



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Meeting at 10:00 am December 7th, 2008
Saint Mary's Tower Halifax, NS

Minutes

Roll Call

Kevan Mills - President - Board
Bruce Hamilton – Past President - Board
Hal Puddifant – Referee in Chief - Board
Brain Thompson – VP Finance/ Treasurer - Board
Steve Brown – VP Operations - Board
Darlene Fenton – Secretary - Board
Scott Smith – Dartmouth Bandits Club
Mike Hayes - Halifax NW - Club
Donna Goguen – ECJLL - Association
Wayne Fink – Metro Minor - Association
Richard Danells – Halifax SW - Club
Mark Fielding – Field Lacrosse - Association
Natasha Burgess – Lacrosse NS – Administrative Coordinator

Regrets: Mike LaLeune
Paul MacInnis

Meeting called to order by Kevan Mills – President

Quorum of 4 Board members and 3 club members required. Review of roll call as certain that a quorum was reached and meeting can proceed. Brian Thompson reviewed voting procedures and agenda.

2. Minutes of the 2007 AGM

Minutes distributed and reviewed.

3. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

Brian Thompson mentioned that Financial Reports are now required for the Provincial Teams - Richard Danells , Halifax SW motioned to accept the 2007 minutes.

4. Consideration of the annual reports of the Directors

a) PRESIDENT

Kevan Mills presented this report at the Canadian Lacrosse Association AGM in Quebec.

- REGISTRATION/ BUILDING THE SPORT

- Registration was down in 2008 by 10.8 % the concern here is the majority of the decrease has occurred at the lower age levels. All provinces are experiencing the same decrease in registration.
- One method utilized by LNSS to increase interest in the game is by introducing the game to elementary school age kids. To date there has been 9 clinics held at various schools in HRM, with more being planned for 2009.
- Another way LNSS is trying to develop the game is to introduce the sport in areas outside of HRM. In particular LNSS is trying to bring the sport to the New Glasgow area this year and to Cape Breton next year.

- LEAGUE PLAY

- Metro Minor continued their strong league play and development with teams in all division from Novice to Midget and select division in PeeWee, Bantam and Midget plus a Junior B and girls division.
- Senior league experienced a rebirth moving to 4 teams. This is a positive move as this gives the players graduating from Junior a place to play
- ECJLL continues to improve in skill level, which was evident in the play of our Junior players at the Founders Cup

- COMPETITIVE TEAMS

LNSS sent four teams to National Championships: PeeWee, Bantams, Midget and Junior This was the first year for the Midget Nationals which was held in Alberta, the team and coaches were recognized for their leadership on and off the floor. The Bantam team won a bronze medal at the Tier II level and the Junior's won Gold in the Tier II Division at the Founders Cup. Nova Scotia is starting to get attention on the national stage, as we have

- sent teams to every National Championship since 2003. Beside players LNSS has sent officials to the past three Nationals.
- LNSS was able secure funding for our highest level of competitive team, which is our Junior Team
- LNSS also sent a senior men's team to the Czech Republic along with two officials, Scott Smith and Terry Clarke. Our officials were recognized and did the semi finals and the gold medal game at this tournament
- LNSS also sanctioned two local tournaments, the Garnet Knight and the Lobster Trap which both were successful.
- **FIELD LACROSSE**
- Men's field lacrosse registration down by 6.1% The league had teams in the following four divisions: U13,U16, U19 and open .
- University league had four teams from Nova Scotia and two teams from New Brunswick..
- **DEVELOPMENT**
- This year there were several LNSS sanction clinics: In July the Iroquois National Team held a camp for our competitive teams and also held clinic with our native community to help promote the game. Dan Finck held two camp this past year, one in April and another one in July.
- Mike Hayes ran a goal keeping clinic, and there was also a women's clinics held
- LNSS members attended two Sport Fairs in Yarmouth and Antigonish, to bring interest in the game elsewhere in Nova Scotia
- With the help of CLA, LNSS sent members to a SPORT PEI event to help promote the sport of Lacrosse in the Maritimes. This winter LNSS will sent members to SPORT NFLD to promote the sport. With the development of lacrosse in the Maritimes Lacrosse can return to the Canada Game national stage.
- LNSS wanted to extend to Wayne Finck congratulations on being named to Nova Scotia Sport Hall of Fame in the Builders category

a) PAST PRESIDENT

- Kevan Mills thanks Bruce Hamilton for his dedications and contributions to the sport of lacrosse in Nova Scotia.

- Bruce advise the meeting that following LNSS AGM he would stepping down from the LNSS Committee
- Bruce wished LNSS good luck for the future but if he could pass anything on he suggest we try to get more people involved at the Administrative level. He was disappointed with the turnout at this years AGM and the lack of nominations from the various clubs for the LNSS Awards.
- Bruce was LNSS representative with this years' Midget provincial team. The Midget Team participated at the Nationals which were held in Calgary and received 2-3 letters complimenting them on their fair play and sportsmanship.

a) VP REPORTS

i) VP OPERATIONS – STEVE BROWN

The role of VP Operations is one that monitors and oversees the operations for all aspects of the game including leagues, school programs, tournament, travel teams both inter-provincial, nationally and international play. Our School program is a priority for LNSS and although our Junior High School Inter-Lacrosse league had a drop in participation dropping from three zones down to two we still had 14 boys teams and 12 female teams participate this year. Capital Zone did not participate this year because there was no Teacher coordinator. Peter Gallagher who has been the coordinator was not available this year.

The Midget Lobster Trap Tournament was a success due to the strong leadership and coordination if Leslie Dunn.

LNSS still continues to work with the Aboriginal communities of Indian Brook and Millbrook. Interest in the sport at the players level is high, however, leadership within the communities is low. The local RCMP provided equipment to the communities and the CLA's Aboriginal Committee and the Micmac Friendship Centre provided funding for an Iroquois Lacrosse Camp.

LNSS will continue to work with the Aboriginal Community however, it will someone to take charge and monitor and communicate with the aboriginal community.

The Iroquois Camp was a great success it provided an opportunity for our provincial teams to obtain high level of training from : Kevan Sandy(Iroquois National Team; Duanne Jaccobs, Minnesota Swarm, NLL Head Coach; and ;Dean Hill ,Craig Pointe , players from the Minnesota Swarm. Included with the camp for players was a Coaches Forum where, 20 coaches, attended and learned coaching philosophy and strategies.

LNSS sanctioned the Danny Finck Lacrosse Camps this summer and held a Goalkeeping Clinic under the direction of Mike Hayes in April.

Steve thanked everyone for their assistance and hard work and looks forward to working with everyone again in 2009

QUESTION – Richard Danells asked why the Halifax zone stop participating in the Junior High Inter-Lacrosse League.

REPLY – Steve Brown indicated that Halifax Zone did not have a Teacher Rep, Peter Gallagher, was not able to continue his role from previous years. The teacher Rep sets up the school schedule and Steve is responsible for the referees. Steve provides a little training session as the rules are a little different then Box Lacrosse. Richard will approach some teachers he knows in the Halifax Zone to see if he can get someone to replace Peter.

ii) VP – FINANCE/ BUDGET - BRIAN THOMPSON

2008 Budget projected \$ 54,000.00, actual YTD \$ 53, 659.02

Office expenses this year was related to the ID camp for the Founders Cup team. LNSS sent letters out to all Junior age players informing them of the camp.

Cash Flow is always a problem and any work we do for CLA requires that we do the work first and then they pay the expenses after the work is complete, however, we have an arrangement with CLA to phase in the payment.

We now have a full time person, Natasha Burgess, working at Sport Nova Scotia on behalf of LNSS. We pay \$ 5000.00 towards this person salary; however, to date we have not received an invoice.

iii) VP TECHNICAL/DEVELOPMENT – MIKE LaLEUNE

- Mike LaLeune was not available to attend this years AGM, therefore no report was submitted

iv) VP PROMOTION/MARKETING – PAUL MacINNES

- Paul MacInnes was not available to attend this year's AGM therefore no report was submitted

d) REFEREE IN CHIEF – HAL PUDDIFANT

- **Box Report** given by Hal Puddifant.

- LNSS has 71 officials in total which is lower than the previous year by 18. Over four weekends in the spring 7 clinics were held.
- We evaluated 205 games with both referees being evaluated in those games. Senior officials conducted these evaluations, Level 4 referees conducted evaluations on 10 games and Level 3 were required to conduct evaluations on 5 games.
- LNSS sent 4 officials to the Nationals Championships. One official participated in the "B" Bantam Championship at Whitby and another official was able to officiate the semi-final at the Midget Nationals in Calgary, all represented the province well.
- LNSS moved 4 referees to the Junior "A" level
- Bill Morris and Hal Puddifant attended the National Clinician Certification clinic in Montreal. This clinic will be held again in 2009 possible dates are: March 7-8, 2009; March 21-22, 2009 and March 28-29, 2009
- Hal has been involved with the NOCP and new rules for 2009 which will be emphasized this coming year will be:
 - Rule 3 – The Players Bench
 - Rule 9 – The Uniform
 - Rule 11 – Headwear
 - Rule 12 – Goalkeeper's Equipment
 - Rule 13 – Player's Equipment
 - Rule 36 – Chance of Players /Too many Players
 - Rule 38 – Checking from Behind
 - Rule 43 – Face –Off
 - Rule 60 – Leaving The Players' Bench/Penalty Bench
 - Rule 64 – Slashing
- Hal agreed to conduct officials clinic in outlying areas which will cut down on the number of officials from Halifax having to travel

QUESTION: Richard Danells asked if during the officials clinic if time could be given to go over the rules for tyke and girls as they are different than the boys box rules.

REPLY: Hal indicated that this something that could be reviewed, suggested a Power Point presentation of rules

COMMENT: Bruce Hamilton suggested that in the refs room we have a binder with tabs outlining the rules for the girls and tyke.
 Scott Smith suggested that the MMLL referee in chief should be involved.
 Concern was raised with the lack of checking here in Nova Scotia in the female division would this put our girls at a disadvantages with the 2009 Female Nationals.
 Because of the registration # we have a female age range is 4 years so it has become a Risk Management issue for the league

Field Lacrosse - Bruce Hamilton

- 4-5 clinics were held this season- very small group of 12 officials. We did get some younger guys out, Harry Baker, Chris Taylor, Luke Christianson

- Lost one senior official in Mike LaLeune as he took on the role of Coach for Dalhousie University
- Trying to get official trained in New Brunswick so they could officiate the University game in New Brunswick which will cut out the traveling for the Nova Scotia crew.
- Night games are harder to officiate as the ball gets lost in the lights

e) Provincial Coaching: Vacant – No Report

5. Consideration of the Financial Statement

Brian Thompson put forth a budget sheet which outlines the 3 banking streams for LNSS: General Fund, Development Fund and the Legacy Fund.

When the books were closed on September 30, 2008, there was \$ 46,440.49 in the General Fund, there was \$ 6,144.29 in the Development Fund and there was \$ 15,104.82 in the Legacy Fund.

The Lax Fest in October was more expensive than expected approximately \$ 1000.00 more.

Note there is an increase on the Development side of the ledger, this is a direct result of LNSS helping out CLA with bringing the game to PEI and NFLD.

LNSS pays half of the cost for the coaching and referee's clinic.

The bad debit shown is for an event in Antigonish

Inventory – We have a measuring device for measuring goalie gear

We will be looking at providing funding for a brochure entitled “ Come Try Lacrosse” this concept is taken from Ringette

Call for a Motion to accept Financial

Hal Puddifant motion to accept Financial Statements; Scott Smith seconded Motion carried

6. Consideration of the following reports

- a) Members

Richard Danells – Halifax South West

- Increase in registration
- 14 new girls at the Junior level
- 332 members strong and we had teams in every division

Scott Smith – Dartmouth

- Membership in the Dartmouth Bandits Association was down by 20-25%
- 247 members registered, including 2 players from Easternshore because they didn't have a Bantam select team
- The major decrease was at the younger levels which is disappointing
- To combat the decrease at the younger levels, Dartmouth's Lawrence Taylor is developing a video about the game which will be utilized in a recruiting drive.
- Dartmouth is working with MMLL to recruit kids at the elementary school level
- At Junior B we had 27 players register, but having said that we never were able to suit up an entire team
- We had 12 teams including 2 senior girls teams and we were competitive in the league.
- Registration for this coming year will be on line and held in person on February 7th at Cole Harbour Place and on February 21 at Dartmouth Sportplex

Mike Hayes – Halifax Northwest

- Relative to past season, 2008 was ok
- Registration was down over the past two years and organizing a full slate of teams has been a challenge.
- While we are aware of many "conflict" we have with other sports or activities for players, the numbers are dissipating at the entry levels, as are commitment levels (both player and parent)
- A bright spot of this year was our Bantam select team, coached by the Bantam Provincial coaches Darrel Sampson, Mark Pertus and David Quigley. The team captured first place in MMLL league play and the league Championship
- We will see a change in NW Executive in 2009 and hopefully some new energy.

Steve Brown – Sackville Wolves

- Overall we had a slight increase in registration - up by 5%: 205 players compared to 189 in 2007, however, this slight increase was at the Midget and Junior level. In order to sustain the sport we will need to increase at the lower age levels
- Executive of the Wolves Association is trying to promote the game
- We had two teams that were simply outclassed this year our Novice team never won a game all year and our Midget A team only won one game. This is something we will need to address this coming season.
- Full executive will be back in 2009
- 2009 will be the 35th year that the Sackville Wolves have operated as an association

Donna Goguen – East Coast Junior Lacrosse League

- ECJLL provided our 5 Jr “A” teams a 16 game schedule + playoffs and a Championship game.
- Congratulations to Halifax South west for winning this years ECJLL Championship Game against a much improved Sackville Wolves team
- Although 2007 gave our league hope for the future, unfortunately the same can’t be said for the 2008 season.
- As a League Executive we are not optimistic for the future of ECJLL , the main issue is inconsistency of the officiating, in 2007 we made progress in his area but this year we seem to have taken a step backwards.
- He fact remains we have so few officials that are considered qualified to officiate Jr A games and due to the lack of overall growth in the number of qualified officials to date consistency has become an even bigger problem
- Complicating the problem is the reality that a number of our senior officials have children who play in the league. This is not a reflection on their ability to officiate however, the overall perception exists that there is conflict of interest that impacts the outcome of some games. This is not an indictment of the senior officials it is simply a realistic observation. On more then one occasion I observed a Referee in Chief (RIC) giving direction to the official on the floor from the stands. Although mentoring is important giving direction while the game is still going on is the not best approach and many coaches complaint about this.
- Our RIC, Bill Morris, tried his best ultimately he does not have the autonomy he should have to make corrections with the referees.
- In order to have a Jr “A league we need clubs, players to buy into the concept that only the best players should play junior “A. This means that outlying areas should be able to send their best players to play with the closest Jr.”A” team, we need our coaches to be certified and to develop strategies to handle the day to day of how the game is officiated. We nee dour officials to understand and be responsive to any concerns or criticisms.
- As the League Commissioner, I have seen examples of behaviors that have no place on any game. I have seen, coaches, parents, fans, officials and players become so frustrated that their behavior is over the top. The most interesting part of all of this is that the players have been the best behaved of all of the interested parties this season.
- As the Commissioner, and with the help of our Deputy Commissioner I have tried to find solutions, I have tried to work with the appropriate people and I was unsuccessful. We feel that we do not have the kind of support that we need from LNSS to continue.
- One final point, which is a personal comment. During my time volunteering for many sports including hockey and lacrosse, I have always been available at the arenas to take care of problems when they arise. Imagine my surprise this season when I was told by a long time volunteer that perhaps my presence at the arena may have been a part of the problem the fact that I was too accessible for people to complain to.

- At the close of this meeting I have fulfilled my obligations and commitment to ECJLL and I will resign as Commissioner officially today.

COMMENTS: Wayne Finck thanked Donna for her leadership within the ECJLL, and hoped that the league will built upon a couple of the recommendations in Donna's report Kevan Mills also thanked Donna for her work at ECJLL Hal commented that the ECJLL asked that the current RIC be appointed as the RIC for the ECJLL

Wayne Finck – MMLL President

- Kevan touch on this in is his report, it was a great year for lacrosse
- Challenge is the short season and the timeframes to get all of the games in, many of the arenas keep the ice in longer now and put the ice back in early.
- Developing and recruiting volunteers will continue to an issue and important if are to continue the growth of the sport
- MMLL would like to have a list of priorities from LNSS is it developing the sport in PEI/NFLD/ schools
- 3 telling comments: 1) Adult leadership is needed in p outlying communities to support growth of the game, Soutshore/Valley/Truro 2) Should MMLL give input into LNSS priorities; 3) Communication – the Iroquois camp seemed to be very secretive, very few people knew there was a coaching clinic
- Should referee fees be tired to take into account the interest in gas as well as the decrease in gas.
- Congratulations to the Sackville Wolves on their 35 years anniversary

COMMENT: Steve Brown indicated that one of the schools in Middleton where LNSS went to develop the sport there was a big response very positive a great success.

Mike Hayes – Field Lacrosse

- Another successful year ,we registered 140 players, an attempt to develop an U19 division failed as there weren't enough numbers to support it
- Season started earlier on August 17, 2008. The pre-season sessions at the Wanders Ground was a great success giving players an opportunity to work on their skills
- We continued to practice prior to the games
- A highlight of the season was the “Wildcat Lacrosse” an open filed session for interested players. This year we had members of the Dalhousie Tigers varsity team join us and run some drills for players and coaches.
- Coaches were involved in a mini draft at the start of the season which helped with balancing the teams.
- November 2 marked the end of the season with the Tigers defeating the Axemen 7-5 in the U13 division and the Axemen defeating the Tigers 11-8 in the U16 division
- Commencement of a Women's league was another highlight, played on Saturday mornings at the Burnside turf.

- NSFLL supported the OctoberLax Tournament hosted by the Martin family as a means to profile the sport.
- Administratively, the league renamed themselves and registered as a society and is currently re-drafting its operating rules, we also have our own web site www.nsdll.ca on Goalline
- Priorities for 2009 are recruitment for U13 and women; establishment of an U19 league; creation of a regular schedule “wildcat Lacrosse” skill sessions and extension of the pre-season at the Wanderers Grounds

7. NEW BUSINESS

1. Operating Rules and Regulation Changes

- Brian Thompson presented a paper which outlined a number of changes to LNSS Operating Rules and Regulations. The changes were noted in Red.
- Some of the changes were to correct spelling errors and to clarify the position of LNSS

Call for a Motion to accept Changes to Operating Rules and Regulations: Richard Danells motion to accept these changes, Mike Hayes seconded the motioned, vote cast all in favour motioned carried.

2. Long-Term Athletic Development (LTAD)

- Natasha Burgess presented LNSS Strategic Plan update a Vision for 2012
- Key Areas for the next 12-18 months
 - o Officiating
 - o Player Development
 - o Area Supervision
 - o Funding
 - o Facilities Box/Field
 - o Coaching
 - o Staff Support
 - o Volunteer Management
 - o Schools/Grassroots
 - o Competition – Provincial/Regional
 - o Club/Association Development
- Progress Update
- Coaching
 - o Committee Formed
 - o Improvement in the number of completed coaching manuals submitted in 2008
 - o Plan for certification and monitoring 2009

- Officiating
 - o Committee formed
- Funding
 - o Sponsorship/Marketing committee formed
 - o LNS provincial sponsorship strategy in development
- Staff Support
 - o Current position secured until 2011
- School/Grassroots
 - o Secured funding to begin a two year recruitment project in Antigonish/New Glasgow and Valley Regions
 - o Continued participation in Sports Fairs
 - o Began a school development project in November where free clinics offered to schools. To be continue din January to March
- CLA Update
 - o Currently working on a final draft of the Long-Term Athlete Development Model (LTAD)
 - o Currently working on an on-line component to lacrosse coaching program

8. Election of Directors/Officers for ensuing year

- 4 positions available
 - o VP Technical Development
 - o VP Marketing
 - o Treasurer
 - o Provincial Coaching
- **VP Technical Development** – Mike LaLeune has re-offered to continue on with this position
- **Called for a Motion:**
- **Brian Thompson put forth a motioned that Mike continue is his current capability as Technical Director of LNSS**
- **Steve Brown seconded the motion**
- **Vote cast all in favour motioned carried**
- **VP Marketing** – Steve nominated Leslie Dunn for this position, Steve had a hand written note from Leslie expressing her interest in this position.
- **Call for Motion**
- **Steve Brown motioned that Leslie Dunn be considered for the position of VP Marketing**
- **Hal Puddifant seconded the motion**
- **Vote cast all in favour, motioned carried**

- **Treasurer** - This is a position that Brian Thompson has held along with his other duties as VP Finance
- **Call for Motion**
- **Steve Brown motioned that Brian continue in this role**
- **Hal Puddifant seconded the motion**
- **Vote cast all in favour, motioned carried**

- **Provincial Coach**
- Scott Smith nominated Bill Morris for this position, Board received an e-mail from Bill expressing his interest
- **Call for Motion**
- **Scott Smith motioned to have Bill Morris take the vacant position of Provincial Coach**
- **Hal Puddifant seconded the motion**
- **Vote cast all in favour motioned carried**

9. Adjournment

- **Bruce Hamilton motioned to have the AGM adjourned**
Richard Danells seconded the motion