



2022 HLA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday October 18th, 2022
Mountain Arena
7:30 P.M.

Minutes

1. Welcome ~ Greg Gillis, President
Welcomed everyone and verified the attendance satisfied the requirements for a quorum.
2. Approval of Minutes of 2021 AGM ~ Motion to accept, all in favour, accepted, carried.
3. Year End Reports
 - a. President ~ Greg Gillis
 - 2022 Season – Greg discussed the 2022 Season and the challenges and success of the organization this past year. He reviewed our first full return to lacrosse post COVID, the zone wins across a number of Bengals teams, the return of Super Series and the success of our partnership with the Toronto Rock
 - b. Vice President ~ Technical ~ Joel Firmin
 - **Scheduling-** This season, we started off in a tough spot as the city was not planning while the last wave of covid was running rampant and shutdowns were in effect. We only received our permit just two weeks prior to tryouts commencing. We weren't the only ones as other municipalities across the zone were in the same boat. This ultimately caused delays in the zone schedule being released on time. Also, my work and personal schedule became far too busy and as a result, the release of the HLA schedules became difficult to release in a timely manner. As I have taken on a new job with less access to a computer during the day, I feel that my performance will only get worse. If someone is willing to take on the role of scheduler, I will gladly see that they have a smooth transition into their new role.
 - **Equipment:** This year, we had a number of goalies who did not return to lacrosse. As a result, we had an influx of equipment returned. I believe we only had to purchase a few items for our taller goalies.
 - This season, we used Play it Again Sports to sanitize our equipment at the conclusion of the season. Our usual service provider's son did not play with us in 2022, so we

decided to take our business to one of the league's sponsors.

- An inventory needs to be done to assess the needs for our 2023 programming
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c. Registration Report ~ Lesley Boyle

Registration Totals						
BOX	2022	2019	2018			
BOX U5 Soft Lacrosse	15					
BOX Paperweight	56	81	72			
BOX U9 House/Rep (formerly Tyke)	48	51	52			
BOX U11 Boys House/Rep (formerly Novice)	43	67	73			
BOX U13 Boys House/Rep (formerly Pee Wee)	30	82	84	*2022 - no House League program		
BOX U15 Boys Rep (formerly Bantam)	35	48	68	*2022 - no House League program		
BOX U17 Boys Rep (formerly Midget)	17	42	56	*2022 - no House League program		
BOX U22 Boys Rep (formerly Intermediate)	20	25	25			
TOTAL	264	396	430			

BOYS FIELD	2022	2019	2018			
U9 Field	n/a	10	0			
U11 Field	12	17	20			
U13 Field	n/a	18	18			
U15 Field	23	16	29			
U17 Field	n/a*	33	21	*2022 - 7 Registrations cancelled and transferred to burlington		
TOTAL	35	94	88			

GIRLS FIELD	2022	2019	2018			
U9	10					
U11	26	16	13			
U13	17	37*	33*	*2018/2019 include house league & rep		
U15	15	19	17			
U19	20	15	25			
TOTAL	88	50	55			

TOTAL REGISTRATIONS	387	540	573
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TRY BEFORE YOU BUY LACROSSE	2022
2022 TRY Lacrosse - Women's Field	25
BOX TRY Lacrosse (FREE)	247
TOTAL	272

*97 Paid Registration also participated in the TBYB sessions

d. Finance Report ~ Darcy Jackson

Revenue	2022
Registrations (All)	131,241
Tryout Fees	5,620
Boys Field Registration	
Girls Field Registration	
League Sponsorship/Grants	2,045
Camps/Offseason/March Break Clinics	
Super Series	31,298
Bag/Glove Repayments	2,165
Toronto Rock Promotions (Ticket Sales, Ball Toss, etc.)	7,826
Other: Misc	2,250
Tournament Revenue	
	\$182,445

Expenses	2022
Bank Charges (Monthly Fees, NSF's, Merch Fees)	656
OLA Fees	8,860
Field / Floor Rental Fees	32,260
Director and Officer Insurance	3,699
Promotion/Apparel	38,573
Super Series Expenses	22,165
Rep Exp: Fines, Tournament Fees, Team Reg Fees, etc	9,140
Bingo	3,470
Storage Unit Rental for Goalie Equipment	1,097
Toronto Rock Tickets	8,380
Equipment	
Program and Office Supplies	10,472
misc	120
Coaches clinics, police check reimbursements, etc.	4,033
House league: (Uniforms, Pictures, Volunteer gifts, etc.)	3,190
Boys Field: (Uniforms, Pictures, League Fees, etc)	8,161
Girls Field: (League Fees, Pictures, Uniforms, etc)	7,500
	\$161,776

e. VP Finance & Admin ~ Jen Pate

- **Team Apparel & Spirit Wear:** The 2022 season saw the return of regular lacrosse play and also team gear and spirit wear. The Association had all rep level jerseys ready to go well in advance of the season as they were originally ordered in early 2020. The remainder of all team gear items including house league jerseys, Bengals team wear, and

spirit wear were impacted in varying degrees by supply chain constraints and delays.

- This season Bengals teams did not have a traditional fitting day & our league Spirit Wear sale was cancelled due to supply limitations. We were able to execute several pop up events and still had significant sales through the THQ store as all rep players visited THQ over a 3 day window for team fittings.

As we look ahead to 2023, we have a number of initiatives that we are working in the apparel space:

1. A new contract for the 2023 season with THQ- Talks are currently underway on a new multi year contract that protects pricing and allows the association to better plan our fee structures

2. New Black Jersey design for Bengals teams

3. Pop up shops for Christmas and early spring

4. All rep players will be moving to sublimated shorts- This allows for better control over the supply chain and will allow us to have shorts that match our jerseys

5. Ordering of all Bengals & House League jerseys in the coming weeks to prevent any delays at season start

6. The return of both a rep fitting night and spirit wear sale

7. New and innovated designs- Always something new each season!

- **Rock Partnership:** The 2022 season marked the beginning of Hamilton Lacrosse's partnership with the Toronto Rock. A sub group of HLA Executive members met with an extended Rock team in late 2021 discuss areas of partnership and support for our initial year of partnership. Support for all programs executed were done in close partnership with John Stiles our Rock representative. Although COVID limited some activity, we were able to partner in a number of ways including:
 - Ball toss fundraising at two Toronto Rock games
 - HLA U15/U17 players half time game
 - The sale of Toronto Rock tickets at a promotion price to HLA members/families for multiple games
 - Inclusion of Toronto Rock ticket for the 2021/22 season for early bird registration

- Toronto Rock support at Try Lacrosse sessions
- Skill sessions with Toronto Rock players for U9/U11 with Challen Rogers and U13/U15/U17 session with Dan Dawson
- Rock sponsorship of a pad at Super Series
- Toronto Rock booth & shooting tunnel at Super Series

HLA was presented with several additional fundraising opportunities but limitations on volunteers required us to turn down several opportunities.

Looking ahead to 2023, Hamilton Lacrosse has already begun the planning process with the Rock. The tentative plan is to have HLA execute Ball Toss at the December 3rd opener (the more volunteers the better!). The home opener presents a GREAT chance to collect significant fundraising dollars for the Association. HLA has also been offered pre-game turf, pre-game scrimmage, half time scrimmage ceremonial first shot with a Bengals goalie and flagbearers for the game- LOTS of chances to have Bengals touch all parts of the season opener. To pull this off will take a number of volunteers but would provide great experiences for our Bengals players.

The Feb 18th Games is the second opportunity presented to HLA for all items listed above including ball toss. We are also in talks for holding a try lacrosse session prior to this game with the Toronto Rock formally inviting Hamilton areas hockey associations to the game with discount tickets.

Lastly, we will be selling tickets for Rock games again this season. The price has gone up slightly and will result in tickets being offered at the \$30 price point.

Our partnership with the Rock is a great opportunity to help grow the game and our association- if you can help with volunteering with any of these initiatives, please reach out!

f. Social Media Review ~ Chris Sanislo
Twitter

HLA (@HLALacrosse) followers:

- October 2020 – 1,096
- October 2021 – 1,136
- October 2022 – 1,179

Summary:

- A gain of 43 followers; very similar to the increase from last year.

Hamilton Bengals (@hamlaxjunior) followers:

- October 2020 – 888
- October 2021 – 967
- October 2022 – 1,093

Summary:

- A solid increase of 126 followers.
- Positive engagements seen for live-game tweeting, World Junior lacrosse tournament activity that featured Bengals' players/ alum'.

Facebook

HLA (@HamiltonLacrosseAssociation) followers:

- October 2020 - 496
- October 2021 – 606
- October 2022 - 680

Summary:

- A gain of 74 new followers over the year.
- Like last year, we used this channel as another means of communicating updates and programming news with our membership.
- Community Partner/ sponsor communication and support has is a secondary element of our Facebook messaging. This provides relevant info to our member families, helps solidfy our relationship with community partners/ sponsors and showcase HLA social channels to prospective partners.
- Significant cross-promotion work with the Toronto Rock – nurturing that relationship with mutually beneficial results.

Hamilton Bengals (@HamiltonBengals) follows:

- October 2020 – 319
- October 2021 – 417
- October 2022 -- 632

Summary:

- A solid increase of 215 page followers this year.
- World Junior lacrosse tournament posts had significant engagement.
- Game day and post-game posts during the Bengals' regular season and, moreso, during the playoffs also showed strong engagement.

Hamilton Bengals Alumni Association

(@HamiltonBengalsAlumni

- October 2020 – 128
- October 2021 – 145
- October 2022 - -176

Summary:

- Continued momentum of moderate growth this year, adding 31 new followers.
- A great opportunity to showcase alumni stories and keep former players connected.
- An engaged group that can be a fertile ground for recruiting HLA/ Jr. B Bengal volunteers.

Instagram

HLA (@hamiltonlacrosse) followers:

- October 2020 – 1406
- October 2021 – 1519
- October 2022 -- 1743

Summary:

- More solid gains this season with 225 people joining as followers.
- Instagram takeovers have been a resounding success. This past season featured Hannah Moore as well as Michael Grace. Plenty of engagement and inspiration – showcasing life as college lacrosse players.

g. Tournament Director/2022 Super Series ~ Jen Pate & Joel Firmin

2022 marked the return of Super Series in Hamilton after a pause due to COVID. The OLA approved the tournament to host U9-U22 aged teams. All 6 division sold out for the tournament resulting in HLA hosting 48 teams over the July long weekend. Work began early in 2022 to executed Super Series with a goal of running an organized and profitable event. Games were played out of two double pad facilities, Chedoke & Morgan Firestone, with the pads running from 8am to 9pm daily.

This season was the first time that iPad were used during the tournament for games sheets which resulted in a significant decline in the amount of physical paper processed but resulted in day 1 requiring a significant number of volunteers to validate rosters and lock iPad.

The City of Hamilton did not operate the snack bars this season which presented a unique opportunity for HLA to run and profit from our own snack bars. These were largely operated by students working to get hours for school and result in over \$3600 in sales over the weekend. HLA was

also able to work directly with local hotels to set up hotel blocks and rebates (thanks Lisa!) which resulted in over \$1000 in rebates for the association.

The success of this year's event is largely the result of the volunteers who stepped up to help plan, set up, and run the tournament. This event would not have been a success without the help of almost 20 volunteers who gave anywhere from 4-20 hours of their time on the long weekend- THANK YOU!

As we look ahead to 2023 we will take the learnings from 2022 and will continue to focus on the goal of operating an organized and profitable tournament that draws lacrosse players from across the province.

h. Jr B Bengals ~ Gary Gallant

Off Floor

The new year saw the club add some new volunteers to the fold for 2022 and they proved to be valuable additions. We were able to add Game Day staff but unfortunately it was right at the beginning of the season so planning time was limited. In spite of this we were able to have some intermission entertainment for some games, a superhero appearance and a live anthem singer at a number of games. Planning for the 2023 season is already underway.

Coming out of Covid was a real challenge yet we were able to bring on some new sponsors, including a 3 year commitment from Mac-Klean Exterior Cleaning as our major Corporate Sponsor. Royal Blue Construction (owned by an alumni), Freshco Burlington, Tim Hortons Paramount, and Al's Source for Sports Burlington joined our club. These were added to our ongoing fundraising programs with BigYellowBag and FlipGive. We hope to build on this for next season and the outreach has already begun.

On Floor

Most of our coaching staff returned and Bengal Alumni DJ Nedelko joined the staff. Doug Dunham joined the team as our Equipment Manager and Larissa Adamo came on board as our Athletic Therapist. All three proved to be valuable additions to the club.

The team was once again successful on the floor, both in the winning of games as well as seeing a number of our players move up to play Junior A. While some teams in our league hold fast to only allowing 2 players per year a release to play A ball our team has never held a player back from playing at the highest level possible. We feel this is an important part of our affiliations with the Intermediate Bengals, the Brantford Warriors and the Burlington Chiefs. This collaboration has worked well for the teams and also benefits the players as they develop through the different levels.

The team's record of 16 wins and 4 losses is the best record achieved by the franchise to date. The playoffs saw us defeat the Six Nations Rebels in 3 straight games in round 1. The 2nd round saw us go up 2 games to none versus Windsor. The OLA then overturned the Appeal Committee ruling and re-suspended one of our better players and unfortunately we ended up losing the next 3 games, one in overtime.

Planning for 2023 is well underway and the team is always looking for good people to assist. We have a number of spots open and they would suit a mature high school student looking for volunteer hours or anyone looking to be part of the exciting world of Junior B Lacrosse. There is also always room for sponsors to come on board and we have a number of different levels to fit any business.

i. Director of House League Operations ~ Joel Firmin

- **House League:** This year, the HLA turned its focus towards the rebuilding of the House League program. With two years off, and no ability to recruit in person, our numbers were drastically down. Not only did we lose players, but we also lost a ton of coaches and referees. A call went out on social media to recruit some of our alumni back to help and thankfully it worked. We were able to recruit enough of both to get us through the season.
- Due to the low numbers, the HLA made the difficult decision to make our U9 and U11 Bengal players play within the House League. Although this was not a popular decision amongst some of the retuning Bengal families, we felt it was the right thing to do to be able to sustain our HL program. Hopefully this off season we will be able to go into the arenas and recruit like we have in the past and numbers will be where they should be.

j. Director Girls Field ~ Jen & Bill Moore

The girls' field lacrosse program continues to thrive as we saw another productive summer in 2022.

Hamilton Lacrosse girls' field was again able to hold registration numbers to 73 participants from the same in 2021 and 2020, after coming down from 99 in 2019. We were again unable to include a women's senior team but are working with OWFL on what that will look like.

The year started 2022 with the return of a winter skills program. This program was once again intended to re-group existing players and introduce lacrosse to new players. We ran Sunday mornings for six weeks at Players Paradise in Stoney Creek.

The clinic started off with some COVID-19 restrictions in place and an uncertain summer on the horizon.

Ontario Women's Field Lacrosse association offered a slightly shorter season with only 10 regular season games played in 2022 with World Lacrosse, Ontario Summer Games and a return to play in Ontario dictating programming.

Hamilton was able to field a U13 and U19 team for rep play. Down from pre-Covid levels of a team in each age division.

However, we were able to continue our house league Sixes program and started the beginning of a field lacrosse house league for girls ages 4 and up.

Outdoor grass field time was secured at Mohawk Sports Park on field 5 then 4, from mid-May to the end of July. We hope to secure two fields next summer as we continue growth.

We ran house league and rep practices on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 6 and 9 p.m.

Covid -19 restrictions were mostly dropped by the province as the season progressed. We did not have any outbreaks.

House league ran on Tuesdays for practices and skills and Thursdays for games of Sixes with 59 participants in all.

10 Baby Bengals – ages 4-5 on Tuesdays from 6-7 p.m.

30 U11-13 - ages 6 to 12 on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6-7 p.m.

19 U15-19 – ages 13 to 17 on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6-7:30 p.m.

Our rep programming had two teams.

U13 had 14 players

U19 had 22 players

Let's take this time to congratulate our U13 Bengals and their coaches Mike Vidal, Cam McConnochie and Amy Kay, Jackie Belisle, Beth Hawk on their gold medal in the C division this summer.

And, our U19 team as they participated in the U19 A OWFL division with coaches Hannah Moore and Brendan Sweeney.

Congratulations as well to a couple verbal commits made this fall by two Hamilton athletes. Cayden Holdsworth to Averett University in Virginia and Malia Galan to Davis and Elkins College in West Virginia.

Many Hamilton senior players came back once again this summer to help coach and mentor the season from helping with skills in house league to coaching our rep players sometimes both. This group of volunteers included: Hannah Moore, Cam McConnochie, Melanie Schleeahn, Lauren Bain, Tristan Holdsworth, Olivia Monaco, Cayden Holdsworth and . We thank you for your commitment.

As well, we couldn't play without our other volunteers like Brendan Sweeney, Brent and Tara Holdsworth, Mike Vidal, Amy Lord, Jackie Belisle and Beth Hawk.

k. Director of Boys Field ~ Brent Love

After a couple of challenging years for field lacrosse, the 2022 lacrosse season got off to a great start with the return of a traditional spring field season. Although our registration numbers were low; which was a common problem within most centres, we were able to make the best of it and offered teams for U11 and U15 players and combined our players with Burlington to offer a U17 team as well. The season ran smoothly and started with our U15's attending the Jammer Classic the first weekend of April and then the regular season started the following week. The regular season had its ups and downs with some big wins and tough losses, but all of the Hamilton teams showed up to Provincials ready to play and were all competitive within their respective divisions and age groups. The results were very encouraging and left us looking forward to a very successful 2023 season.

As the 2023 season approaches, I think we need to discuss making a few changes to our standard tryout procedures in order to encourage more kids to come out and play field. We could look at changing our traditional tryouts to practices/warm-ups, held in February and early March, but then have our official tryouts during the last few weeks of March or the start of April. This may make it more manageable for our current hockey families to make more tryouts. It may also alleviate the concerns of new parents that want their kids to play field but don't register because they are worried about missing too many tryouts in February and March due to their winter sport commitments.

I. Bengals Director ~ Ty Reidy

The 2022 Hamilton Bengal Rep program had a successful year after a two year break due to COVID. Tryouts for the season began in April, later then anticipated, due to limited arena availability (ice still in). We saw larger tryout numbers in the U15 and U13 age groups driven in part by a lack of house league for this age group. U9 & U17 experienced challenges in getting players out this season. The lack of a formal house league due to COVID impacted U9 recruitment. U17 was impacted by lack of a rep programming over the last two years to keep players engaged in lacrosse. COVID also impacted ordering team apparel this season as supply constraints and the late arrival of gear delayed players receiving most items. Jerseys for the season were on time as they were ordered pre-pandemic in early 2020. A formal fitting & spirit night did not occur this season in part due to supply issues and players were sent directly to THQ over a three-day window to get fitted. All jerseys from 2022 have been inventoried and the information has been built in for the estimated 2023 order.

IPADS for all Bengal game sheets was utilized this year. The use of IPADS was a great success and many efficiencies were recognized. Through trial and error we were able to work through early glitches and things seemed to run smooth throughout. It is our hopes to continue the use of IPADS in 2023. We will wait for final direction from the OLA and should receive information after their AGM in November.

On the floor there were many new players and coaches, especially in the younger age groups. We were able to field a team in each age group (many centres were unable to do this) and had 2 teams in the U13 and U15 divisions. The U9 & U11 teams played both house league & rep in order to ensure healthy numbers for our HL program as well as competitive play. Our U13 2 team was comprised of largely players who had hoped to play house league, but opted to play a modified rep schedule. These players and families enjoyed success at the Bengals level coming in just behind the U13 1 team in league standings. Due to the late timing of try outs & strains on our executive resources, we did not hold an official coaches meeting. This led to some questions and concerns at the beginning of the season that were quickly addressed. A manager's training session was held to help get all the new volunteers in this position off to a solid start. Overall, the Bengals teams had a successful seasons with Hamilton winning 5 Zone Championships (U9, U11, U13, U15 (1) and U15 (2)) and 1 Silver Medal in Provincials (U 11).

Opportunities for 2023:

For 2023 we are looking to have coaching applications posted in early December with applications due by the end of the year. We are also looking to book floor time at Eastwood Arena earlier and have earlier try outs as there is no ice in the arena this year. This will allow us to have coaches/managers meetings in a timely fashion to discuss the year and go over Code of Conducts, etc. There will be off season focus on developing new resources for Bengals teams including an operations manual and manager resources. These new resources will be created with the collaboration of several stake holders, with the goals of ensuring the smooth operations of Bengals teams in 2023. Jersey orders will be placed in October once inventory is finalized, and the Team Fitting/Spirit Wear night will return in 2023. Lastly there will be an assessment of estimated registrations of our U15/U17 teams as we may have enough players to field two teams in 2023.

M. Referee in Chief ~ Mac Abbott

Hamilton had 17 registered & active officials, including a number of younger officials picking it up for the first time.

Things were a tad slow getting up & running with new officials and timekeepers, which is primarily attributed to the return after COVID and replenishing with new individuals. However, by the end of the season a good group of TKs & officials were carrying the load and did a great job. We had a good mix of new & returning officials to handle the house league program.

The scheduling of single games during house league nights did pose a problem at times in assigning, as 1 game is more difficult to assign than multi-game evenings.

Some individual success of officials from Hamilton:

- Tyler Flake reffed Bantam 'A' Final (formerly from Fort Erie but residing in Hamilton)
- Mack Abbott reffed Meredith Cup (Jr C) Final & Canada Summer Games Gold Medal Game
- Joel Firmin reffed the Presidents Cup (Sr B) National Championship Gold Medal Game

Looking ahead - continued growth in new officials will be significant to creating a sustainable system. Recruitment is a challenging piece, and one challenge of our sport is limited opportunities to get level appropriate experience. Working with Zone partners to provide on-floor officials coaching opportunities early in the season would be beneficial, and

something that can be picked up based on what was planned in 2020.

Establishing a supervision program to assist the younger/developing officials with structured learning opportunities would be ideal. This is subject to officials availability as senior officials are stretched extremely thin but could be done in a limited capacity.

1. Awards:

PLEASE UPDATE THIS SECTION.

2. Constitutional Amendments 2022 ~ No Amendments

3. Elections for 2022 Board

Acclaimed

President – Greg Gillis

Vice President Finance & Admin – Jen Pate

Vice President Technical – Joel Firmin

Social Media Director – Chris Sanislo

Director at Large – Lisa Coles

Director of Bengals Operations – Shawna Dolman

House League Director – TBD

Boys Field Director – Brent Love

Girls Field Director – Jen & Bill Moore

4. Adjournment – Motioned by Greg Gillis and seconded by Joel Firmin – carried.

Attendees: Greg Gillis, Joel Firmin, Jennifer Pate, Chris Sanislo, Shawna Dolman, Bridget Hedgcock, Lisa Coles, Ty Reidy, Brent Love, Jennifer Moore, Lesley Boyle, Jim Jackson, Darcy Jackson, Gary Gallant, Greg Love, Kris Michaluk, Emillie Michaluk, Scott Woods, Jason Jones, Steve Lord, Amanda Duncan.