of devolution noted above is only the beginning. There are other areas such as sponsorship which we need to address. If you wish to volunteer any skills you have to further the development of LX Masters we would be more than pleased to discuss these with you. Please contact the Secretary in the first place.

Executive Management Committee. October 2018.