

Surrey Lacrosse Association

Reports – AGM 2022

1. President: Sean Reid

First and foremost, I want to thank those that put every effort forward to volunteer and making lacrosse great for every child that plays. Volunteering for one team that your child plays on is one thing, but to step up and volunteer for the entire association and create an environment for kids you will never know personally, THAT is incredible!! Thank you very much to the Surrey Lacrosse Executive for continuously spending the time and doing things that take away from your families to give the opportunity for other families to enjoy this sport. You all deserve the highest of accolades and recognition!

2021-2022 Warriors Field lacrosse season saw challenges lingering from COVID. Let's hope the lion's share of backlash from the pandemic is behind us. Registration remained down and we were lucky enough to have releases from other associations to make several teams successful. We did miss by not having the ability to carry U7, U9, or U11 coed teams. On the positive is that this year we have improved and have only lost our U11 team.

Field provincials were tricky and we celebrated a BRONZE medal from our U13 coed team as well as GOLD medal wins from both our Women's U15 tier 1 team and our Women's U12 Tier 2 team. It's awesome to represent the province with greatness with such a small but mighty association. This speaks volumes to the dedication the coaching staff has to help our youth make strides and improvements overall.

This field season we look to follow through with the pathway to success we have been used to. Good luck to all!

2022 Rebels Box lacrosse saw continued effects from COVID as well. Overall registration was down approximately 35%. The provincial average was 30%. We saw increased interest for the TOTs program led by Ryan Paddon and I think if continued, this will help in acquiring future members for the growth of the club. The female division benefitted from merges with other associations. Our Merged Bantam New West Surrey B division took provincial BRONZE.

We tried to get parent drop in sessions started but interest appeared to fizzle as the season progressed. It may be something to refine continuing at one arena one night per week.

50th anniversary celebrations – We have been working on a logo/jersey design for the 50th year (2023). Hopefully we have a presentation to show you at the AGM.

We have our indoor "drop-in" sessions booked with the school board for the 2023 season and expect to arrange age groups soon. Slight time changes in a couple of schools to better accommodate our parents' commute this season. More information will come.

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

We will again be doing a 3 tiered registration system and will be opening registration for the 2022 season soon. Early Bird registration for Box should begin December 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022. Register early to save some money and help Surrey Lacrosse get the jump start on team declarations.

VEO Camera system – Last Box season we purchased 2 x VEO camera systems which were used extensively for Box season recording over 50 games. These videos allow for coaches to edit games and pick out certain aspects that players can learn from. With field season we have also started using these cameras and if utilized properly, they will go a long way in improving our players, coaches, and referees for years to come.

Coaching at a glance – Overall we would like to continue to get better. A focus on non-parent coaches to come in and lead teams from the 13 year range and above would be great. Surrey Lacrosse has committed additional funding in our policies that now allows for "paid" coaches in both Box and Field. There are parameters to meet in order to qualify but this is a great step moving forward for our athletes to get instruction from somebody else, other than a parent. It will hopefully go a long way in development for the youth and relationships (for the parent coaches).

Lastly, this was my last season as President and I want to again say thank you to all the volunteers that work hard to make every child succeed. Volunteering isn't easy and taking time out of your life to work for the greater good is appreciated immensely. I want to wish Surrey Lacrosse great successes operationally and I will always be available to answer any questions or offer feedback for ideas.

2. Vice President 1 Box: Ryan Paddon

It was great to see lacrosse back in full swing for 2022! I would like to extend a huge thank you to all of the Coaches, Managers and Volunteers who made it happen.

As usual, I was very impressed with the number of parents that stepped up to coach at the younger levels. The younger athletes are the future of the sport and it is great to see so many parents stepping up to help guide them on their journey. I am even more encouraged to see older SLA players getting into coaching! We had 5 players step up to help at various levels of box lacrosse this season. I hope this trend continues as giving back to the game can be such a rewarding experience for young athletes.

The 2022 season also saw the return of the SLA goalie development sessions. Identifying goalies early on and providing them with the tools needed to feel comfortable and excel at the position will go a long way to ensuring our teams are successful. I hope we can continue with these sessions in the future.

Lastly, the time has come for me to move on. I have truly enjoyed the time I have spent in various roles in the SLA over the past 14 years. I have had an opportunity to work with some amazing volunteers and see many athletes, coaches and parents grow to love the wonderful game of lacrosse. I love the sport so much that I am sure you will still see me around. The enthusiasm of the volunteers at the Mini-Tyke and Tyke level this year was second to none; so, I think we should be in good hands for the coming years.

3. Vice President 2 Box: Rob Comack

While the 2022 lacrosse season was very successful we started slow and had some hiccups along the way which we worked through, however it was great to finally get a full proper season in and overall the teams were very successful.

Our registration numbers in a number of divisions caused us to make some tough decisions with larger teams and a number of age down players. Through it all everyone pulled through to make it work and thus ensured a majority of players were still able to play lacrosse this year in Surrey. We are hoping that this is the year for a decent bounce back in registrations so we are able to put a few more teams on the floor.

With development we saw a few wins in bringing players up for practices in certain divisions to give them opportunities to play at the next level towards the end of the season, this worked out quite well and we are hoping to expand this for the 2023 season to help continuing to develop players and getting them prepared for the next season. In 2023 we would like to spend more time on developing more players this year and hope to be able to set up some sessions for players in each division to help expand players skill development early in the year.

We are hoping to solidify coaches for 2023 early so we can start the training sessions and tryouts in a timely manner and hit the floor running so we are not scrambling. If you or someone you know is interested in Coaching this year please reach out.

A sincere thank you to all of the Coaches and Managers this past year. The time and effort put into making the season special for these kids are truly appreciated. We are so lucky to have such a strong group of volunteers within this organization who care passionately about this sport and the kids playing it. Looking forward to an exciting and fun 2023 season.

4. Vice President 1 Field: Jeff Glass

The 2021/22 field season continued with struggles brought on by Covid. Officials and coaches were asked to comply with vaccination rules if they wish to participate on the field. Extreme weather rocked the lower mainland and elsewhere. Families offering to take others in who had been stranded because of the flooding. Families having to evacuate their homes, difficult times for those affected. Youth provincials were postponed, then eventually held in the middle of March, where our U13 T2 team came away with a bronze medal.

The start of the 2022/23 season saw our registration increase slightly from the previous season. Our U5s numbers continue to grow. We have teams at U7, U9, U13, U15 and U18. Our U18 numbers are much larger than last. A full squad of 25 at U18 and U15 this season. U13 not far behind with 23. U11 saw low numbers and unfortunately players were released while some asking for reimbursement. This does not pose well for next season either for this age group. We have 15 players at both U7 and U9 levels. U5, we have 10 players. Exciting to have some new coaches in these divisions too. I'm hoping these coaches, along with the others, have a great experience and come back next season.

Some of our older youth players continue to help at the lower levels, building bonds with the younger players, mentoring, and providing some relief for those parent coaches. We're grateful for the handful of players willing to come out as we continue to grow this opportunity.

A new policy was created on providing compensation for hired coaches for the older age groups. This can go a long way to providing those younger individuals who want to coach but cannot justify spending so much time and fuel to get to practices and games. I and many others feel their time and efforts are important to our youth players. We didn't want to feel that those coaches giving so much effort were to be taken advantage of. Coaching is not a get rich quick scheme. Everyone, including those younger coaches and parents, are here because they love lacrosse and want to see the sport grow and make a difference in a players' lives.

This season we continue to have some great volunteers!! Always lots of fun to see everyone out at the field enjoying themselves.

Thanks to all our managers and others who have helped this season so far. Lots of behind the scenes people making this all work. Thank you to Sean for being a great supporter and someone to rely on. I'm grateful for all the SLA volunteers who make all this happen. It can be a struggle at times, but everyone means well and wants SLA to be great. It takes a lot of time and effort and I'm glad you're all part of it. Looking forward to the rest of the season.

5. Vice President 2 Field & Female Box Coordinator: Ian Tyerman

2021-2022 Women's Field: Women's Field went well this year. We had four teams. U12,U15 Recreational,U15 Competitive, and U19. U19 season didn't go to plan and they didn't play many games canceled due to weather, Umpire shortage, player shortage, or players coaching other teams. The U15 Competitive team had a successful year and won gold at Provincials. The U15 Recreation team had a decent year and played well in the Provincials. U12 had a productive year and were placed in the Tier 2 division at provincials and won gold.

2022 Women's Box Lacrosse: Women's Box was bittersweet this year. We didn't have many returning players and we only had two Women's teams. Unfortunately we had to release our Junior and Midget aged players as well as Tyke and Novice which were also offered to play coed in our association. Pee wee players were either released, played coed, or were aged up to Bantam. Although our Bantam team had enough players to declare a team it wasn't enough players to sustain the season. We had a mix of beginners and girls who had played for several years. We merged with New Westminster who had an oversized team and made two teams. We had an A and a B team. Both teams had good success. The A team wearing Salmonbellies jerseys placed fourth in Provincials and our B team wearing our Surrey Rebels jerseys with pride won Bronze at Provincials.

2022-2023 Women's Field Lacrosse: Unfortunately we only have three teams for Women's Field Lacrosse this season. We have a U12,U15 Competitive, and an U19. Our U15 team has had some early success getting silver at the Thunderstrike Tournament hosted by Langley on the Thanksgiving long weekend. I wish all the teams a successful season.

This will be my last AGM report as I am stepping down as VP Women's Field Lacrosse. My daughter hasn't played in two years and I feel like it is the right time to step aside. I want to pass on my position to a new thinker with innovative ideas on how to grow the women's game. I am proud of our association and I am proud of all the players who have come through our Box and Field program. I made a lot of new friendships and I learned a lot being on our executive and attending SLA, PCFLL, LMMLC, and BCLA meetings.

I want to thank all of the Surrey Executive and supporting cast. VPBox Rob Comack, VPField Jeff Glass, VPBox Ryan Paddon, Secretary Super Susan Dos Santos, Treasurer Monika Nociar, Registrar Karen Piper, Equipment Manager Jason Piper, Brandi Huryn, Timothy Hamm, Katie Paddon, Head Referee/Umpire Angie Reid, and especially to our outgoing President Sean Reid for all his years of service. Sean has given many years and countless hours to help our association and help grow the game of field and box lacrosse. I admire the way he made it work balancing family, work and personal time. I honestly don't know how Sean did it. I wish Sean well on his next adventure.

Our game and association need more people to step up. We need more parents to get involved. We need to grow our referees and umpires which we are in dire need of. We need to get stronger so we can support our players, both those that are new to lacrosse as well as players with years of experience. With the new arenas coming to Cloverdale in my opinion it is time for Surrey and Semiahmoo to put their differences aside and make one association. Both associations have thrived over the years as well as throughout the pandemic. Cloverdale Arena would be central for Surrey and Semi to play games. We come together to play field so why not play together now. Both associations have rich history and it's time to blend that history and start a new chapter.

6. Registrar: Karen Piper

Registration has started to rebound but not a full return yet. While not technically 2022 which this AGM reports on, we are very happy to have 15 players registered in the new Fall/Winter Tots [Box] Program that is being held during our field season.

Process for Registering has been misunderstood by many. Players must complete the two-step registration process [BCLA & TeamSnap], submit legal documents if the player is new, and submit payment by etransfer. The registration process must be completed in full for the player to be rostered to their according team.

Field 2021-2022:

- U5 x1 team
- U13 x1 team
- U15 x2 teams
- U18 x1 team
- U12F x1 team

- U15F x2 teams
- U19F x1 team
 - Total Players Field 2021-2022 = 142

Box 2022:

- Mini-Tyke x3 teams
 - Tyke x3 teams
 - Novice x2 teams
 - PeeWee x2 teams
 - Bantam x1 team
 - 16U x2 teams
 - Bantam Female x10 players (merged with New West to create two teams)
 - 16U Females - all released
 - Total Players for Box 2022 = 196

Field 2022-2023:

- U5 x1 team
- U7 x1 team
- U9 x1 team
- U11 - released all (not enough for a team)
- U13 x1 team
- U15 x1 team
- U18 x1 team
- U12F x1 team (some players from Delta & Langley)
- U15F x1 team (some players from Delta, Langley, & Abbotsford)
- U19F x1 team (some players from Delta & Langley)
 - Total Players for Field 2022-2023 = 157

7. **Head Referee (Box): Angie Reid**

This year we had Entry Level Referees (some who had taken the entry course in 2020 and others who did not), Level 1 officials (one of whom was returning after a several year hiatus), 8 Level 2 officials (one who took the course and did not officiate at all) and 1 Level 3 official.

Even with 25 officials having taken the course, Susan still had difficulty ensuring games were covered, especially at the Bantam and 16U. Susan worked tirelessly with neighbouring associations to bring in referees and help them allocate their games and share our referees when we were able.

We continue to struggle with retention as all associations are, but my hope is with Dallas Lister taking over as Chair for Minor Box, there will be more focus on more on floor training for the new officials. While we did have an on-floor session for our officials, it would be good to start this right in the clinics.

This year we faced different challenges than we did in 2021. While we did not have the same Covid restrictions as we did before, it appeared many parents, coaches and even players were not quite used to being in the arenas. Our referees faced abuse in many forms but I think they all handled it very well. Some referees had to remove parents or coaches prior to the games continuing. Some handled this well, while it was more difficult for others.

If I am appointed to Head Referee for next box season, I would like to focus on more on-floor mentorship, official evaluations and working closer with our Zone rep (who was not present for most of the year). I would also look to the Senior officials to provide continued mentorship to our new officials via on floor shadowing, informal evaluations as well as formal evaluations.

I think Surrey has a great group of referees and I would like to continue to demonstrate to other associations the caliber of officials is high in Surrey.

8. **Secretary: Susan dos Santos**

The secretary position manages many administrative aspects such as executive meetings (agenda and minutes), notices from BCLA that need action/communication, criminal record checks for all coaches and managers, society registration paperwork, etc. Tracking of the criminal record checks is helped by the government online system but still requires repeated reminders to many coaches/managers.

It was nice this year to have VPs for the respective division look after the form 100s, which in themselves were online as BCLA has finally moved to more digital formats.

9. Treasurer – Monika Nociar

We ended August 2022 with balances of \$56,947.64 in our Box account and \$46,830.58 in our Field account.

We were fortunate in Fall of 2021 to receive the gaming grant (\$38,000) which again helped greatly with paying the costly field and arena rental time in 2021/2022. At the time of this report, gaming grant applications are still in progress and we have yet to hear if we received it this year. The proposed budget reflects a cautious approach to the 2022/2023 fiscal year; if the gaming grant is received, it would help offset costs of floor time.

10. Referee Allocator (BOX & FIELD) – Susan dos Santos

For 2021/2022 Field Season we had

Level 2: 4 // Level 1: 1 // Entry Level 1: 2

Field Season we continued to support Langley and as we had no younger teams in Surrey this worked well to help develop our younger officials. While on paper we had several Level 2 officials we actually only had 2 who were regularly available. A big thank you to Angie who provided on field mentoring and training. A continued issue across the lower mainland is insufficient officials and an emphasis on each city to build up their core of officials is encouraged. A grateful thankyou to the parents and referees who travel near and far each Sunday to ensure games are covered.

For this 2022/2023 Field Season we have:

Level 2: 3 // Level 1: 1 // Entry Level 1: 5

With local teams at U7/U9 we are able to train our Entry level officials in house. Langley has a healthy bunch of entry level but we continue to support U9 and above. Some of our entry level officials have been available to help out in Ladner, New West, Ridge and Langley. It is appreciated that you juggle your schedules to help out. On field mentoring continues to be a sought after priority but a challenge with a reduced pool of Senior Officials.

For 2022 Box season we had

Level 3: 1 Referee // Level 2: 8 Referees // Level 1: 4 Referees (including 1 adult returning from previous referee experience, but he strained his knee and didn't end up doing very many games) // Entry: 12 Referees (8 brand new and 4 who had tried to start in 2020)

Waiting List: 4 Referees (These referees will get first option for 2023)

Box season was hectic and challenging for allocation. We had many games with borrowed referees. Not hosting our own Tyke Tournament was a disappointment for referee development. Several of our referees were able to gain valuable experience assisting at tournaments and were appreciated by those organizers. A couple of referees were invited to referee at Provincials. Of the 2 referees invited to Nationals, only Angie was available timing wise. It is nice to see our referees being recognized for their excellence and commitment and invited to Provincials and Nationals.

11. Equipment Manager: Jason Piper

This year we focused on acquiring new equipment for the field program, with the purchase of new goalie gear and sticks. We are looking at acquiring some new box goalie gear for the older kids, as over the last couple of seasons we prioritized the younger kids equipment. The order will hopefully be ready in time for the goalies to utilize in the warm-up season before league games begin. We are in a good position in regards to shorts for both programs, but will be placing a smaller order to maintain our supply.

13. Junior B2 - Cal Davies (Governor)

The Junior B2 team offers graduating Midget players an opportunity to continue playing Lacrosse and is a step towards Junior 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 a chance to play with friends. Junior is different from minor as players try out for the available 25 positions; we will field the strongest team possible.

In the league, five teams were unable to sign enough players to compete in 2022 so the season proceeded with seven. Surrey was able to sign 25 players and had a very competitive team anchored by rookie goalie, Chris Paddon and graduating Surrey players Stuart Ahara and Dylan Dosanjh. The team was filled out with a majority of Surrey Rebels but also included players from Semiahmoo, Vancouver, Coquitlam and Prince George.

Many of our players were called up to B1 teams and were able to see what higher level play looked like.

Surrey finished tied for second with our Valley namesake, the Rebels, resulting in a best of three series to face the League Champion, Coquitlam. Unfortunately we came up short, losing to Valley in two games.

Valley and Coquitlam represented the Lower Mainland JB2 league at Provincials, in Victoria, which was won by the Saanich Express.