

Grangemouth Stags Annual Report FY 25/26

Report from Chair Alan Mackenzie

This has been a very long season and I think this is the first time I have had to give my report before the season has concluded.

For the senior men the goal at the start of the season was to get to the playoffs and have a chance of promotion to the national leagues. We have achieved this on the back of some good performances in the first half of the season when we won 11 out of the first 12 league games. Unfortunately due to a combination of injuries, unavailability, weather related cancellations and the 6 Nations we lost all momentum and the last few games were certainly a struggle. We will have to raise our game to have any chance on the 16th. Dan will have his thoughts on the season as a whole but we will have to reflect on the issues of the last couple of months as we plan ahead for next season. For the record in the league we played 18, won 12, lost 5 and drew 1. In the cup we lost away to Alloa in the second round. We also lost narrowly in Wales but are looking forward to welcoming Llandybie to Glensburgh next year as we celebrate the 70th year of this historic fixture.

The seconds have had a pretty good season and finished 3rd in Midland 3, with 7 wins and 5 defeats. They were the only team to beat Bannockburn in the league and like the first XV had a disappointing end to the season with 3 defeats in the last 4 games. They also played well in their cup semifinal before going down to a strong County side. There is a review on league and season structure taking place and the club are attending a meeting to discuss this at Kinross next week. As always I would like to thank all the coaches- Shorty, Ross, Tommy and Matt-, the captains Dan and Chris, Ian, Jade and Gary for all their support and every player who has pulled on a jersey to represent the club this season.

The ladies have also had an interesting season. They started off in a 7 team league but this was reduced to 4 teams following withdrawals. This is clearly not enough for a league and this needs to be addressed by Competitions at the SRU. There is a review going on at present and this will hopefully improve the situation for next season. For the record they finished second with 4 wins, 1 defeat and 1 draw (a draw and a narrow defeat to league winners Dundee). After Xmas the Shield draw became a bit of a farce. The pools were drawn and fixtures sent out only for it all to be changed a couple of weeks later. As a result the ladies ended up in a more difficult pool against teams from the West and lost all 4 games. My thanks to Shannon as captain, Mikey, and Benny for all their efforts throughout the year and on behalf of the club I would like to wish Benny our best wishes as he restarts his treatment.

Last year most of our under 18s progressed into senior rugby which left a young group of u17s to join up with Kirkcaldy and Dunfermline for some game time. This should mean we will still have numbers at u18 for next season. My thanks to Gru and Chris McDougall for all their efforts trying to keep them in line! The midi girls continue to train and teamed up with other clubs including Strathmore for game time during the season. My thanks to Sam and Elaine for all their efforts during the year. The mini section remains a challenge. We lost some of the older boys to other clubs with

regular fixtures and this needs attention next season. My thanks to James Denny, Sam Quinn, James Howie, Lisa, Colin and Mara, Walter and Sarah for their help. The walking rugby group continues with 2 sessions per week with plenty of post match chat and biscuits after. The Thursday group are going to the Linlithgow tournament on the 16 May and would welcome your support if anyone is not going to Inverness.

We have continued to have a link with Scottish Rugby League and they have used the club for training and games.

As always I would like to thank every player at all levels who have represented the club this season.

Off the field the club remains in a reasonable position with a stable financial position and ongoing developments in and around the club. We will discuss the accounts in detail shortly. We have increased our income from sponsorship from the likes of The Blackmill and Kwik Fit along with ongoing support from Tonys Tile House and Lady of the Glen. My thanks to everyone who has worked on bringing in new sponsors to the club over the year. We now have to look at reducing our ongoing expenses including rugby costs, utilities, catering and cleaning.

My thanks to all the board members – Tets, Dom, Ron, Sarah for their hard work, much of it unseen.

The groundstaff have done another fantastic job this year in maintaining the pitches and we have managed to get through the season without having a home game cancelled due to the weather. The drainage of the training pitch remains a problem with no simple (ie cheap) solution to improve the situation. My sincere thanks to Chris, Fritz, Brodie, Gary and Gordon for their efforts throughout the year.

The Reminiscence Centre is used twice a week by dementia groups and a bereavement café has just started today. We are starting to look at plans for Llandybie 70 in addition to the ongoing work on Project 2029.

This year we have seen the sad loss of ex club captain Graham West, Doug Scott and Ninian Fotheringham.

Overall the club remains in a decent position. We have good playing numbers in both the senior men and women sections. Our financial situation is stable and our facilities are excellent. However we have a number of issues to address especially in terms of our youth section, minis and midis, and we also need to increase the number of volunteers. If you think you can help out in any way with coaching or volunteering or have any ideas to help develop the club please speak to me or any board member.

Thank you.

Mens Captains Report by Daniel White

1XV:

I think on the whole it's been a great season for the club, despite the post 6 nations fixtures seeing a few poor results

We set out at the start of the season where we wanted to be, which was pushing for promotion and there's been a great buy from everyone to in to this ambition right from the start of the season with training numbers remaining consistently high despite long breaks with no games

Been a good structure to training and season in general, with the coaching team making a huge difference. So big thanks to all involved in that

Finished regular season in 2nd, securing playoffs

Playoffs still to come on 16th and 23rd, with the seasons goal of promotion still within reach

2XV:

Also a fantastic season

Finished 2nd / 3rd and reached semi-final of the cup

Biggest success was being able to consistently field a very strong team, including numbers on the bench- not many clubs will be achieving this, so massive credit to everyone who has been involved with the 2's this season.

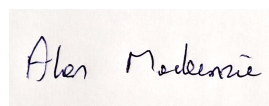
A few new and returning players really added to the whole squad and hopefully we can bring in further recruitment for next season.

Women's Captain Shannon McLean

Reiterated comments made by Chair

Chair

Alan Mackenzie 28 April 2026

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alan Mackenzie". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned on a light-colored rectangular background.

Secretary

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dominic Ward". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned on a light-colored rectangular background.

Dominic Ward 28 April 2025