

BC Lacrosse Association 2024
Annual General Meeting
October 19, 2024
BCLA President's Report: Gerry Van Beek

Shout-outs to the tremendous volunteers that both enjoy and provide lacrosse in British Columbia. It has been a pleasure meeting so many of you through the past year.

Another shout-out to the BC Lacrosse Association (BCLA) Staff (Jill, Deb, & Dave). The members of BC Lacrosse are very fortunate that we have such dedicated staff.

A third shout-out to the BCLA participants at the National Championships. BC earned 9 Gold Medals, 4 Silver Medals and one 4th place showing. We are so very proud of the accomplishments of all our teams. These teams had many parents and support led by Mitch and Darcy. BCLA groups hosted to phenomenal championships, setting the high hosting standards for those to follow. Thanks to Coquitlam Jr Adanacs and the Ladner Pioneers for the exceptional operations.

- U13 Female Box Lacrosse – Gold Medal
- U13 Box Lacrosse – Silver Medal
- U13 Female Box Lacrosse – Gold Medal
- U13 Box Lacrosse – Silver Medal
- U17 Female Box Lacrosse – Gold Medal
- U17 Box Lacrosse – Gold Medal
- U17 Men's Field Lacrosse – Gold Medal
- U19 Women's Field Lacrosse – Gold Medal
- U19 Men's Field Lacrosse – Gold Medal
- U22 Female Box Lacrosse – Silver Medal
- U22 Jr B Box Lacrosse – 4th Place – Victoria Shamrocks
- U22 Jr A Box Lacrosse – Gold Medal – Coquitlam Jr A Adanacs – BC Hosted
- Senior B Lacrosse – Gold Medal – Ladner Pioneers – BC Hosted
- Senior A Lacrosse – Silver Medal – Victoria Shamrocks.

THANK YOU to the BCLA Board members for their guidance and dedication to the lacrosse during the past year. The Strategic plan is solid and helps our path forward.

This report recaps and reports events since last AGM. Many items are covered in other member's reports.

Lacrosse Canada (LC) held an in person Annual Meetings in Ottawa in November 2023 & Semi-Annual Meetings virtually in May. The Annual Meeting was attended by Jill Krop & I. The Semi-Annual Meetings were attended by many BCLA leaders representing our directorates and technical support groups well. Thanks to those that attended the Semi-Annual Meetings on behalf of their directorate league or support group.

Lacrosse Canada continues with structural changes, modernizing the organization and the composition of the Board of Directors.

There are many issues in society that are impacting BCLA to a greater extent than ever before. These impacts are increased use and costs of resources. Society places many responsibilities on the sport system that needs more resourcing to properly handle. BCLA is understaffed to fulfill all the necessary programming and growth opportunities in lacrosse.

Many of our volunteer responsibilities are outside of their expertise or availability. Our policies and procedures that have little to do with the game of lacrosse and many of these people struggle with the skills to properly perform these duties. We must follow our policies and procedures.

Being President of the BCLA is a very rewarding experience. You learn quickly that you do not make the rules, policy or guidelines. The position puts you in the position of being the steward or the rules, policy and guidelines put forward by others. I hope all those reading this believe I have fulfilled my responsibility to the best of my ability. I appreciate the faith placed in me by the Members of the BCLA.

I promised Sohen and Rochelle three (3) elections. I fulfilled that promise. The past year has been a personal challenge. Many issues have made it extremely uncomfortable for me, the BCLA volunteers and your BCLA Staff. In fulfilling those difficult duties, some are subjected to innuendos, untruths and rumours. I have little time for those individuals that refuse speaking with the me to set record straight. Those giving ear to such nonsense must decide whose voice they would rather hear.

My family and those close to me in business and friends all do not want me to continue as a volunteer, I cannot leave on a losing streak. I think they understand that I cannot leave as is. I will not leave lacrosse in BC in a lurch. I want to be part of that solution in whatever role the BCLA members deem me best suited for.

Yours in Lacrosse,

Gerry Van Beek

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BCLA Vice President – Finance & Administration Report: Nichola Manning

I am pleased to provide the following report for the BCLA 2024 AGM and again send my sincere regrets for not being able to attend this year's meeting. The BCLA AGM has consistently been held the same weekend as the University of Denver Lacrosse Parent Weekend, and with now both of my sons attending, my "empty-nest cup" needs to be refilled! I have now completed my second year of a two-year term as the VP of Finance & Administration and I will allow my name to stand for a subsequent term if the membership so chooses. I present to you the following observations of the past year.

I want to express my sincere thanks to Jill Krop for her exceptional leadership and dedication to the implementation of the BCLA 5-year Strategic Plan and delivery of lacrosse programming within BC. Jill along with our small yet mighty BCLA staff of Debbie Heard, Dave Showers, and Mitch Cavallarin spend countless hours – day, evening, weekend, and holiday – ensuring that this wonderful sport of lacrosse runs efficiently and effectively. To all our BCLA staff, thank you for your efforts and commitment to lacrosse. You are all very much appreciated! I also want to express thanks to my fellow board members who have been working through our new board governance model. We have and will be continuing to introduce changes that allow the board to effectively govern and provide strategic direction to the BCLA organization.

Lacrosse continues to thrive in BC and we should all be proud of the success our athletes have had locally, regionally, provincially and nationally this year. However, this has been somewhat of a challenging year as BCLA has had to deal with a number of complaints and as a result, we are proposing changes to help clarify our complaints and discipline process.

Based on my monthly review of financial statements, BCLA continues to be in a solid financial position. This will be conveyed in our audited financial statement presentation at the AGM and the audited financial statements are available for membership review. As I alerted last year, Lacrosse Canada fees have increased and as a result, BCLA will be proposing a fee increase to the membership this year.

I appreciate the membership's willingness to have a more cost-effective AGM in Vancouver. This shift definitely reduces expenditures that we will now be able to translate directly to the delivery of lacrosse programming within the province.

I would like to thank the BCLA membership for entrusting me in this role. I look forward to continuing to advocate for, and be innovative with, the best sport in the world – lacrosse!

Yours in Lacrosse,

Nichola Manning

BC Lacrosse Association
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BCLA Vice President-Development Terry Mosdell

This year started with some introductions and development in Box Lacrosse to a couple of new Associations looking to have teams play within BC in the upcoming 2024 Box Season. The Princeton Association, through Jamie Graham, is still moving their Recreation League forward. This program, which is comprised of minor Lacrosse players with a few Senior players started in 2023 and several new players have joined in the program to date. Jamie stated that they were able to set up a drop-in schedule for the months of May and June. Hope to see Princeton continue to grow and hopefully start up a Minor Lacrosse program. Was overly excited to hear that the Sunshine Coast Minor Association was training new coaches as well as looking to start up new teams. We set up a Level 1 Box Community Development course for the Sunshine Coast, which was held in Sechelt. The course was set up for minor coaches so that they could support the new teams comprised mostly of brand-new players to the sport of Box Lacrosse. We are still in discussion with the association, talking about what would be required for equipment, what type facilities they had, when we could hold a general introduction to the sport, Coaching Clinics and possibly referee clinics. Hopefully, we can move this forward and get the Association running a team in every division of Minor Lacrosse however travel to and from the Sunshine Coast is always an issue especially when dealing with getting Officials to their facilities. I was also in contact with a possible new program/team starting up in Masters Box Lacrosse in the Victoria area as well. They are planning to set up a full Recreation drop-in program and expand to some Masters Teams. Victoria is also interested in attending some of the Lower Mainland Masters Tournaments in 2025 and travel to out of province tournaments.

The Masters Box Tournament, which is held on the first long weekend in July was cancelled again due to a lack of volunteers. I am still hoping to bring this very exciting Tournament back into the Masters Box program. Will be pushing to have

the July Long Weekend Tournament up and going again in the 2025 season, as many Masters are very keen on participating in this tournament. We saw several independent tournaments show up in 2024 such as the N. Shore Tournament in late July and the annual Ice Breaker tournament which was held in April.

The Masters Field Program held in Port Coquitlam at Gates Park saw a full season this year under modified rules. Each game runs for 1 hour with each team playing their game over the 4-hour time slot. The season started in April this year and finished in mid October. At the time of this report the Red Team, Green Team, Blue Team and White Team were still competing to see who would host the cup for the 2024 Season. There were 8 teams participating in the season with roughly 18 players per team. The teams played every weekend from the start of April right through to its completion in October. Congratulations to all players who participated and especially to the Masters Field Executive who were able to put together a full season.

The Masters Box Season had a remarkably successful season. The League started in October 2023 and ran through to March 2024. The League was again held at the Field House at the LEC as they were able to secure floor time for the full season. A couple of games had to be played on odd nights, but a great season was had by all participants. Each team had 18 players on their roster and were able to play a full season of 15 games. This year we saw Team Orange win the Championship. This upcoming season the League expects to have 6 teams again and as always they welcome all interested players over the age of 35 to apply. No previous Box Lacrosse experience is required to play.

It was much better year for everyone involved in the Sport of Lacrosse in 2024 and with the great determination and perseverance of all the great people, volunteers, and Associations that we have in Lacrosse the sport rebounded to full league play in all disciplines. I am confident that we will be back on the floor and/or field with no restrictions again in the 2025 Season.

In closing I would like to thank our Executive Director, Jill Krop, for all her dedication and help through these extremely exciting times. Jill has done an outstanding job and has stepped up to all the challenges that this season has brought forward. I would also like to thank Dave Showers and Deb Heard for their continuing support in whatever challenges I might have in the many aspects of

getting the game of Lacrosse promoted and supported throughout the province of BC.

We continue to face challenges in regard to referee recruitment. When speaking with the Chair of Officials, Doug Wright, he outlined the continuing problem with obtaining and keeping entry level referees. The reason for this is there are not enough scheduled games to keep them interested and involved. Level 1 & 2 referee numbers are at 60% of what they were pre-covid. Field lacrosse referee numbers are still low and as all games are played on a Sunday, this creates further challenges in recruitment. In some associations we cannot guarantee games if we do not have a larger base of referees to draw upon. Many games were cancelled this past season in all areas of the province due to lack of officials. Doug Wright said that some organizations have tried to use the three referee system if numbers allow having that extra person on the floor.

We need to make a concerted effort to recruit clinicians, coaches, referees and volunteer's province wide. We need a united effort to increase our officials and explore avenues of support in regard to abusive behaviour during games. Abuse of officials is still a huge problem especially of young referees. Generally, the parents attending the games are the ones that are being abusive and organizations should monitor this behaviour and offenders should be disciplined and sanctioned. There is no room in lacrosse for this kind of behaviour.

Thank you to Doug Wright for his tireless efforts in serving as Chair of Officials this past year.

A special thank you to everyone at the BCLA office for their dedication and hard work.

Dennis Quigley

VP Technical Programs.

**BC Lacrosse Association
Annual General Meeting
Saturday, October 19, 2024
BCLA Executive Director Report: Jill Krop**

THANK YOU!

I want to start with a heartfelt thank you to everyone who makes lacrosse happen across British Columbia. Without volunteers there would be no BCLA. We haven't tallied the volunteer hours, but they are in the tens of thousands, and we are eternally grateful to each of you. The BCLA Board, The BCLA Provincial Leadership Group; Minor, Field and Senior Directorates, the Officials and Coaches Technical Support Groups, the Commissions and Leagues and all the Associations across BC. You are all incredible stewards of the game.

The BCLA Board

We're saying goodbye to Dennis Quigley this year as he has decided not to run again for VP Technical Programs. Dennis thank you for your wealth of experience and knowledge. It's been a pleasure getting to know you as a Board Member and to watch you in action as a Coach. We wish you continued success in everything you do! Last year we welcomed David Bensmiller as VP Operations, Rita Stroup as Director at Large and Tyler Codron as VP Performance. Thank you to the entire Board for what has been a busy year with a "still new" Executive Director!

Strategic Plan 2024-2027

We're about 9 months into our new Strategic Plan and we're making significant progress in some areas, and we need to see progress in others. See below for the bullet points of our 3 pillars and how we're faring.

Pillar 1 Grow the Game

Increased player participation across all levels – *We're seeing an increase in participation numbers in most areas and expect continued growth. Thank you to all Associations for your work in encouraging kids to sign up, it's exciting to see the significant growth in girls box lacrosse! See Registration Statistics document for all the numbers.*

Clear pathways for recreational and competitive players – *This is a work in progress, and we plan to encourage discussion amongst members at our Semi-Annual meeting on this topic.*

Greater cultural and gender diversity – *We have not made much progress in this area and seem to continue to have complaints involving racial slurs, which is incredibly disheartening. We will focus on this area in the coming months.*

BC player, coach and referee representation on national and international teams (e.g. 6's, Olympics) - *There were 5 BC women on the Team Canada at the first ever World Box Championship in Utica! At the World Lacrosse Super Sixes event we just hosted in Coquitlam many of the women on Team Canada were from BC and the entire men's Team Canada was comprised of BC athletes. Our relationship with Lacrosse Canada/Team Canada continues to flourish and we hope that continues to create opportunities for development camps and tryouts to be held in BC.*

Pillar 2 Empowering Volunteers

Increased number of qualified coaches and referees - *This is definitely a growth area for us.*

Clear pathways for coaches, referees, and volunteers - *More work required here as we strive to offer support for all groups listed.*

Education resources exist to support volunteers in all roles – *We have been offering support on an individual basis; however, we will be working on more resources available for all volunteers.*

User-friendly technology – *We're making great progress from banking and accounting to player registration, we expect to add more user-friendly technology shortly!*

Pillar 3 Organizational Performance

Financially sustainable – *Changing the AGM is one of the ways we're creating financial sustainability, cutting costs by moving into "modern" technology is another. As an example the registration system we were using came with a cost of \$3 per player, moving to RAMP reduced that to \$2 per player but came with increased capability! The AGM in 2023 cost us approximately \$100 dollars, the event this year will cost us \$10-\$15k. I'm thrilled we'll be able to put the freed up money to work where it's needed most.*

Increased staff capacity – *We'll be looking to hire additional staff in the New Year to support new endeavours and to help create action on these Strategic Plan pillars.*

Strong strategic governance - *This is a hot topic and one we need to explore in much great detail with the membership. At the Board level we have begun discussions on a Skills Matrix for Board Members. We have restarted the Nominations Committee, which is a requirement under the Societies Act, as is the Governance and Ethics Committee and the Finance and Audit Committee. The Board also needs the ability to vote on issues without having to take them to a Special Meeting/Session or AGM. Moving to Governance will ensure excellent organizational performance.*

Streamlined processes and user-friendly technology- *Creating a flow chart for complaints and updating language for Code of Conduct is an example of streamlining processes, as is e-transferring Officials money rather than handing out cash filled envelopes. We will continue to improve our processes and employ technology to the BCLA's benefit.*

Increased sponsorship revenue – *We are looking forward to growth in this area in 2025 as we add staff.*

For full Strat Plan :

[BCLA StrategicPlan2024 FINAL.pdf \(bclacrosse.com\)](#)

BCLA Registration System

We made a major move to the RAMP registration system after many years on a system that had been created for the BCLA. While it served us well for years, it had become less agile than what is now available to the sports community. Youth field registration migrated to RAMP for the 2024/25 season and despite some bumps along the way, the consensus is that the system is fantastic. Given that success, we will be moving Box registration over to RAMP this spring.

Thank you to our Registrars at the Association level and to Corinne Perriman and Judy Regier for all their work keeping the numbers and names organized!

Community Gaming Grant – BC Gaming Policy & Enforcement Branch

The funding for the BCLA was lower for fiscal 2024 than in previous years, so we are grateful the grant we recently received to help fund lacrosse in 2025 was up by \$20,000.

While on the subject of money from GPEB, it's imperative that any fundraising in the lacrosse community follow the rules for raffles and draws. All gaming (anything that is a game of chance) must be approved by the Gaming branch. The licence number must appear on any tickets and it is

illegal to raffle any alcohol or cannabis products. Failure to follow the rules jeopardizes the grant money given and licences granted to all Lacrosse Associations and the BCLA.

viaSport

Our funding from viaSport continues to make it possible to provide support and services to lacrosse around the province. We received some additional, unexpected funding from viaSport (the Provincial Government) this year when the Province made a one time investment in all sport across BC. viaSport also provides crucial guidance on issues of Governance, Safety in Sport, educational resources for Coaches and volunteers.

The Vancouver Warriors

We have a robust agreement with the Warriors, that includes their participation in several of our events by having the Players or the Mascot, Timber in attendance. We are also able to share information about the BCLA with a Community Table at Warriors' games. Special thanks to Jason Thorne and Curt Malawsky, who are champions of the BCLA within the Warriors organization.

Lacrosse on the Move Travel Grant

This fund has provided nominal amounts to Associations after Provincial Championships however after working with the Warriors we are moving away from this program and creating a new grant-funding program to support athletes in BC who have the skills, abilities and desire to be high level athletes but may not have the financial means to participate. Watch for an announcement in December about this exciting new program.

National Championships – Summer 2024

Box Championships – Regina

What a week in Regina! U17 Girls, U17Boys, U15 Girls and U13 Girls all won GOLD at Box Nationals and our U13 & U15 Boys and U22 Girls all won SILVER. Most of our teams faced Ontario in Gold medal finals, except for U17 Girls who beat Alberta and the U22 Girls who lost to Alberta.

4 Gold and 3 Silver medals is a great accomplishment!

We thank all the people who contribute to the success of the program, particularly Darcy Rhodes the program coordinator, all coaches and the managers!

We also want to announce that we're making some changes to the Team BC Box program. We are still finalizing some details; however, we can share with you that we are altering our leadership structure and looking to expand the program.

Darcy Rhodes has guided the program very successfully over the past 6 years. He is stepping away from that role to spend more time focusing on his own children and their lacrosse! The great news is, we aren't losing him entirely. Darcy will now be the Team BC Coach and Athlete Recruiter for the Okanagan and Interior. We are thrilled to entrust this role to Darcy and know he will do a fantastic job, and we extend our deepest thanks for his significant contributions over the past several years.

We are now looking for people in other BC regions to take on the role in their communities, including someone in the lower mainland who will be responsible for the oversight of the Box program.

Field National Championships

Women's Jenny Kyle Cup - Winnipeg

Our women's team repeated as National Champions on the August long weekend, dominating the competition!

Men's First Nations & Alumni Cup - Calgary

Our men's teams won both championships on the Labour Day long weekend.

Collectively our Field Program teams won 3 Gold Medals at Nationals, making BC the best in the country! Thank you to all the people who contribute to the success of this program, especially Mitch Cavallarin, the program coordinator, all the coaches and managers!

National Championships – Summer 2025

National Box Championships are in Halifax in August

Men's National Field Championships are also in Halifax

Women's National Field Championships may be in Halifax or BC. There is an issue with the date, for the past 2 years the event has been held on the August long weekend, however, that conflicts with Ontario's Provincial Championship so there is some discussion about moving the event back to the 3rd week of August. Halifax has said they will host, but that would mean they host all 3 National Championships this summer – a heavy lift. BC has stepped in and offered to host, but we would only do so if the event was on the August 1st long weekend. We'll keep you updated!

Canada Summer Games – St John's Newfoundland August 8-25, 2024.

We are thrilled to be sending our U17 women and U17 men to the Canada Summer games this year.

Coach selection is close to completion and we're hoping to hold tryouts no later than early 2025.

This once in a lifetime event is more than a sports competition, more than 4000 athletes from across our country will compete at the highest level and we're thrilled to get our teams together so preparations can start!

Super Sixes

We co-hosted a World Lacrosse Super Sixes event in Coquitlam Thanksgiving weekend. Thank you to all those who came out to watch. The excitement for Sixes is building around the world, the impetus, the Olympics. Our support of this event was an investment in Sixes and its future here in BC. Spectators, who included Hall of Fame members, Board members and others were impressed with the game. Many said they can hardly wait to play and I understand it may be part of the Masters sooner rather than later!

It was an honour to support BC and Canadian athletes as they competed in this new discipline against athletes from Great Britain, the Haudenosaunee, and Mexico. We also invested in several BC Officials who are working towards specific Sixes accreditation. This investment serves to strengthen lacrosse in BC and Internationally. We fervently hope we'll see BC Officials and BC athletes participating in the 2028 Olympics.

Sixes Kit

We are pleased to announce officially at this AGM the BCLA now has a Sixes kit that is comprised of 4 shot clocks, and 5 mesh "walls" for Associations to borrow to hold Sixes events. We will be sending out more detailed information on the kit very soon!

External Sport Credits

The BCLA has been reinstated in this program, after a brief release from the program in 2023. This beneficial program grants school credits to student athletes who meet certain criteria. The information is available on the government page titled: External Sport Credentials Program

2024 Scholarships/Bursary

As always, a very strong group of candidates applied for the various Scholarships and Bursaries this year making the selection process difficult. Congratulations to the following athletes:

Wayne Goss Scholarship winner: Darian Murray, Coquitlam

Ted Fridge Scholarship winner: Jared Maznik, Ladner

Dorothy Roberston Scholarship winner: Devyn Hartley, Coquitlam

Gene Regier Scholarship winner: Jason Roy, New Westminster

Joel McCready Scholarship winner: Wren Glanville, New Westminster

U17 A1 Provincial MVP Women : Ava McGinley, POCO/Pt Moody

U17 A1 Provincial MVP Men: Marcus Khan, Langley

BCLA Player of the Year & Zone 6 Player of the Year: Maddie Palmer, Nanaimo

Zone 1 Player of the Year: Jake Thompson, Cranbrook

Zone 2 Player of the Year: Owen Byers, Penticton

Zone 3 Player of the Year: Kalle Cooper, Ridge Meadows

Zone 4 Player of the Year: McKenna Hanley, Langley

Zone 5 Player of the Year: Rhylee Guindon, Burnaby

2024 BC Summer Games – Maple Ridge hosted the 2024 BC Summer Games July 17-21.

Greg Toll and Jane Boutilier graciously accepted the positions of Provincial Advisor for Box and Field Lacrosse, while Dennis Hertslet agreed to be the Sport Chair for Box lacrosse and Stacy Paterson agreed to be the Sport Chair for Field lacrosse. Dave Showers spent hour and hours organizing Coaches, athletes and apparel! A heartfelt thank you to all these people and the coaches and chaperones, without them BC athletes wouldn't have such a memorable experience! Please see Dave Shower's report for more information about the games.

Thank you again for all you do to support lacrosse in BC!