

## RMLL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

To: RMLL General Membership  
RMLL Executive

From: Angus Jenkins  
Chairman, RMLL

The 2003 Rocky Mountain Lacrosse League season was one of growth. The season identified many of the challenges our league faces as it moves forward. Some of the highlights this year involved extremely entertaining playoff series in the junior and senior divisions while some of the lowlights involved the early collapse of the North Tier 3 Junior division.

### Senior B

The Edmonton Outlaws surprised no one as they once again captured the RMLL regular season title and the senior playoff title. Their defence of the President's Cup was well fought and the eventual third place finish was not a small accomplishment. The two new senior franchises in St. Albert and Okotoks were classified as successes from a league standpoint as both teams were competitive and succeeded in introducing senior lacrosse to two new markets.

### Junior A

The Junior A division was a new introduction to the RMLL teamscape this season. From the chairman's standpoint, both teams were highly impressive. The expansion Raiders were extremely well run and very dedicated to the on-floor product. The Miners continued their dominance of the Junior teams and earned the right to represent Alberta at the Minto Cup. Not unexpectedly, the Miners did very well at the Minto and earned respect for the RMLL from the whole nation. The Miners represent a benchmark that is desirable by other teams in the RMLL.

### Junior B

This division represented some of the most entertaining competition that the RMLL had to offer this season. The addition of the Prince George Posse gave the entire Tier 1 division another extremely talented team. The Junior Mountaineers and the Warriors proceeded to play one of the closest RMLL playoff series in history. Both teams went on to the Founder's Cup to represent the RMLL and were joined by Prince George, also representing the RMLL. Competition at this tournament was fierce and the Prince George squad eventually had the RMLL's best performance, placing third.

### Tier 2 Junior

The Tier 2 Junior division continued to display the results of an ever increasing and improving minor lacrosse system in Alberta. The St. Albert Rams and Sherwood Park Titans continued their dominance of this division with strong challenges from outlying teams like the Okotoks Ice. The repeated success of the St. Albert and Sherwood Park teams signals their readiness to move to the Tier 1 level of junior lacrosse.

### Tier 3 Junior

The Tier 3 division of lacrosse in the RMLL really drove home the need for a restructured league with more emphasis on the development of newer, junior-aged players. One of the problems with the Tier 3 division this year was geographical. Initially there were plans for a North and South division however these plans were revisited shortly into the season when the North division suffered an implosion. All the teams committed to play in this division, with the exception of Grande Prairie, folded. An intense effort was made to try and include the Grande Prairie franchise in other RMLL divisions but eventually the coordination and resources required to accomplish this feat were less than adequate. With the exception of a few tournaments the Grande Prairie franchise did not play many games. With restructuring plans in place it is hoped that the league will be better prepared to provide a home to the more geographically challenged franchises in the near future.

## Restructuring

The RMLL Executive members have been working to design a new governance structure for the league that will see the emphasis for development fall on the teams in each separate division. This movement is expected to create five divisions: Senior B, Junior A, Junior B, Tier 2 Junior, and Tier 3 Junior. Each division's executive will consist of the board of governors and a commissioner. Each governor will represent their respective clubs. Governors will each possess one vote with the possibility of the commissioner having a vote. What this will create is self-governing divisions responsible for the growth of their own division. The entire structure will be overseen by the RMLL Executive. The Executive will still consist of a Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Executive Director, Chief Referee, Division Commissioners and there may be an official scheduler although this detail has not been decided yet.

## Governance

At the RMLL AGM in October there will be a vote put forward to approve an amendment to the existing bylaws and regulations. The amendments have been designed to enhance the league bylaws by creating a system of governance more adequately prepared to deal with increased team numbers, increased league participation of non-core (rural and other area) teams, and increasing the amount of decision making responsibility represented by the separate divisions.

## Conclusion

As the RMLL moves into 2004 the focus will be on creating a strong internal league management system with increased onus on divisions to self-govern with the provision of positive growth amended bylaws and the general supervision of the RMLL Executive. As league chairman I am extremely excited about the future of lacrosse in Alberta. By examining existing league structures and continually assimilating member input we can create the strongest major lacrosse league in Canada.

Sincerely,

Angus Jenkins  
Chairman, Rocky Mountain Lacrosse League