

# Surrey Lacrosse Association

## Reports – AGM 2021

### 1. President: Sean Reid

This past Box season was turbulent to say the least. Registration was down about 30% overall – consistent with all clubs around the lower mainland - and although we ended up with a Frankenstein season (put together as we went) it was successful on many levels. The kids that wanted to, still played lacrosse.

This past season was also our third year to have Junior Lacrosse in Surrey. Run by Cal Davies and Ray Lagace, we had one of the only teams practicing consistently with 40+ players even when there were no plans for a season. We also were the only team that put in over 12 games as the league had only 5 games and the team travelled twice for games into the interior and a tournament in Alberta. We will continue to promote our Junior program to the younger age groups as we are the pride of Junior B with the fanfare we are able to bring out to home games.

We can also proudly say not a single transmission of COVID affected our club. There were scares but the volunteer coaches, managers, and executive mitigated all exposure events by way of help and transparency from the players and families. Thank you for keeping our sport safe!

The Warriors (Field) club did reasonably in 2020 with overall registration numbers down as well. With no provincials, it was hard to maintain interest in what was happening as it was a mostly practice only season. Another big thanks to those volunteers that made the effort each and every week to ensure our kids had health checks and screening done prior to field entry. It is help from all of you that allowed these kids, our children, to play this great game! This season so far has limited registration at the U11 and younger age groups although the U5 registration is slowly becoming viable. Having the U15's run the U5 program has been great for both levels of players. We will continue to develop that in the future.

Looking ahead:

This coming BOX season we will again see the opportunity to purchase custom Rebels gloves for players from Cyclone Taylors on 152nd avenue.

We will be opening registration for the 2022 season soon. Early Bird registration for Box should begin December 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021.

We have our indoor "drop-in" sessions booked beginning in January 2022 for warm ups for the pending season and expect to arrange age groups soon. Additional time changes and school selection to better accommodate our parents this season. More information will come.

Plans for the upcoming box season are to increase registration at our Tots, Mini-Tyke, and Tyke age levels so we may go in-house and have healthy growth for years to come. We intend on making the registration fee at these age groups more than reasonable to attract even the "maybe" families.

We also want to start a parent drop-in night (maybe 2) for those that want to see what it is like to run the floor like their kids. A nominal drop in fee for the season or the night may be in place and all that will be needed is helmets and gloves. It will be a great fitness night getting to learn and play this amazing game.

The 2022 REBEL ROUND-UP Tyke Tournament will be moving from its quaint tradition of Cloverdale Arena this 2022 season. Growing from a 10 team wonder to up to 30 teams is the goal. We want to make this the most sought after Tyke Tournament around. We will be looking for sponsorship donations and volunteers to pull this off!

Finally, with field next season we intend to hit the promotional pathway to ensure we have all age groups represented by Surrey Lacrosse. Increasing our footprint in Box will hopefully add to our registration in Field.

As always, please send ideas, thoughts, questions, and suggestions to our executive and help our club grow. We are always interested in having people jump on board to help out in a way that will benefit the club and the athletes involved.

## **2. Vice President 2 Box: Rob Comack**

The 2021 Box season can be compared to the little engine that could, after months of skills and drills we were finally able to have a shortened season full of games. While having to schedule our own games was a bit challenging, all the teams did a tremendous job of getting game play for Novice and older.

While 2021 was not ideal for a proper season it was a great time to really evaluate how and what we do as an organization. It also gave us a chance to look at future opportunities for training. Throughout my career playing lacrosse I have seen some good examples and poor examples of player development. Even within our organization we can see clear opportunities we will be working on for 2022 as far as player development. We are hoping to one day be a leader in what player development looks like.

In 2022 we will be focusing on 5 key development areas. TYKE/MINI TYKE development, "B" and "C" development, "A" development and Goalie recruitment both internally and externally as well as coaching recruitment and development.

2021 was a tough year for Tyke/mini tyke development. Without games and limited practice plans for the majority of the year, the kids had a bit of a tough time really becoming engaged in the sport. We are hoping to provide some extra fun development sessions (geared to game play) for these age groups to help them get the training they need as well as more opportunities for trying out goalie.

B/C development is a key priority as we are seeing promising talent in these areas failing to break into the A team's. In 2022 we will be focusing on coaching development to help continue the growth of each player. We will also be looking at regular development sessions outside of the regular team practices to help facilitate even more growth in the players who would like to have it.

A development will be another key driver for 2022 where we will look at training sessions taking second year A players and setting up training sessions with 1st year players one level up throughout the year. We are hoping that we can set something up along these lines with the players from the Jr team as well.

We continue to see limited goalies heading into PeeWee and higher. In 2022 we will hopefully be trying something new with sessions where kids can come out and just try out being goalie from Novice through to Bantam.

Coaching recruitment and development plays such a huge role in the overall development of the players at all levels. Having more coaches/parents will help in on floor focus for the players and better organization of practice plans. Starting in January/February we will be looking to fill Coaching roles for each of the teams we are hoping to have. We will also outline which coaches/parents will need support heading into the season. We are hoping to have multiple coaches sessions before March to help give newer coaches the tools they need to be successful throughout the year.

Most importantly I want to sincerely thank all of the Coaches and managers this past year. Your time, effort and incredible attitudes during this challenging time really made this past year very successful. We had a lot of success across many of our teams when it came to game play and I am hoping we can continue this success in 2022 with our enhanced focus on player development.

## **3. Vice President 1 Field: Jeff Glass**

The tail end of the field 2020/21 season was not much to talk about. Without league scheduled games we continued to practice until the second week of February. Some teams struggled with attendance because of the lack of competition and a steady diet of skills and drills. We were left with no provincials and a hope for games next season.

The warriors this season saw registration down along with the rest of the league. #covid. We had really low numbers in U7, U9 and U11. With all other options exhausted we ended up unfortunately having to release most players while aging up a handful of U11's.

The 2021 season we have our inhouse U5's, 1 - U13 team, 2 - U15 teams and 1 - U18 team. All teams having success but not without a few struggles. U5 has seen some growth and some positive energy. Leading the U5's this season have been a consistent group of U15 players. These gentlemen have shown leadership, dedication, and how much fun lacrosse can be at each and every outing. I'm hoping to find more players that could mentor the younger age groups within our association.

Coaches continue to be great mentors and volunteers to the Warriors. We are very grateful for their dedication, always finding the time to help when asked. We are also excited about a new coach joining us this season with the U15's. He was a former player with Surrey who brought both a positive attitude and a fresh voice to the team. We are hoping to bring in more alumni to coach or assist with our field teams in the future.

Again, so many volunteers making this season happen. Grateful for all those involved each year. Seeing first-hand the many hours it takes to have a successful season, our volunteers are not in it for the money but the opportunity to make a difference for your children.

There has been no shortage of surprises these last couple years through box and field. Looking forward to what's coming, this season and next.

#### **4. Vice President 2 Field & Female Box Coordinator: Ian Tyerman**

With Covid restrictions easing for box we were able to have somewhat of a 2021 season. Surrey and Semi worked together and merged our Tyke, Novice, and Peewee teams together. It was strictly all skills and drills. Female Novice practiced with the Novice Coed or with the Female Novice/Tyke team in Semi. We aged down our Midget players to Bantam and merged with Delta. Not only did they do skills and drills, the girls were also able to play games. I am hoping for a full season with games next year. If our numbers for female are low I would suggest we try and work something out with Semi.

For Female Field 2021 our numbers were slightly down. We have one U-19 team which is coached by Savanna Smith. We have six releases. We have two U-15 teams. The PCFLL voted to try a tiered system on a trial basis for two seasons. There is a Competitive and Recreation division. We have a team in both divisions. The Competitive team is coached by Derek Murrell and Assistant Coach Kaia Hirvanen. The Recreation team is coached by Colin Snyder and Michael Lonsbrough. This is great because girls can play with players of the same caliber. It is working out very well so far. And we have one U-12 team which is coached by Chris Fahlke.

We need more referees and umpires. We are at critical shortage for next year. Field games are getting canceled and they expect it to carry over to box. Referees are quitting because of the abuse they receive from parents. I am embarrassed to say that Surrey parents for Coed and Female, field and box are known to verbally abuse officials. Parents in our association need to be better. We need to set the bar for the league. We need young officials to help grow our game. I also encourage parents to get involved and become an official. Take the referee course for Box or the Umpire course for field.

My time as VP has been fun and challenging. I have enjoyed the experience.

#### **5. Registrar**

As I am still fairly new to the Registrar position, I am still learning the role and getting a handle on things, so there isn't too much to report on at this time. I took over as the Registrar at the beginning of this year and what a year it was to jump into the position. With getting ready for box registration to open, an extended box season so that games could take place, and then field registration starting right after that, it was a busy year to learn the ropes.

I want to say thank you to the previous Registrar, Deanna, for all her help, support, and patience as I transitioned into the position / role. I truly did have big shoes to fill.

Due to COVID-19, registrations were down [for both box & field] this year compared to the previous years, but now that life is starting to return to [somewhat] normal, hopefully we will see the rise in returning, and hopefully new, players.

## **6. Head Referee (Box): Angie Reid**

As head referee for Surrey Lacrosse, it has been a year of challenges and triumphs as most of the reports this year will describe. With Covid restrictions in place and constantly changing, we as a group were adaptable and continued to work together to ensure youth continue to be able to play lacrosse.

In 2020, we had several officials go to the referee course for new officials but were unable to referee due to Covid. Due to the cancelled box season in 2020, this meant the officials returning in 2021 had to stay at the level they trained in 2020. In 2021, there were no entry level courses for new officials, so these officials, while willing, were not able to referee this year. In order to keep interest in refereeing in future years, it was decided these entry level officials would have the opportunity to shoot clock games which was approved by the BCLOG. This provided these referees the opportunity to stay connected and interested in what I hope they will continue to pursue.

Besides the new officials, we had many officials not return in 2021 to referee box lacrosse due to Covid and other priorities. There were many associations who did not have any or very few referees for box so those who did return to referee in Surrey, were able to assist several of these associations in covering their games. Susan worked tirelessly with neighbouring associations to help them allocate their games and provide referees.

With no parents able to watch indoors for most of the season, there was less abuse to the officials and the games seemed so much calmer and put less pressure on those who did referee.

I am concerned we will have difficulty with retention even more so this next season. I am working with the BCLOG to find strategies to attract new and returning officials. I will be contacting those interested early in the season to be prepared for a full box season.

Thank you to all who put in so much effort to make this past box season happen, from the executive, coaches, parents, players and referees. It was so great to finally be back in the arenas. I look forward to a successful Rebels season!

## **7. Secretary: Susan dos Santos**

The secretary position manages many administrative aspects such as notices from BCLA that need action/communication, criminal record checks for all coaches and managers, collection and submission of form 100s and declaration forms, society registration paperwork, photo night, etc. Tracking of the criminal record checks is helped by the government online system but still requires repeated reminders to many coaches/managers. The additional COVID related protocol paperwork added to the tasks of the Secretary at times this year.

## **8. Treasurer - Monika Nociar**

As registrations were down this year, expenses were as well. Floor time costs were a big expense as they are every year, however with constant changes of covid safety guidelines and inability to return unused floor time, we were able to provide teams with some indoor practice time at the beginning of the season which was beneficial. The gaming grant money was used to help pay for this.

We were fortunate to receive the gaming grant again this year totalling \$38,000. We have allocated \$21,500 to box and \$16,500.00 to field.

Please find in annex the financial reports and proposed Budget for 2021-2022.

## **9. Referee Allocator (BOX & FIELD) - Susan dos Santos**

The uncertainty of if/when there would be a box season and the continuing impacts of COVID factored into some box referees making the decision to not return for the 2021 abbreviated box season. The ones who did had lots of games and once again Surrey referees were integral in helping neighbouring associations - we saw our referees travel to North Shore (by bus!), Ladner, Delta, New Westminster, Langley, Maple Ridge and other locations.

Although we have developed a robust intake of 6-8 new referees and good in house training and mentoring for the past 5 years, we have not been able to retain them once they graduate out of minor lacrosse or finish high school.

While some have moved away with their family or for school and so lost to natural attrition, we need to try to determine how we can increase our retention rates or figure out how to call back some college age referees who have vanished during the COVID impacted seasons.

The BCLA decision to not run an entry level course meant we did not have a new class of incoming referees. We were able to get permission for the 2020 entry level referees to do shot clock this year and that gave them some valuable exposure to the game. Several of these young referees grew quickly in their confidence as they too helped serve neighbouring associations to ensure games went ahead. A bit thank you to the parents doing the driving.

For 2021 season we had

Level 3: 1 Referee (2019: 3 Referees) // Level 2: 6 Referees (2019: 9 Referees)

Level 1: 4 Referees (2019: 9 Referees) // Entry: 7 Referees (2019: 8 Referees)

Interested: 8 Referees (These referees will get first option for 2022)

The 2020/2021 Field season was a very short 4 weeks in Fall 2020. Surrey did not take on any new referees as BCLA did not run Entry level classes. We had 5 referees connected to Surrey and they were kept busy in the short season.

This current season 2021/2022 Surrey field referees are continuing to support both Surrey and Langley fields and frequently agree to travel outside of the immediate area to referee or support developing referees. With no U7/9 teams in Surrey this year, our 2 entry level field referees are gaining experience in Langley and 1 of them was able to take advantage of the expanded mentoring program that was run in conjunction with the Richmond Romp Nov 2021. Like all associations there is a real struggle with retention. We have 3 capable college age referees signed up but due to work and schooling, we are only seeing them infrequently and most of our games have been refereed this season by out of town referees. Angie Reid, who has stepped in as the Head Referee, has been investing time in developing the 5 younger referees in Surrey/Langley as well as assisting with mentor of other young referees either when they come to a Surrey/Langley game or by herself going to away locations to assist.

#### **10. Equipment Manager: Jason Piper**

This past year we have purchased several replacement pieces of goalie equipment and stick heads. New jerseys and shorts were also purchased for the female field teams. We have a lot of older jerseys, both box and field, that we are going to be looking at disposing of. We are putting together a guideline for replacing smaller amounts of equipment more often, so we do not have large equipment purchases. This will keep the equipment that is issued out to the players in a better overall condition and make sure that the equipment we do have meets the current regulation set out by the CLA.

#### **11. School Liaison: James Bayley**

Very little to report as covid protocols prevented any school visits

2022 is likely going to be similar until the school board allows outside groups into the schools.

There has been talk about a coach mentor program where we send coaches to give seminars to teachers / pe teachers in 2022.

This would be an opportunity to put together a loaner lacrosse kit ( 25+ \- sticks , indoor softer balls , and lesson plans) so schools can have access to the right equipment.

This would be a great way to introduce lacrosse to younger kids.

#### **12. Junior B2 - Cal Davies (Governor)**

The Junior B2 team offers graduating Midget players a great opportunity to continue playing Lacrosse and is a step towards B1 and A . Many players that have the skill to play at a higher level enjoy B2 because of the lower commitment that is required and the opportunity to play with friends. Junior is different from minor as players try out for the 25 positions; we will field the strongest team possible.

The 2021 season saw only five of the eleven B2 clubs field teams because of a late start due to Covid. It made for a competitive short exhibition season with Surrey finishing at the top with Coquitlam. Rarely do Junior teams get an opportunity to travel but this season we were able to send our team to Castlegar to play two games against the West Kootenays team. In August we travelled to Cochrane, Alberta where we won the South Crossover Tournament playing teams from Alberta and Saskatchewan. It was a great experience for everyone involved.