

VANCOUVER-KILLARNEY MINOR LACROSSE ASSOCIATION
Minutes of Annual General Meeting
Held October 21, 2008
Killarney Community Centre – Room 201

A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:35p.m.

B. Minutes of the October 29, 2007 AGM

It was moved by Wayne MacDonald and seconded by Fraser Mackay to accept the minutes of the 2007 AGM. Motion carried.

C. President's Report

The President summarized the events of the year in the attached Schedule "A".

D. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's report is summarized in the attached Schedule "B".

E. Proposed Amendments to Operating Policy

- the date to release players is January;
- All new coaches must take the BCLA course by May of the year they are coaching;
- playing up guidelines be amended.

Johann motioned that the changed be accepted. Wayne MacDonald seconded. Motion carried.

F. Elections

President:

- Rick Taylor: was the only nomination and he accepted

Vice Presidents nominated:

- Christine Woolfries – accepted
- Wayne MacDonald – accepted
- Jeff Quon/Pauline Fedder – accepted
- Dom Woodhouse – accepted
- Mark Vickars – declined

The four new VP's are:

- Christine Woolfries
- Wayne McDonald
- Jeff Quon/Pauline Fedder

- Dom Woodhouse

Treasurer nominated:

- Johann Tergeson – accepted

Registrar nominated:

- Wendy Scarrett – accepted

Secretary:

- Suzette Magri – accepted

G. Awards

The Bob Johnson Executive of the Year Award:

- Alyson McKendrik - for all her great work coordinating the referees.

Volunteer of the Year Award:

- The entire Woodhouse Family – for all their terrific work organizing the Sid Dann Tournament and making it a great success for two years in a row!

Senior Referee Award:

- Luke Milden – who refereed 35 games

Junior Referee Award:

- Alex Magri – for his dedication to teaching younger players on the floor while he refereed

The Wayne Osborne Award:

- Erin Quon – for her dedication to the sport and her time coaching the Bantam A2 team

Coach of the Year:

- Dom Woodhouse – for his hard work and coaching the Bantam A2 team to the Provincials (Silver)

The Most Sportsmanship Award:

- Corey Wong – for always being diplomatic on the floor and in the change rooms and playing hard and fair

The Sid Dann Goalie Award:

- Renton Swick – for playing hard and dedicated as a goalie.

Our own Wayne McDonald won the BCLA Coach of the year award for being Wayne and that's why we love him.

The Graduating Player:

- Kevin Isherwood

Retirement Awards:

- Herb Isherwood and Mark Vickars because they are just too old for the sport.

Attendees:

Michael Connor
Wayne McDonald
Jenny Fujita
Jeff Shudo
Kinder Mottus
Christine Woolfries
Jack Woodhouse
Becky Woodhouse
Dominic Woodhouse
Harry Woodhouse
Mark Vickars
Terry Kirstiuk
Johann Tergesen
Erin Quon
Pauline Fedder
Corey Wong
Alex Magri
Sherman Wong
Suzette Magri
Ron Swick
Alicia Scott
Renton Swick
Andrea Robbel

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:30pm.

Schedule A

VKMLA President's Report October 2008 AGM

Again, thanks for coming.

I will present a brief "year in review report".

The **box season** saw 205 players from Tyke to Midget and 12 teams. This is down about 5% from last year (and down two teams). Across BC, VKMLA ranks 16/47 associations in terms of registrants with similar numbers to associations like Semiamhoo and North Delta, but many fewer than giants like Coquitlam (780), New West (614), PoCo (511), and Burnaby (480). Over the BCLA registers about 3,000 players which was down over 10% from last year. While our numbers are modest and we would like to see them grow somewhat (say to 250), a smallish association has the advantage of it being easier to establish a feeling of community/connectedness which can be difficult with 500 players. The lacrosse community from the BCLA to our own association are actively engaged in trying to stem the loss and increase recruitment. Our own association, for instance, hosted two "learn to play lacrosse" nights at Riley Park last winter which were very well attended (30-40 kids). Encouragingly, our 2008 registration included almost 30% of new players. This year, we will be running a learn to play lacrosse program officially with RPCC on four consecutive Saturdays leading up to the end of early-bird registration to try and recruit more younger players. The challenge will be to keep those kids playing. This year we made three changes to how we form teams in an attempt to increase the "quality" of the lacrosse experience at VKMLA which earlier years had suggested was too variable; some teams had great years, others abysmal:

1. Shortened the assessment process
2. Committed no team without a confirmed head coach
3. No team would have fewer than 16 players

These steps were all achieved and I feel that in by far the majority of cases increased the quality of lacrosse experienced by our players and families. There is still room for improvement, but we are confident that we are on the right path. We also entered into discussions with the Richmond Lacrosse Association about forming joint teams to help with player numbers and to field more competitive teams. Our proposal was accepted by the Lower Mainland Minor Lacrosse Association, but was subsequently declined by the Minor Directorate. There are no plans to revisit this proposal for 2009.

I am especially pleased to report that this year by and large I think we had one of the best assemblages of coaches since I began at VKMLA and I want to publically thank them all

again for their great efforts. It was especially good to see many youths helping out in various mentoring capacities.

Other steps to increase communications and a sense of community in the association were: (i) production of our first ever newsletter, "*The Burrard*", in May and (ii) more timely updates and news items on our VKMLA website. The newsletter also entailed youth involvement with production/design help from Sam Vickars a Midget player. We received a nice compliment from the BCLA when the newsletter was cited as an example of the "Best Practice" code and circulated to all associations in BC.

Personally, I think that mentoring and youth involvement in actually running parts of the association (like newsletter, website sections, coaching, reffing) are one of the key elements to help grow the sustain and grow the association and I encourage all players and their parents to think of contributing in this way.

As far as highlights go, we had several players from Bantam selected to play on Team Vancouver for the Team BC tryouts. Our Bantam A2 team won their division as well as the silver medal at the Provincials. We had two representatives on Team BC for the Nationals (Ryan Vogrig on the Bantam team) and Tyler Vogrig on the PeeWee team, both teams won medals at the Nationals. As well, we had many Midget players represented on the Zone 5 Summer Games team coached by Wayne McDonald of VKMLA. Our PeeWee A2 team won silver at the Sid Dann Tournament and the PeeWee B team won Gold. The tournament itself was another huge success through the volunteer efforts of the Woodhouses (and many others)

Other developments included our first full year with a great new outdoor facility at Memorial South Box, a shift of home court to Riley Park while KCC is being re-configured and rebuilt (Olympic size) and further emphasis and use of online registration. The latter was important in making registration more efficient in terms of data collection and in terms of registration fees. This greater efficiency, including the work of Wendy Scarrett, helped to contribute to a very good financial picture that we'll hear about next. In fact, we received a **second** compliment from the BCLA on the timeliness and completeness of our registration this year.

We will continue our relationship with KCC, but also continue to play out of Riley Park this year.

Shifting gears a bit to discuss **field lacrosse** where the year was not as positive. In 2007 we had one U16 team which needed to fold near the end of the season owing to lack of refs and injuries. This year, we did not declare any teams owing to low player numbers (24) and lack of coaches and refs. We helped to place many of these players with Richmond where by all accounts they are having good seasons. While in principle, the current executive supports the idea of VKMLA having a field lacrosse program, it will not happen unless we have 1-2 new people join the board and take primary responsibility for field. The current board can help, but are simply stretched too thinly to take primary responsibility for field. Here again, our goals are modest; it would be great to have 1-2

sustainable teams in field. Challenges to a field lacrosse program include player and coach recruitment and negotiating more favourable playing/practice times at Van Tech turf.

In summary, last year's outgoing president Marcus Robinson outlined four major areas that the association needed to focus on:

1. Field Lacrosse
2. Coaches and refs
3. Awareness
4. Development

In three of these areas, I feel that the Association is in much better shape than last year: **Coaches and refs**; both excellent this year in general. With refs, virtually flawless assignment by Alyson McKendrick, good mentorship from Andrew Rennie and senior refs, and a dramatic drop (to ONE) of cancelled games. All head coaches had at least BCLA level 1 certification. **Awareness**: Riley Park events and Newsletter had tangible benefits in terms of recognition and new players. **Development**: hard to assess, but judging from parent comments via the web form, better coaches and mentoring improved the quality and consistency of coaching and player skill. **Field**: basically where we were last year: stasis and new volunteers will be needed for it to grow. To these I would other positive developments: **more efficient registration**, more **efficient and accountable operations**, particularly in terms of equipment inventory and purchases, all of which have led to a solid financial basis which we will hear about next.

What's next:

1. New website
2. Recruitment
3. Player development

Thanks and any questions are welcome.