MIXED MARTIAL ARTS CLUB 2016/2017

The 2015-16 year has been the best year to date for MMA. Due to the success of the sports fair and give it a go session there was a large influx of new members, giving the club its largest membership yet. Our core membership has grown considerably making an already highly diverse and inclusive club that much more so. The numerous and varied socials through the year have aided this by building an incredible community, getting the new members acquainted with the older members, and helping people grow used to the informal style of the sessions.

All of our members have greatly improved in all aspects of MMA (striking, grappling, wrestling, takedowns, etc.) and many have begun to specialise in a particular aspect that appeals to them. Our current president has been extremely effective at the instruction of all members, particularly with takedowns that had not previously been included in training, and our coaches have been extremely dedicated to assisting members in improving their abilities, specifically newer members who may be completely inexperienced in martial arts. Additionally, our strong ties with the MMA club in Dundee has given our members lots of practice against more experienced fighters, as well as against a larger variety of skill levels and styles, with several members going on a near weekly basis. Our current striking coach was instrumental to improving the striking of the members in the club, and although we are sad to see him move on we will hopefully get an equally effective coach for the coming year.
Thanks to the training of our president and coaches saints MMA has done extremely well in competition this year. We had the largest participation in competition in the history of the club, competing in both the SMMART tournament as well as a Brazilian jiu-jitsu tournament, and winning several medals. We hope to be able to increase the number of competitions the club attends next year, as well as increase the abilities of our members so that we can do even better in coming tournaments.

We are unfortunately losing our current president, Ed Cousins, as well as Lorenzo Piola our treasurer and Amaan Akhtar our development officer. They have all done amazing work over the past year and have done a lot to ensure the continued of the growth of the club. Our new committee, consisting of Alex Brinkman as President, Michael Murray as Secretary, Lauren Maires as Treasurer, Andrew Pace as Social and Publicity Officer, Michael Sheffield as Health and Safety Officer, and Steven McWilliam as Development Officer hopes to continue their good work.

Saints MMA is pleased that our submission grappling coach Fenrir Thorvaldsen will remain on for next year, and through him and our new striking coach for next year that we will continue to have growing relations with the Dundee MMA club. We plan on expanding the number of trips we take to Dundee to give our members more experience. Otherwise we hope that MMA continues to be as popular and successful as it has been this past year.