

Annual General Meeting Kitchener Ringette Association



Murray Fried Room - Activa Sportsplex and
Zoom – May 25, 2023

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WELCOME

Welcome to everyone able to attend KRA's 2022-2023 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 2022-2023 season, and start looking forward to 2023-2024.

For those attending the AGM online

Once again this year we have to option to attend the meeting through Western Region's Zoom account. Please note the following notes and rules to the meeting to ensure that everything flows smoothly.

- Non presenters will be placed in a "Participant" status. You will not be able to unmute your microphones or participate directly in the meeting.
- We ask that all attendees send a private chat to Chris Sharpe 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 Chris will relay them to the live meeting.
- The meeting may be recorded for minute-taking purposes

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This past season was the first full, unrestricted season post COVID and it was so wonderful to see the return of tournaments, team get together and association wide events. I think we can safely say that COVID is part of our history and we can return to planning and preparing for regular seasons. As I reflect on this past season there are a lot of things to be thankful for and a number of things that KRA will need to prioritize to continue to provide local players with the opportunity to play ringette in Kitchener..

First and foremost, I would like to thank KRA's board of directors and key volunteers. Our organization's success is a result of the following committed and hard-working group of board members and volunteers:

The 2022/2023 Executive:

President: Nancy Holmes

Coaching Director: Meghan Pearse

Registrar: Lee Ann Hoch

Ice Scheduler: Simone Buckley

Provincial Convenor: Brian Kettles

Marketing Director: Peter Johnson

Past President: Neil Murray

Vice President: Kris Lessard

Treasurer: Nancy Nicolson-Houghtling

Secretary: Neil Murray

Director of Communications: Stewart Saunderson

Regional Convenor: Steve Hertz

Events Coordinator: Sam Laban

Key Volunteers Positions:

Referee in Chief: Stewart Saunderson

Minor Officials Coordinator: Jenn Kettles

Bingo Coordinator: Connie McFatridge

Golden Ring Chair: Shannon O'Connor

Social Media Coordinator: Avery Holmes

Equipment Manager: Shantel Rodriguez

IT: Neil Murray

The above list identifies those behind the scenes organizing our season; putting in countless hours securing ice, updating RAMP, creating teams, finding coaches, planning events, tracking our finances and trying to promote and grow this sport. However, there are other volunteers that are integral to the association: coaches, managers and parents that all volunteer their time to enable our players to play the sport they love.

This season marked the return of our Golden Ring Tournament, organized by Shannon O'Connor. Thank you Shannon for stepping forward to fill this crucial role. The tournament was a big success and the profits from the tournament will be used to purchase new jerseys or equipment or to fund discounted registration for new players so that we can continue to grow the association.

We were also able to run our Prep for Rep program again this year. Thank you to Anne MacDonald for putting in the time to organize a comprehensive program that can be followed for years to come. Although we will see changes to the 12A level of play in the coming season, KRA is committed to working with neighbouring associations to ensure that players can play at the level they want and are able to.

This season saw the introduction to electronic gamesheets. Thank you to Jenn Kettles for overseeing the training of our minor officials to move to this online application and thank you to Simone Buckley for ensuring that all coaches had easy access to their game codes.

Looking forward to the 2023-2024 season, there are some areas on which KRA will need to focus their efforts. One of the areas is player recruitment and growth. 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. Another area on which KRA will have to concentrate is volunteerism. Volunteerism seems to be on the decline, however, without volunteers, KRA cannot run efficiently. This past season we were not able to ice all of the teams that we had hoped for due to lack of volunteer coaches. 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 2022-2023 season was a success. Our wildcats made us proud on and off the ice and I look forward to seeing everyone again in the fall. Until then, have a safe and enjoyable summer!

Nancy Holmes
Outgoing President
Kitchener Ringette Association

PROVINCIAL CONVENOR'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 Meghan Pearse
- U16AA, coached by Mel Norris
- U19A, coached by Jennifer Crane

Meanwhile, Waterloo hosted the following combined teams:

- U14A, coached by April Bates
- U16A, coached by Laura Tunstall
- U19AA, coached by Kenzie Taylor

The U14AA had a very successful season finishing 2nd overall in league play (14-3-3) and winning a silver medal on Provincials, earning a place at the Eastern Canadian Ring Championships in Dieppe, New Brunswick. While the team did not have the success on the ice at Eastern that they were hoping for, fun was had by all and it was an experience these young players will carry with them throughout the rest of their ringette careers.

This year the U16AA played in a very competitive division finishing the season with a 5-15 record. At provincials that had great success finishing with a 3-3 record, losing in the Quarterfinals. The players gained a lot of experience playing tough opponents that will serve them well as some move up to U19, and returning players become the veterans and mentors for the U14 players moving up.

The U19A team played in a large division of 12 teams, finishing 8th with a record of 6-13-1. They faced several challenges early on, losing a couple of players, but the team came together and finished the season feeling proud of what they accomplished.

Next season Kitchener will once again host joint U14AA, U16AA, and U19A teams, while Waterloo will host our U14A, U16A and U19A teams.

Tryouts have been completed for the AA teams and the teams declared, with U19A tryouts underway. Starting in the 2023/2024 season U12A will become part of the regional program.

I congratulate our rep teams and all KRA rep players on a great 2022/2023 season and I look forward to seeing even greater results from the KRA teams for the 2023/2024 season.

Yours in ringette,

Brian Kettles

2022/2023 KRA Provincial Convener

REGIONAL CONVENOR'S REPORT

To begin, I would like to thank all the players, parents, coaches, and volunteers for helping to provide a fantastic season.

While we had our struggles early in the season adjusting to being back after a two-year pandemic, we made it through and provided our players and fans with another great year of ringette. We had at least one team at every single age division, and considering the climate of uncertainty heading into the season that is outstanding. We welcomed a number of players from other centres into our association and were made a better association for it. Many of our teams took part in tournaments across the province, and in some cases the country, including Western Regionals here in Kitchener-Wilmot. All in all, a great event, and a great year was had.

However, no year goes by without trials, and this year was certainly no different. Several serious issues were raised, including: gender identity and changerooms, healthy team environments, appropriate injury policies, and timely parental feedback. All of these issues shaped our year as an association, and my work as a convenor. These issues shone a clear light on the Association's need for clear policies, and improved communication with parents and coaches. Hopefully the work we've done this year will help put us in a better place going forward. I look forward to seeing some of these changes in effect next season.

I wish all the players leaving us and moving on to their next adventure the very best.

Steven Hertz

Regional Convener

REGISTRAR'S REPORT

The 2022-2023 season has returned to a normal as could be expected year with regular games, practices, tournaments, and year end breakfast.

Registration:

KRA saw a total of 240 KRA home association players and 67 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.

11 goalie clinic, 12 prep for rep, 17 power skating and 25 for June power skating

2022-2023 Ringette Ontario added on their insurance and membership fees as secondary charge at registration, but going forward into 2023-2024 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's 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 \$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 2022-2023 season was, overall, successful, having overcome some obstacles at the beginning of the season. This season not only saw a number of new volunteers entering coaching positions, but also continued to strengthen our working relationship with Waterloo, creating opportunities to host both AA and A level teams at each level. Our coaching applications were completed and submitted using our online form again this year.

From a provincial perspective we had two AA teams and 1 A team hosted in Kitchener this year - U14, U16 and U19. All teams were equipped with coaches that have a multitude of experience in this sport either as a player, coach, ref or all of the above. These teams were a joint effort with Waterloo and coaching selection was done as a joint effort between the Kitchener Coaching Director and Waterloo Coaching Director with interviews being held by a joint committee with representation from both associations.

We were also able to contribute to the hosting of 1 AA team and 3 A teams in Waterloo – U19, U16, U14 and U12. As with the U14AA, U16AA and U19A teams, coaching selection was a joint effort and we saw many qualified and experienced coaches filling these positions – some of whom were Kitchener coaches, taking positions in Waterloo. We saw great success within our provincial programs, seeing a U19AA National attendance and a U14AA Easterns attendance, speaking to the development of our players.

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, and hosting two at FUN 3. Some incredible coaches returned with us this season to coach a number of our regional teams. We also had some volunteers step up and move into coaching positions where we were struggling to find some. While we were able to staff all of our teams this season, we did see a challenge with our ability to host a second U14 team at our regional level this year. Despite our best efforts, we weren't able to find a coach to staff a second team, requiring the movement of players to other age groups. It's important to note that without our many coaching volunteers we wouldn't be able to host the teams that we do and we're always looking for new individuals to step into this role. Finding new volunteers for these positions has been increasingly difficult within the last few seasons. Despite our struggles, we had some incredibly successful teams within our regional field at our 2023 Regionals.

In total, we had roughly 60 volunteers in coaching or supporting positions with our association this season. A number of these coaches were equipped with the necessary qualifications needed to coach at the level they were placed in and several successfully completed upgrades to their qualifications.

A coaching survey was released to membership to complete in order to provide feedback on their child(ren)'s coaches. These survey results have been reviewed, giving the opportunity to provide valuable feedback to some of our current coaches and allowing commentary to be provided to our coaching committees to assist in coaching selection for the 2023-2024 season. Further feedback will continue to be provided to our existing coaches using these results.

Meghan Pearse
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, we hope you had fun.

This was our family's second season with ringette and my first year as a volunteer board member. We had some great successes with the Holiday Party and Player Appreciation Pancake Brunch. There's also some room for improvement with a few of our other events.

Most importantly, I want to say a big **THANK YOU** to all those players, parents (and even grandparents) who helped with events in big and small ways this year. We couldn't have done it without you.

There were 5 events this year:

Come Try Ringette - a free event, hosted in early September, for prospective kids and families

- 22 registered, ranging in age from 4 to 9. Feedback from skaters and parents on the day was overwhelmingly positive, and we recruited a number of new players. Will be working with the Marketing Director to attract more players for next season.
- **Volunteer Thank Yous.....** **Becky Branton** for leading a fun hour on the ice; **Brian Kettles** for being KiRA the KRA Mascot

Team Photos - pictures of players and teams to remember the season

- Almost everyone made it out to get their photo (only a handful of players missed out), which was great.
- Feedback on the photography company was mixed, so I will look at alternate vendors for the 23 / 24 season

Lions Club Santa Claus Parade - KRA and Waterloo join forces to walk in the parade

- Players and parents had a great time.... but only a few from KRA could make it (clashed with the St. Catherine's Tournament). Earlier scheduling should help.
- **Volunteer Thank You....** **Amanda Fendley** for walking all that way as KiRA the KRA Mascot!

KRA Winter Holiday Party - family skate, music, hot chocolate, and photo booth

- This was a new event for KRA, and although a snow storm forced us to reschedule, we still had 100+ players and family members come to Lions Arena for a fun evening during the holidays.
- **Volunteer Thank Yous:** **Vanessa DuBois** for making 80 hot chocolate "bombs"; **Simone Buckley** for serving drinks and helping clean-up; **Darren Conley** for being our DJ for the night; **Peter Johnson** for running the photo booth

Player Appreciation and Pancake Brunch - our end of season celebration and awards

- This was the first player appreciation event since the pandemic, and we welcomed 100+ players and family members to a sunny Victoria Park Pavillion for a pancake brunch
- One way we show our appreciation to the players is by awarding pins for 5 or 10 years playing with KRA. 15 players were awarded pins this year.
- **Volunteer Thanks Yous....** **John and Linda Deneau** for event planning, shopping, and lending equipment; **Sandra, Kevin and Maddie Vautour** for buying and washing a mountain of fruit, and being amazing help on the day; **Amy Kaster, Larissa Conley** for serving all those breakfasts; **Steve Hertz and Jeanette McNamara** for being our grill masters

We've included a small sample of photographs from some of these events at the end of this report.

I hope to build on these events for next season, and have identified the following goals:

- set the events calendar early in the year so players, teams and families can plan accordingly
- increase participation at Come Try Ringette
- host a holiday party again
- work with older teams and players to create events that really appeal to them

Players Receiving Pins this Season

5yr Pins

Holly McLagan (FUN3)

Kya Davis (U12C)

Kaya Widdifield (U12C)

Ava Willcott (14AA)

Maddie Vautour (U16B)

Isabel Pfeiffer (U16B)

MacKenzie Rodriguez (16A)

Caitlyn George (U19)

Alexa Jantzi (U19B)

Keyshia Martin (Open A)

10yr pins

Ella Sharpe (U14AA)

Jada Gervais (U19B)

Tristan Melsted (U19A)

Hannah Elliott (U16AA)

Sami Fox (U16AA)

Sam Laban

Events Coordinator

MARKETING DIRECTOR REPORT

This is my first report as Marketing Director, as I took on the position in October 2022. I am still learning the ropes for what can be a very broad role. 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.
- To better support our social media strategy, the Facebook account was revived and merged with our robust Instagram feed. Both platforms are now accessible from the same publishing interface, making it easier to update.
- Going to re-start advertising in the City of Kitchener Active Kitchener guide, starting with the Fall 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.
- Worked with Avery Holmes to keep up a steady stream of social media posts. This has resulted in the growth of our profiles, as well as significant increases in engagement. We hope that the membership has enjoyed seeing what all the KRA teams are up to and we appreciate your contributions.

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, 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>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Current Assets		
General Bank Account	\$76,276	\$66,275
Bingo Bank Account	\$15,308	\$15,575
Raffle Bank Account	\$10,020	\$9,236
eTransfer Bank Account	\$794	\$2,230
Total Cash	<u>\$102,398</u>	<u>\$93,315</u>
Receivables	\$2,355	\$597
Prepaid Expenses	\$6,413	\$4,983
Total Current Assets	<u>\$8,768</u>	<u>\$5,580</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>\$111,167</u></u>	<u><u>\$98,895</u></u>
Current Liabilities		
Deferred Revenue	\$2,996	\$6,680
Other Payables	\$2,416	\$2,672
TOTAL LIABILITY	<u>\$5,412</u>	<u>\$9,352</u>
RETAINED EARNINGS		
Retained Earnings - Previous Year	\$89,543	\$85,264
Current Earnings / (Loss)	\$16,212	\$4,279
Total Retained Earnings	<u>\$105,755</u>	<u>\$89,543</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	<u><u>\$111,167</u></u>	<u><u>\$98,895</u></u>

Unaudited

INCOME STATEMENT

REVENUE	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Operating Revenue			
Registration Fees	\$109,470	\$100,926	\$8,544
Donations	\$0	\$0	\$0
Net Sales	<u>\$109,470</u>	<u>\$100,926</u>	<u>\$8,544</u>
Other Revenue			
Bingo Revenue	\$12,004	\$5,373	\$6,631
Golden Ring Tournament	\$6,235	\$0	\$6,235
Ringette Ontario Grant	\$9,500	\$0	\$9,500
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$121	\$375	\$(254)
Total Other Revenue	<u>\$27,861</u>	<u>\$5,748</u>	<u>\$22,113</u>
Current Earnings	<u>\$137,331</u>	<u>\$106,674</u>	<u>\$30,657</u>
EXPENSE			
Program Costs			
Ice Rentals	\$88,830	\$70,982	\$17,848
Referees	\$7,500	\$3,127	\$4,373
Timekeepers/Scorekeepers	\$2,280	\$590	\$1,690
Game sheets	\$0	\$208	\$(208)
Equipment & Jerseys	\$8,399	\$3,051	\$5,348
ORA Membership Fees	\$1,225	\$15,869	\$(14,644)
WRRRA, WORL, SWIRL Mem Fees	\$300	\$420	\$(120)
Referee, Coaching, Trainer & Manager Cert Fees	\$2,311	\$1,584	\$727
Player Development Costs	\$3,850	\$130	\$3,720
Total Programs Cost	<u>\$114,694</u>	<u>\$95,961</u>	<u>\$18,733</u>
General & Administrative Expenses			
Accounting & Legal	\$452	\$209	\$243
Advertising & Promotions	\$1,067	\$1,466	\$(399)
Credit Card Charges	\$0	\$1,389	\$(1,389)
Player Appreciation Day	\$0	\$0	\$0
Office Expenses (Post Office & interest & bank)	\$306	\$758	\$(452)
Computer and Internet (Software)	\$139	\$0	\$139
Back Room Bingo expense	\$0	\$545	\$(545)
Miscellaneous Expenses	\$324	\$552	\$(228)
Rent for Downtown Lock-up	\$933	\$0	\$933
Room Rentals	\$567	\$0	\$567
Events Expenses	\$93	\$0	\$93
Photography expenses	\$1,932	\$0	\$1,932
Website Fees	\$613	\$1,513	\$(901)
Total General & Admin. Expenses	<u>\$6,426</u>	<u>\$6,433</u>	<u>\$(7)</u>
TOTAL EXPENSE	<u>\$121,120</u>	<u>\$102,394</u>	<u>\$18,726</u>
NET INCOME	<u>\$16,212</u>	<u>\$4,280</u>	<u>\$11,932</u>

Unaudited

Event Photos

Photo Booth from the Winter Holiday Party



Pancake Brunch

