

Annual General Meeting Kitchener Ringette Association



Murray Fried Room - Activa
Sportsplex and Google Meet –
May 14, 2024

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WELCOME

Welcome to everyone able to attend KRA's 2023-2024 AGM. It's great to be back in the routine of in person meetings after a hiatus for a few years. Once again, this year we're happy to provide a hybrid meeting style with an online component for those who can't make the meeting in person. Over the next hour or so we will look back at what was the 2023-2024 season and start looking forward to 2024-2025.

For those attending the AGM online

Once again, this year we have the option to attend the meeting through Google Meeting account. Please note the following notes and rules for the meeting to ensure that everything flows smoothly.

- We request that all participants mute their microphones when you connect to the meeting
- Once connect, please send a private chat Sam Laban for attendance purposes. If you intend to vote please also include your player's name(s) and what team he or she plays on.
- Remember that there is only 1 vote per player. If you only have a single player in your household, only one parent/guardian may vote on any topic.
- Questions can be posed in the chat window of the meeting and Sam will relay them to the live meeting.
- The meeting may be recorded for minute-taking purposes.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It has been another fantastic year for the Kitchener Ringette Association. We have had many successes and challenges, but as I reflect on this past season, I am filled with pride to be a president of such a wonderful, strong association that puts the players first in all we do. Once again, we had teams at every level of play, from Fun 1 to U19, which an achievement we should all be proud of.

First and foremost, all our success could not happen without all our volunteers, coaches, and families. I would like to give a special thank you to KRA's board of directors and key volunteers whose hard work and dedication help make KRA the strong vibrant association it is today.

The 2023/2024 Executive

President: Brian Kettles

Coaching Director: Steve Hertz

Registrar: Lee Ann Hoch

Ice Scheduler: Simone Buckley

Provincial Convenor: Natalie Piggott

Marketing Director: Peter Johnson

Past President: Nancy Holmes

Vice President: Denise Totzke

Treasurer: Nancy Nicolson-Houghtling

Secretary: Neil Murray

Director of Communications: Stewart Saunderson

Regional Convenor: Kevin Vautour

Events Coordinator: Sam Laban

Key Volunteers Positions:

Referee in Chief: Stewart Saunderson

Minor Officials Coordinator: Jenn Kettles

Bingo Coordinator: Connie McFatrige

Golden Ring Chair: Andrea Demelo

Social Media Coordinator: Vacant

Equipment Manager: Amanda Fendley

IT: Neil Murray

Player Development: Katharine Shaughnessy

The above list are the people who tirelessly work behind the scenes organizing our season; securing ice, updating RAMP, creating teams, finding coaches, planning events, tracking our finances, and trying to promote and grow the sport of ringette.

We ran many great events and programs this past season. We had another successful Gold Ring Tournament, organized by Andrea Demelo. Thank You Andrea for stepping forward and organizing such a wonderful tournament. Andrea is already hard at work planning the next year's 50th Aniverisry Golden Ring Tournament.

We also ran our Prep-for Rep program again this year. Thank you, Katharine Shaughnessy, for putting in all the time to organize and run the program this year. It looked a little different this year with 12A being changed to a regional program the focus shifted to help players get ready for U14 A / AA.

Looking forward to the 2024-2025 season, there are some areas on which KRA will need to continue our efforts on player recruitment and growth. We ran several Come Try Ringette events this past season, and we need to continue to build on that success. Thanks go to Sam Laban who put in a lot of effort organizing the Come Try Ringette events. Recruitment of players at the younger age groups is critical to the growth of our sport and organization. Please do your best to promote ringette with your friends and family, encourage people to attend one of the Come Try Ringette events at their local association. Player development is another key area of focus for the upcoming season, including building on our current power skating program, working on fitness, and skill development.

Each year KRA struggles with volunteerism. Without volunteers, KRA cannot run efficiently. We ask that you consider volunteering your time with KRA to help us continue to provide the opportunity for all players to play the sport they love right here in Kitchener!

Overall, the 2023-2024 season was a success. Our wildcats made us proud on and off the ice and I look forward to seeing everyone again at the arena next season. Until then, have a safe and enjoyable summer!

Brian Kettles
President
Kitchener Ringette Association

PROVINCIAL CONVENER'S REPORT

Once again this past season we had combined teams with the Waterloo Ringette Association. In Kitchener we hosted the following:

- U14AA, coached by Jessica Ward
- U16AA, coached by Meghan Pearse
- U19A, coached by Laura Tunstall

Meanwhile, Waterloo hosted the following combined teams:

- U14A, coached by Trevor Wheeler
- U16A, coached by Tara Ross
- U19AA, coached by Mel Norris

U14AA had a very successful season finishing 3rd overall in league play (10-7-3) and were very competitive in Provincials finishing 5th overall. This was the first year playing AA for most of these young players and throughout the season this team showed great development and success. There were many different associations that came together to make up this group of athletes and they were able to all bring strengths to become a very powerful team. We hope these players bring the experience of this year forward with them as they continue to have very successful ringette careers.

This past season the U16AA team played in a very competitive division finishing 3rd overall in league play (11-5-4). The team faced a couple of challenges losing 2 players just before and throughout the season, but were able to come together and persevere. The team had an amazing run at provincials finishing first after the round robin games and heading into semi finals. After a very hard fought overtime loss in the semi finals against Richmond Hill, they finished 4th overall. This team should be very proud of their development and perseverance throughout the season. We wish luck to all players staying at U16 and those moving up to U19 as well.

The U19A team played in a very large GLRL division of 13 teams and were very successful finishing 4th overall (10-6-4). This is an amazing accomplishment for these athletes and the team should feel very proud of this success. The team qualified for provincials and faced some very difficult teams. The team had great success this season on the ice and finished the season feeling proud of their accomplishments.

Next season Kitchener will be hosting U16AA, U19AA (in combination with Guelph Ringette Association) and U14A.

We thank all our provincial coaches for the amazing and tireless work they put into the athletes on their teams and I congratulate our rep teams on their amazing success that they had this past season.

Natalie Piggott
2023/2024 KRA Provincial Convener

REGIONAL CONVENOR'S REPORT

KRA continues to have a strong Regional program. We continue to have players from other associations coming to KRA looking for a place to play this great sport. We had a team at every level this season. We were able to keep the teams smaller at the FUN3, U12 and U14 age groups. This allowed for players to get more ice time. Smaller team sizes at FUN3 and U12 was encouraged by Ringette Ontario for player development. With a large number of players at U12, we moved three FUN3 players to U12 to facilitate two U12B teams. We also had enough players at U19 which allowed us to have two teams. Unfortunately KRA had to say goodbye to 8 players at the U19 level who have aged out at the end of this season. Good luck to all of you in the future and hopefully you all continue to play this great sport!

Every team at the Regional level earned a medal at a tournament, year end Regionals or the U12 event. Congratulations to U12B - Bluhm on finishing as the 2nd best team in Ontario at the U12 event. These successes are a result of the ability of our coaches to help the players improve their skill and become a team. I would like to thank all of our coaches, managers and bench staff at the Regional level for their time and efforts. Without your commitment and dedication we wouldn't have a Regional program.

I want to thank all of the parents and fans of our Regional teams for your continued support of this great sport. I only had a couple of incidents that I had to deal with. I encourage all of you to show positive support to our coaches, players and referees when attending games in the future.

I want to wish everyone a great summer and I hope to see all of you in September for the 2024-25 season. Just a friendly reminder that registration is open for next season. There is an early bird discount until July 1, 2024. Please sign up as soon as you can to allow us to prepare for 2024-25.

Kevin Vautour
Regional Convener

REGISTRAR'S REPORT

The 2023-2024 season turned out to be a great full season with tournaments, clinics and other great activities for our association

Registration:

KRA saw a total of 216 KRA home association players and 60 staff registered.

8 players subsequently withdrew for various reasons.

25 players were released to another association for the season,

21 players transferred into KRA

Clinics saw a total of 65 registered players.

13 goalie clinic, 14 prep for rep, 18 power skating, Laurier clinic's 8 clinics- 176 total

Laurier PD camps- Nov 13, 36 players, Jan 19, 28 players

Going forward, we will add Ringette Ontario insurance and membership fees as a secondary charge at registration and this will be added to our players' association fees. This will come across as an increase to KRA fees, while it's a combination of our fees and Ringette Ontario Insurance/membership fees.

2022-2023 Carry-forward Credits

Thankfully RAMP's account credit system is working properly and many members were able to use their outstanding credits for Springette registration. Any KRA members who still have credits will see them automatically applied against your fall registration.

Credit Refunds

Any family can request their credit to be refunded by their method of payment at any time if you do not wish to retain this credit. There is a \$5.75 charge for e transfer refund and there is also a 3% fee for credit card refunds. These fees cover our associated fees from the bank and/or credit card provider.

Credit Card Surcharge

Players registered will have noticed a 3% surcharge for credit card payments. This will continue going forward to help recover the processing fees charges by our provider. E-transfer payment is ALWAYS welcomed, and encouraged, and does not have this surcharge. Just remember to include the NAME of the player. E transfer payments are manually updated in RAMP by our treasurer so will not show on your account immediately.

See you at the rinks!

Lee-Anne Hoch

KRA Registrar

COACHING DIRECTOR REPORT

The 2023-2024 season saw a number of new volunteers entering the coaching ranks for the association, bolstering our staff of returning coaches. KRA continued to host a full slate of regional teams, as well as both AA and A level teams, and we were in the fortunate position of having seven fully qualified female head coaches among our twelve teams. Once again, our coaching applications for the 2024-2025 season were completed and submitted using our online form.

At the provincial level we had three teams hosted in Kitchener this year: U14AA, U16AA, and U19A. All teams were equipped with coaches that had significant experience in ringette as either a player, coach, referee, or all three. These teams were a joint effort with Waterloo and coaching selection was done cooperatively between the Kitchener Coaching Director and Waterloo Coaching Director, with interviews being held by a joint committee consisting of members representing each association.

The KRA was also able to contribute to the hosting of three provincial teams in Waterloo: U19AA, U16A, and U14A. As with the Kitchener hosted teams, coaching selection was a joint effort and saw many qualified and experienced coaches filling these positions – some of whom were previous KRA coaches taking positions in Waterloo. The coaching staff is continuing with our focus of developing our players, and striving to have everyone happily return to KRA next year.

In addition to the Provincial teams hosted, we were incredibly fortunate enough to be able to host at least one regional team at every level, including hosting two at both U12 and U19. Some incredible coaches returned with us this season to coach our regional teams. We also had some volunteers step up and move into coaching positions where we were struggling to find some, despite the fact that finding new volunteers has become increasingly difficult over the past several seasons. A renewed focus on growing our sport, and the Fundamentals level of play, will bring new challenges; but those that we are well situated to deal with effectively. We had some incredibly successful teams within our association at 2024 Regionals, and are working hard to ensure that our coaches have the necessary support to see that the success continues.

In total, we had roughly 60 volunteers in coaching and support positions within our association this season. Surveys were released to membership in December and April, in order to provide feedback on the coaches and the association. These survey results have been reviewed, and summaries distributed to coaches, giving the opportunity to provide valuable feedback to our current coaches and allowing commentary to be provided to our coaching committees. This information is invaluable in assisting with coach selection for the 2024-2025 season. Furthermore, this feedback will continue to be provided to our existing coaches in order to help in their growth as coaches, and to help ensure we are providing our membership with the best coaching we can.

Steven Hertz
KRA Coaching Director

EVENTS COORDINATOR REPORT

KRA events are a way to celebrate with existing players and families, and also an opportunity to bring new people into the sport. If you came to an event this year, I hope you had fun.

This is my second year on the board running events. Last year we reintroduced a Winter Party and Player Appreciation Pancake Brunch, and both were great successes again this year with over 100 players and families at each event. One way we show our appreciation to the players is by awarding pins for 5, 10 or 15 years playing with KRA. We had 14 players receiving 10yr pins this year, and 34 receiving 5yr pins. Special mention goes to **Laura Saunderson** who received her 15yr pin this year.

Team photos were the biggest challenge for events this year. Thank you all for your patience and understanding as we tried to get team photos and individual orders sorted. We will be using a different photographer for next season.

One important goal for Events this year has been to attract more kids and families who are new to ringette. We hosted additional Come Try Ringette events (2 in September 2023, 1 during the Winter holidays, and 1 in Spring). Attendance at Come Try Ringette has been growing and the April event saw 60 kids registered and 45 on the ice. We also spent a day at King Edward School running 30min introductions to ringette in the school gym. This proved successful, adding new players in January and helping with recruitment for the Winter and Spring Come Try Ringette events.

Bringing new kids and families to ringette will be the primary goal for next season.

Lastly, all the events rely heavily on the time, energy and enthusiasm of KRA volunteers - a huge thank you to all of you who helped out this year. We couldn't do it without you.

Sam Laban
Events Coordinator

MARKETING DIRECTOR REPORT

The Marketing Director position oversees advertising, social media, and general outreach on behalf of the association. Social media is a significant part of our advertising and marketing strategy. It is a way to share our game and grow participation. So as a note, please try and share our posts widely - word of mouth is how new players get attracted to ringette, so tell your friends and family what an awesome time your kids are having!

A few other highlights of the past season:

- Wildcat gear (shirts, hoodies, touques), were sourced and made available for purchase at Play It Again Sports.
- Attended KidSpark outdoor festival hosted by the City of Kitchener (August 2023).
- Re-started advertising in the City of Kitchener Active Kitchener guide, starting with the Fall 2023 program. Contracting with a local graphic designer to professionally create this work.
- Application for funding from WRRRA for marketing support for print ads, and for sticks for new players.
- Continued to advertise on Facebook and Instagram for Come Try Ringette events. We have had good success with this approach to advertising, and it seems to provide good value for money spent.
- We hope that the membership has enjoyed seeing what all the KRA teams are up to on social media and we appreciate your contributions. Coaches, managers, and parents are instrumental in ensuring that action photos/videos are shared on the main KRA accounts, so please feel free to DM them to those accounts during tournaments, games, other team events.

In conclusion, marketing is progressing well, but as always, there is more to be done. Other possible ideas for the future include restarting gym ringette, enhanced merchandise procurement, sharing gym ringette kits with interested schools, as well as continuing to refine our traditional forms of advertising, such as flyers, bulletin boards, etc.

Peter Johnson
Marketing Director

FINANCIAL REPORTS

BALANCE SHEET

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Current Assets		
General Bank Account	\$92,214	\$76,276
Bingo Bank Account	\$25,550	\$15,308
Raffle Bank Account	\$10,500	\$10,020
eTransfer Bank Account	\$193	\$794
Total Cash	<u>\$128,457</u>	<u>\$102,398</u>
Receivables	\$3,431	\$2,355
Prepaid Expenses	\$5,451	\$6,413
Total Current Assets	<u>\$8,882</u>	<u>\$8,768</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$137,339</u>	<u>\$111,167</u>
Current Liabilities		
Deferred Revenue	\$8,175	\$2,996
Other Payables	\$27,441	\$2,416
TOTAL LIABILITY	<u>\$35,616</u>	<u>\$5,412</u>
RETAINED EARNINGS		
Retained Earnings - Previous Year	\$100,324	\$89,543
Current Earnings / (Loss)	\$1,399	\$16,212
Total Retained Earnings	<u>\$101,724</u>	<u>\$105,755</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	<u>\$137,339</u>	<u>\$111,167</u>

Unaudited

INCOME STATEMENT

REVENUE	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Operating Revenue			
Registration Fees	\$120,722	\$109,470	\$11,252
Donations	\$0	\$0	\$0
Net Sales	<u>\$120,722</u>	<u>\$109,470</u>	<u>\$11,252</u>
Other Revenue			
Bingo Revenue	\$9,501	\$12,004	\$(2,503)
Golden Ring Tournament	\$6,456	\$6,235	\$220
Grants	\$1,602	\$9,500	\$(7,898)
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$655	\$121	\$534
Total Other Revenue	<u>\$18,215</u>	<u>\$27,861</u>	<u>\$(9,646)</u>
Current Earnings	<u>\$138,937</u>	<u>\$137,331</u>	<u>\$1,605</u>
EXPENSE			
Program Costs			
Ice Rentals	\$89,658	\$88,830	\$828
Referees	\$8,205	\$7,500	\$705
Timekeepers/Scorekeepers	\$2,500	\$2,280	\$220
Game sheets	\$0	\$0	\$0
Equipment & Jerseys	\$7,673	\$8,399	\$(726)
ORA Membership Fees	\$13,603	\$1,225	\$12,378
WRRRA, WORL, SWIRL Mem Fees	\$500	\$300	\$200
Referee, Coaching, Trainer & Manager Cert Fees	\$4,021	\$2,311	\$1,710
Player Development Costs	\$3,139	\$3,850	\$(711)
Total Programs Cost	<u>\$129,298</u>	<u>\$114,694</u>	<u>\$14,604</u>
General & Administrative Expenses			
Accounting & Legal	\$2,589	\$452	\$2,137
Advertising & Promotions	\$1,050	\$1,067	\$(17)
Credit Card Charges	\$(186)	\$0	\$(186)
Player Appreciation Day	\$2,067	\$1,932	\$135
Office Expenses (Post Office & interest & bank)	\$524	\$306	\$218
Computer and Internet (Software)	\$0	\$139	\$(139)
Back Room Bingo expense	\$0	\$0	\$0
Miscellaneous Expenses	\$0	\$324	\$(324)
Rent for Downtown Lock-up	\$0	\$933	\$(933)
Room Rentals	\$82	\$567	\$(485)
Events Expenses	\$365	\$93	\$272
Photography expenses	\$0	\$1,932	\$(1932)
Website Fees	\$1,750	\$613	\$1,138
Total General & Admin. Expenses	<u>\$6,426</u>	<u>\$6,426</u>	<u>\$0</u>
TOTAL EXPENSE	<u>\$137,435</u>	<u>\$121,120</u>	<u>\$16,418</u>
NET INCOME	<u>\$1,399</u>	<u>\$16,212</u>	<u>\$(14,813)</u>

Unaudited

