



2017 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday November 1st, 2017

Tim Hortons Field – City Lounge
7:30 P.M.

Minutes

1. Welcome ~ Greg Gillis, President
 - a) Welcomed everyone and verified the attendance satisfied the requirements for a quorum
2. Approval of Minutes of 2016 AGM ~ moved by Joe Sferazza, seconded by Joel Firmin - Carried
3. Year End Reports
 - a. President ~ Greg Gillis ~
 - Greg started by stating this season was not one of all wins and losses and recognised areas of success as well of areas for improvement. There are many opportunities for growth and as an organization we need to find ways to tap into this growth, growing the game and selling our product like a business – “Hamilton Lacrosse”.
 - As an organization we have made huge strides Growth, Skill Development and Retention however we continue to need to make huge strides in all 3 of these aspects
 - Greg expressed our need as an organization to deal with the issues regarding our loss of age groups in House League – Pee wee and the need for early planning for the 2018 season including an online Survey for player loss,
 - Greg made honourable mention to our Jr B’s making playoffs, our collaboration with the Brantford Jr C’s and their season win. Also our Girls Field Program with its continuous growth and development
 - Greg discussed the successful marketing campaign/initiative that was started in the 2017 season and will continue on into 2018 and how as an organization with many different segments and moving pieces (Girls Field, House League, Jr B, Rep) we need to work to have them all working as one - Hamilton Lacrosse
 - As an organization we have excellent coaches, volunteers, programs (House League, Girls Field, Rep, Jr B) Greg thanked the executive and volunteers for their commitment and thanked all of those in attendance, we have some passionate Lacrosse people in our organization and community and this is our biggest asset

b. Vice President ~ Finance & Administration ~ Joel Firmin

- For the 2017 offseason I took on the role of scheduler in addition to my other duties. Although I may not have been able to get the schedule out as early as some people would have liked we were able to save the league thousands of dollars by limiting the amount of unused floor time. In 2018 we may have to book floor time sparingly as Facility booking is changing the way permits are being used
- Although our offseason recruitment efforts were very successful, we are still having a major problem with retention. In total we were down 99 registrations from the previous year. One of the main reasons was that we combined the Bantam and Midget divisions into one. As a result we lost 29 first year Bantams (2004 DOB). A survey is currently in the works and will be sent out to these people. Hopefully we will get the answers that we need to stop this from happening again and possibly attract some of them back

c. Equipment Directors ~ Joel Firmin

- FIELD: No new field equipment was purchased in 2017. However, in 2018 we could be looking at an expensive year. A few of our field nets are in rough shape and will likely need to be replaced. We will have to purchase some new jerseys as well.
- HOUSE LEAGUE: No new HL goalie equipment was purchased in 2017. I am currently in the process of doing an inventory but I don't believe any new equipment will need to be purchased for next year. Jodi Dean did an excellent job of collecting everything back at the year end. This was the first year that we brought our HL jersey order to Niko Apparel. They made the jerseys in house which we were told would be a lot faster than ordering them. However, this wasn't the case. Games were delayed one week due to jerseys not being finished on time.
- BENGALS: No new goaltender pieces were purchased in 2017. However, some pieces will need to be replaced for 2018. Bengal jerseys were once again purchased from Niko Apparel. The new black jerseys were a big hit and very popular across the OLA. The spirit wear at the store went better than last season thanks to the addition of more women's pieces. Some more promotion on our end will need to happen next season. Just like the HL jerseys, our Bengal jersey delivery was delayed a few weeks. A few miscommunications led to some numbers being missed during the original delivery but were delivered quickly once the mistake was identified.

- GIRLS FIELD: The Girls field program changed their look for 2017. They decided to go with a white jersey instead of the traditional yellow. The girls looked very sharp but I believe Niko was late with these as well.

d. Registrar ~ Stacey Holditch

- Box: Our reports show registration numbers for box lacrosse are down. With total players 470 in 2017 compared to 569 in 2016. Box player cards show 171 new players. Multiple box registrations went well. However, parents felt the online registration was confusing and didn't understand why signatures were still required on a paper form. Online registrations with Ontario Lacrosse for Box will be available in our Zone for 2018. They will use the same Sportzsoft software as Boys and Girls field has been using. Paper forms will no longer be necessary. This system should be easier for parents.
- Boys Field: Boys field registrations were up 16 players. In 2016, Hamilton Lacrosse had 2 Peewee teams. In 2017, Hamilton Lacrosse was able to field 2 teams in Bantam and 2 teams in Midget.

e. Financial Report ~ Stacey Holditch as of September 30th, 2017

Bingo \$8,242.94

General \$17,756.64

Jr B \$9,208.58

Expenditures:

Bingo \$15,776.00

General \$244,797.78 *

Revenues:

Bingo \$19,572.17

General \$234,296.99

f. Director @ Large/Super Series & House League Tournament ~ Craig Wesley

For the 2017 Super Series:

- The administrative function of Super Series 2017 was probably the most challenging I had to deal with. Teams were registering later in the process, not as early as previous years. Teams were dropping out in favour of other tournaments as I believe that since the results of A level teams were not counted towards their rankings they needed to get to tournaments that do matter. It was disappointing that only one Hamilton Team participated. The Bantam team did not participate and was clearly a contender and the Novice team Double booked the weekend. Some teams that participated ranged from A level to D Level in some instances. Calls went out to teams to fill vacant spots went out to no avail. Comments ranged from "It's a long weekend to they have all their tournaments booked already."
- The tournament actually ran successful and that comments came in that it was a well-run event. No major catastrophes or blow ups, Only 2 Green Discipline Sheets for total fines of \$40 overall. Teams that unfortunately we in a Seven team Division certainly had their comments but I did my best to sway them. (The seven team division was a result of a team backing out at the last minute and being unable to find a team). Team liked the Mobile APP I purchased and the Medals were a success again. The t shirt vendor is something I will reconsider for next year.
- Maryl, Jody, and Nancy did a great job at the arenas and are strongly in need of more praise than I can provide
- I recommend the creation of Tournament committee to review past and upcoming events.

For the 2017 House League Tournament:

- Not enough teams to warrant an entire weekend of a tournament. A lot of spaces in between games to accommodate a reasonable break between games for teams. More parents complaining about reffing and rules, but the kids had a great time. Jody and her group did great job with hospitality and convening, kids love that as well. The Kovachich family did a great job with the paperweight division. I recommend that depending on the number of teams is when we make a decision on how the event will be run. Weekday or Weekend

g. Jr B Bengals ~ Gary Gallant

- The 2017 Junior B Bengal season was a success both on and off the floor.
- The club finished the season with a 12-8 record which was good for 2nd place in the South West Division, 5th overall in the Western Conference. A first round playoff victory against

Elora was a tremendous feat for our young team, and featured some great lacrosse and 5 close games. The second round saw us up against the 19-1 Six Nations Rebels and while we lost in 3 straight games to them, each game was close and again the lacrosse was excellent and entertaining.

- The successful season also saw the Bengal coaching staff named "Coaches of the Year" for the Western Conference of the OJBLL!
- Off the floor we had 6 regular season and all playoff games featured on Cable 14. They have become good supporters of the program and we are beginning talks with them about bringing game day sponsors on board for 2018.
- We are still looking for more help as there are a number of positions available with the club...

h. Girls Field ~ Bill Moore

- 2017 was another exciting year of growth and accomplishment for the HLA girl's field lacrosse program.
- We had 70 registered players and 10 coaching staff represent U11, U13, U15, and U19 age divisions in the Ontario Women's Field Lacrosse league
- Our blueprint for the 2017 season began with our winter clinic that ran from January to March at Wentworth triple rinks. This was well attended and brought in new players. We will look to continue this clinic for 2018.
- Practices started in April at Tim Hortons Field - an exciting venue to kick off the season. Once the grass fields opened in May, we used two different practice fields for the 2017 season - Kay Drage and Billy Sherring. The city is looking to designate Kay Drage as lacrosse fields and they are generally good as practice fields although they are not lit. We do like having a practice field in the west end and another on the Mountain
- We believe an overview of our season shows another step forward as an organization. We had two more coaches certified. Our U11 team competed in the B division and was very competitive through provincials. We see this team as a strong A team as it moves forward. Our other three teams had very good seasons both in learning the game and playing exciting lacrosse. The U13 and U15 teams took home provincial medals in their respective C divisions under excellent guidance from their coaching staffs. Our U19 team played a dominant year in the B division that culminated with a near provincial title in the B gold medal game, but fell just short. They should move into and be competitive in the A tier for the 2018 season.
- Moving forward, we couldn't be more excited for the path this program is on. Our numbers have grown/remained static

while other clubs in the OWFL have significantly diminished. This is isn't to suggest that the OWFL is declining.. In fact it is just the opposite. They have seen significant increases in province wide registrations and number of teams fielded in the past few years... Women's field lacrosse in Ontario is statistically one of the fastest growing sports

- We have reached the point where we would like to grow our program by adding a house league that would initially be dedicated to Under 9 players. We feel it is strategically important to engage and retain younger players to ensure the future of a club. The younger they start, the more chance they have to evolve as a player.
- The OWFL has a satellite program whereby they bring house league players together for several play dates. We would like our house league to run as a skills development model, with play dates offered in the OWFL as well. We would potentially offer house league players a pinnie, stick, and goggles with their registration fee. They would practice either on opposite nights, or to reduce field costs, before or on an opposite field while the U11's practiced. We are still in the development stages of moving this forward
- We are extremely proud of the growth of the girl's field lacrosse program in Hamilton. We are now recognized as well organized and competitive, with excellent numbers within - the OWFL. Our players are becoming more heavily scouted and are making their way into the elite levels of what girls field lacrosse offers on the provincial and national levels - in - addition to being scouted and recruited for NCAA/OUAA play

i. Director of House League Operations ~ Jodi Dean

- This season we were able to gain new volunteers who took over for paperweight and Bantam. John and Tammy Kovacich and family (Paperweight) and Laurie McBride. (Bantam)
All convenors did an amazing job and are expected to return next season.
- We did have a few obstacles at the season start with registration online and jerseys but over all things started smoothly and we overcame them quickly.
- Overall our numbers were lower which was consistent with surrounding centres. This was also impacted by adding extra Bengal teams. We had to condense the Midget division which had an impact on some of the younger bantams. We lost all second and third year Midgets because the numbers were too low. Attempts were made to interlock with Burlington for this division but we were unable to make it

happen due to their schedule. We hope to put something in the works before the season begins this year.

- Our major complaints this season were with the officiating. Mostly due to parents of younger players not understanding the game. We were able to have a coach's clinic for House league as well as supply all coaches with Manuals this season. We had a great turn out of coaches this year. This enabled us to match up coaches and assistant coaches, some teams even had parent managers. We also chose to make teams bigger with 16-18 players and that had a big positive impact on the season play.
- Our season ended wonderful with some very competitive close exciting games for championship weekend. Everyone had a great time at the bob, some teams arranged team parties to coincide with the BBQ times and it worked out very well. Lots of smiling faces to end the season.

j. Director Media/Social ~ Jen Moore

- Jen in her 9th year as Media Director started by expressing that 2017 has been a good year with some new direction involving marketing and coming up with new logo ideas and design. We had some input and direction from Jen Pate in this area as well as some strategies on signage for the association.
- As an executive after many meetings and discussion we decided to remain with our current website provider – Goalline for the 2017 season as we would likely be moving to full Online registration for the 2018 season
- Hamilton Lacrosse social media accounts to which we have shared many stories, events and highlights during the 2017 Season and beyond

Twitter: @HLAlacrosse @HLAgirlsfield @hamlaxjunior

Instagram: hamiltonlacrosse and HLAgirlsfield

Facebook: Hamilton Lacrosse Association page

- Our minor lacrosse team and individual photo days involve all our minor teams. In the past we had teams argue that they didn't want photos on team practice or game nights and in 2017 year we moved the photo days to non-playing days. The scheduled days were published very early in the season in order to give parents and coaches a heads up. All in all, we had about the same amount of turnout that we've had in the past. We continued to use Future Stars for the photography and I will say that they were much better organized this year with more staff on hand to run the sessions.

- 2017 was Canada's 150. Local television and newspaper have been largely focused on this milestone and some of the local events which were promoted. We saw the North American Indigenous Games lacrosse events here in Hamilton. Hamilton was host to the Heritage Cup 2017 with Team Canada featuring our own Ed Comeau as head coach, and local players such as Kyle Matisz, Ryan Dilks and Joey Cupido. There was more coverage on lacrosse this season in the local media. We were able to share some of that coverage on our website and social media accounts.

k. Referee in Chief ~ Megan Woods

- Megan thanked and recognized our good volunteers especially our Senior Refs who during the 2017 season stepped up to train and work with our Younger/New Refs
- Maintaining Senior Refs has presented its challenges however our Younger Refs are coming along – the challenge will be maintaining them – it is not as easy as it looks
- Overall our Zone – Zone 9 has good quality refs

4. Awards:

Bill Buckley ~ Camryn McConnochie

Lois Minchin ~ Stacey Holditch (2nd year in a row)

Butch Guthro (Coach of the Year Bengals) ~ Kiel Matisz

Ed Comeau Coach of the Year (House League) ~ Mike Shields

Referee of the Year ~ Dylan Hagan

Girls Field Greatest contribution to the game of Girls Field ~ Eryn Viola

Boys Field Greatest contribution to the game of Field ~ Jeff Snyder

5. Constitutional Amendments 2017 ~ No amendments were submitted for the 2017 Season

6. Elections for 2016 Board

Acclaimed

President – Greg Gillis

Vice President Admin – Stacey Holditch

Vice President Technical – Joel Firmin

Social Media Director – Chris Sanislo

Director at Large – Jen Pate

Director of Bengals Operations – Joe Sfrazza

House League Director – Jodi Dean

Field Director – Brent Love

7. Adjournment - Motion by Greg Gills and seconded by Deb McVicar – carried.