**RRLA AGM MINUTES**

## Piazza De Nardi

### 145 Pacific Avenue

### Saturday October 16, 2016 @ 10:00 AM

ATTENDANCE:

**Board Members:**

| Name | Title | Email Address | Phone |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Serge Balcaen | President | serge@pmc-insurance.com | 204-955-9060 |
| Andrew Jolly | Vice-President | sidewinders@shaw.ca | 204-253-5951 |
| Valerie Gingell | Treasurer / Registrar | vlgingell@gmail.com | 204-223-8377 |
| Laurie From | Secretary | laurie.from@f55f.com | 204-782-2631 |
|  | Marketing & Promotions |  | 204-782-5102 |
| Steve Cumpsty | Schedule Management | sjcumpsty@gmail.com | 204-805-4115 |
| Bruce Paton | Referee in Chief | bpaton@mpi.mb.ca | 204-254-9120 |
|  | Zone 1 Gryphons |  |  |
| Kim Schotchenko | Zone 2 Falcons | nwfalconslax@gmail.com | 204-330-0374 |
| Steve Cumpsty | Zone 3 Shamrocks | sjcumpsty@gmail.com | 204-805-4115 |
|  | Zone 4 Sidewinders |  | 204-801-2693 |
| Jon Ottenson | Zone 5 Wizards | goaldy5@mymts.net | 204-981-9831 |
|  | Ojibway Juniors |  | 204-999-1750 |
|  | Director at Large/Even |  | 204-837-3364 |
| Cary Schotchenko | Director at Large/Odd | cary@absolutepetro.ca | 204-918-3402 |
| Open  | MLD Representative |   |   |
| Paul Magnan | Manitoba Lacrosse |  | 204-925-5684 |
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 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 14, 2015 AGM**:

* Motion by: Valerie Gingell to accept 2015 RRLA AGM Minutes dated October 14, 2015
	+ Seconded by: Steve Cumpsty
		- All In Favour – Motion Passed

**OPENING REMARKS**

**PRESIDENTS REPORT – Serge Balcaen**

* Report Attached

**VICE PRESIDENTS REPORT – Andrew Jolly**

* Report Attached

**TREASURER’S REPORT**

* Report Attached
	+ Paul Krestanowich commented that the financial report looked good and the total number of players was ~550 for the league. The total loss over the year was ~$2,600. Valerie addressed the concern of every year the bank balance dwindling down instead of holding onto the funds with the dream of having our own Lacrosse building in the City of Winnipeg.
	+ Paul Magnan posed the question about the loss of players by almost 50% are we looking at recruitment for the next season; is there a committee formed to look into this?
	+ Pat Henry asked where the largest loss of players exists and it was confirmed that Junior and Midget are the largest loss ages. Paul K. also commented that the numbers are dwindling at the younger stages as well.
	+ Donna McCartney mentioned that from her point of view that the website needs to be enhanced. As a new parent going onto the website there is not information of where they would belong; yes, the Zone logos are available the areas they include are not readily available.
		- There is also no Community Club exposure at registration time.
		- Kyle McCartney ran a summer program out of James Nesbitt school this year and he had over 200 kids with sticks in hands.
			* Kim Schotenko mentioned that Falcons had no idea this was going on in the Zone.

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* + Cary Schotenko mentioned that there is little to no marketing exposure.
		- Rob Gardner reiterated that this is a huge problem and that his team was filled by one player’s parent who actively recruited an 8A1 team.
	+ Serge mentioned that since we have gone to on-line registration the numbers continue to drop. We need table representation at registration time with players outside throwing a ball around.
	+ Kim mentioned that we need to look at things from an RRLA prespective not at a Zone level.

**OTHER REORTS**

* SECRETARY - Laurie From
	+ Attendance at Board meetings and commitment to Board positions remained a challenge for the 2016 season. We all need to be present to accomplish the goals for an enhanced 2017 season.
* ZONE 1 – Valerie Gingell
	+ This year has been a bit of a struggle.
	+ They had Mark Beghin come in to do a Coaching Clinic with the new Coaches.
		- This was good but there was too much information for clinic next year they will have a clinic for new Coaches and one for more developed Coaches
	+ Their Board is also going through a transition. They should be getting the Board together in the near future.
	+ Registration was down this year
* ZONE 2 – Kim Schotchenko
	+ Zone is in trouble despite backpack drops through the Seven Oaks School Division; despite a free lacrosse program all winter at Duncan arena; despite running a come try lacrosse program at Maples.
	+ There were only three teams in the Zone for the 2016 season.
	+ The Zone needs a new Board to survive
	+ The Zone has 50,000 people with the majority being Philippino and East Indian and this demographic does not/ has not played lacrosse. The RRLA needs to redraw the boundries to encourage growth in lacorsse as there is more growth in some areas that others.
		- Hockey has also seen a decrease in numbers despite the new housing because the residents are more apt to play soccer, cricket, basketball or baseball.

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* + When drawing up the new boundries we should consider calling those Zones new names so we can lose the old mindset of ‘I’m a Gryphon or I’m a Falcon’.
		- Renaming the Zones will hurt for the first year or two but after that it will become ‘normal’.
	+ The last year of JR the players were not interested in practicing but they would show up to the games. This has more of a ‘beer hockey’ feel.
		- With the lower numbers players would bring out friends that did not know the game and this turned the game from a game of skill to more fighting in the game.
	+ Doug Krochak mentioned that when he coached the first time with the Falcons they had more players come out from Stonewall, Beausejour, etc, than they had players from within the city boundry.
		- This year with only one level of lacrosse being offered this has left the higher skilled players looking for more opportunity.
		- Years ago the Jr. Program brought out fans to watch the game being played and everyone cheered for ‘their’ teams.
	+ Rob Gardner mentioned that even though there is not enough players to have an ‘A’ and ‘B’ league we have dropped the ball when it comes for the more elite players to continue to enhance their skills.
		- Nationals is somewhat flawed in the fact that they have Manitoba competing against Ontario and ILA however this option is better than no option.
		- Serge mentioned that another option here would be the Canada Day Tournament in Calgary.
	+ The concern about age groups and the size of the children was brought up. Novice and below has a NO contact policy that needs to be adhered to; this has gotten better however there is still room for improvement.
		- Paul M. summarized that Coaching is an issue but so is consistancy in the in how the Officials make calls. Both of these issues need to addressed and a decision needs to be made in how and when this will happen.

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ZONE 3

* The Board is in good shape currently with 9 members.
	+ They host a Come Try Lacrosse through email invites to hockey players. This year they had 40-70 kids show up and they are able to register approx. 2/3 of them.
	+ They have a couple of lacrosse Dad’s that go into schools and run the phys.ed class for the day to introduce the kids to lacrosse.
	+ They have about 10-12 kids that travel in from Headingley and the surrounding area.
	+ Financially the Zone is in a good spot
	+ We, as a league, need to find a way to curb the violence to help with player retention.
	+ This Zone is absolutely affected negatively by the High School Field program at both Midget and Junior.

ZONE 4

* They have a new President this year, Richard D.
* This Zone feels they need a plan to enhance their registrations
* The website continues to be an area requiring work
* They have hosted and will continue to host a Discover Lacrosse program which is open to the public and free of charge.
	+ This will be held in early January in the Notre Dame Community Club gym.

ZONE 5

* Last year they experienced a loss of players
	+ Young players did not return because of the violence in the game
	+ Two years ago they had a problem with Novice Coaches; they were asked not to coach again and this helped keep those kids playing.
* The Zone brought in Rob Wilson to do a 4 hour Coaching Clinic which was well received and is something they will look at doing again.
* The Zone has started to bring in young coaches to work with parent coaches which was also successful.
* We need to get better support for our Refs.
	+ Bantam and Midget games are out of hand
	+ Losing players to violence cannot be tolerated

MARKETING DIRECTOR – Open Position

* + There needs to be a clear marketing plan along with a budget line to support exposure of the sport.
		- The MLA is also making a push on Marketing this year; we need to work together to make an impact.
	+ We need to hire an employee to manage the Marketing of Lacrosse perhaps in partnership with the MLA.

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* + Laurie mentioned that the Manitoba Blizzard players are ready, willing and able to help with manpower for these types of things.
	+ Doug mentioned that although kids have a terrific one day experience this has not translated into players in the RRLA. Once we have recruited the players we also need the Coaches and Officials to support a safe and fun experience for new players.
* REFEREE IN CHIEF – Bruce Paton
	+ Rob Gardner mentioned that there needs to be a new attitude when it comes to the struggle between Coaches, Officials, and parents. There seems to be a culture of ‘us against them’ and this has been harmful to the level of respect throughout the league.
		- Refs, Coaches, players, and fans all care about the game but for some reason there seems to be a disconnect in the level of cooperation from all involved.
	+ Ref Mentorship and training needs to be more structured than a one room clinic. With so many Coaches in a room there is too large of a gap in the room to be completely effective.
		- Doug mentioned that Lacrosse is the only sport that insists on Coaches going through all the levels of coaching instead of having them get certified to coach the level they will be coaching.
* SCHEDULER – Steve Cumpsty
	+ The intention for 2017 is to do the schedule the same way as this year. There cannot be enough emphasis on each Zone having a minimum of 2 representatives present at the meeting so that we can a more workable schedule with as little open floor time as possible.
		- The playoff schedule worked however we will plan to start a little earlier as well as keep the age groups as close to their assigned days as possible.
		- The issue of weekend play was brought up; however we need to manage either end by June 30th or avoid weekends.
* DIRECTOR AT LARGE – Open Position
* DIRECOR AT LARGE – Open Position

**OTHER BUSINESS**

* Professional Website Hosting and Webmaster – we have to fix
	+ If anyone knows someone we need someone who can build and/or manage the website. We cannot pay much but we need to have someone come forward.
		- Paul M. says that this is also something that the MLA is looking at.
* Online registration – change or stay with Pointstreak
	+ Tabled to the New Board making this decision

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**NOMINATIONS & ELECTIONS – MEMBERSHIP ON BOARD**

* **We need people and new people to get involved.**

Vice President – 2 year term

* Treasurer - 2 year term
* Marketing – 2 year term
* Director at Large – 2 year term
* Web Media Director – 1 year term non-voting
* Referee In Chief – 2 year term

**OPEN FLOOR**

Serge introduced Trevor Anyon to the meeting; Trevor was the 2016 Head Coach of the Manitoba Blizzard lacrosse but he was also the President of the Orangeville Northville Lacrosse Association.

* Trevor mentioned that although we have several valid reasons why there has been such a decrease in lacrosse we need to get the data from the players that have left. Whether it is through email, letter or face to face conversation.
* Trevor also mentioned that although we have 5 Zones we only have ~550 players so we may have to contract to a smaller more focused form of leadership. Perhaps we need to become the Red River Lacrosse Association with one level of leadership that would include all Zone members being represented.

Paul M. mentioned that he sees there are 4 clear goals for the RRLA

* Draw up new boundries
* Training of Coaches
* Training of Officials
* Recruitment Strategy
	+ The question really is what do the people in this room need to do to make the changes necessary. There needs to be committees created to have these conversations and make the decisions necessary for growth.
* Donna M. stated that this needs to happen now so that people have a chance to see the changes being made so that we minimalize the push back from the community.
* Pat H. mentioned that we should look at having the players at Jr. split inot two groups to make is less threatening for 17 year old players who then have to play against 21 year olds.
* Andrew mentioned that Sidewinders does do the phone calls and the largest reasons for players drop off are:
	+ Violence, jobs, high school field, and trying new sports

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* Cary stated that we are selling a product and this is a business, As a business we are losing customers and we cannot do this any longer.
	+ Val reiterated that although we as a Board, have lots of great ideas our biggest issue is that we don’t work on creating those subcommittees to get some implementation.

Serge mentioned that we need a new Board so that we can move foreward with these changes. Currently we don’t have a President, a Marketing Director and we have two openings for Directors at Large.

* Paul K. says he cannot commit to the RRLA today but he will continue to support lacrosse in any way he can. He also mentioned that he would be interested in the future to take a role of leadership.

Kim S. asked Trevor what the was the cost of the Box Lacrosse program; Trevor stated that the House league would charge $180 early bird / $255 for Tyke to PeeWee and $370 early bird / $435 Bantam and Midget 10 games.

**Elections of Board Members**

There isn’t a need to vote in new members to the Board today. There does need to be a call to the membership list; alumni; and graduating Junior players calling for people to fill the following positions:

* President or Vice President
* Secretary
* Referee in Chief
* Director at Large
* Director at Large

**Working Committees**

The four committees needed for the 2017 season:

* Boundry Committee
	+ Cary will Chair this Committee
* Coaching Committee
	+ Serge will Chair this Committee
* Officiating Committee
	+ Andy and Val will Co-Chair this Committee
* Recruitment / Marketing Committee
	+ Steve / Paul M. / Laurie will head up this Committee

**Survey to Past Members**

There will be a survey through Survey Monkey sent out to the members of the past two years to see why they have left.

 **AGM Adjournment**

* Motion by to adjourn meeting at 12:55pm by Valerie Gingell
	+ Seconded by: Steve Cumpsty
		- All In Favour – Motion Passed

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by: Laurie From

**ATTENDANCE FOR RED RIVER LACROSSE AGM – SUNDAY, OCT 16/16**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| NAME | EMAIL  | ZONE | JOIN |
| Steve Cumpsty  | sjrr@live.ca  | VP | Yes |
| Serge Balcaen  | Balcaen.serge@gmail.com | President |  |
| Lyle Sasek  | lysasek@yahoo.ca |  |  |
| Trevor Anyon  | Trevor.anyon@gmail.com |  | X |
| Paul Krestanowich | pckrest@shaw.ca | Zone 3 |  |
| Rob Gardner  | rob@outfitters.ca  | Zone 1 |  |
| Pat Henry | Pat.H.37@hotmail.com |  | No |
| Laurie From  | Laurie.from@f55f.com | Secretary | Yes |
| Valerie Gingell  | vlgingell@gmail.com | Tres/Reg | Yes |
| Glenn Gingell  | glenn@dabsrepair.com | Zone 1 | No |
| Paul Magnan | pmagnan@isd21.mb.ca | MLA |  |
| Jon Ottenson | Goaldy5@mymts.net | Zone 5 |  |
| Kim Winzoski | Khawke2@shaw.ca | Zone 2  |  |
| Doug Krochack  | dkrochak@shaw.ca | Zone 2 |  |
| Nelson Graham | neljoy@mts.net | Zone 4 | Yes |
| Jenny Riddell | jcriddell@mymts.net | Zone 1 | Maybe |
| Brad Becker  | Bradbecker85@hohtmail.com |  |  |
| Dave Newbold  | dnewbold@accuratedorwin.com |  |  |
| Donna McCarney | info@thesportsexpress.com |  |  |
| Kim Schotchenko | nwfalconslax@gmail.com  | Zone 2 |  |
| Cary Schotchenko | cary@absolutepetro.ca |  |  |