

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

2003 was a very interesting and important year for the RMLL. The unprecedented growth of the league and the addition of Junior A brought both pleasure and pain to the league.

Without a doubt the growth of the league was very exciting but it caused a number of problems and the biggest was the lack of arena times especially in Calgary. The problem is particularly bad in the months of May and June with minor lacrosse going on. This is a serious problem with the addition of 500 player to our league next year. This is the number of graduating Midgets. I am not aware of too many senior players retiring so we will have a lot more players next year. We must consider what we will do with this growth.

The growth proved also to be a strain on the Executive as we were required to deal with a number of issues which came up. During the months of June and July it became a full time job just to keep up with the matters going on in the leagues. It would be unreasonable to ask the Executive to carry such a big load again. I am suggesting that the RMLL change to have each league take care of many of their own issues and that the executive be responsible coordinating the leagues together and to concern itself with making sure that the leagues continue to strive to reach the goals and objectives of the RMLL. We need more people involved at the league levels. We expect to have a number of new teams in the RMLL next year and therefore we need more help in administration.

Senior B

The addition of two new teams to this league was a bonus to the program. Initially there was a concern the introduction of these teams would dilute the quality of play but I think that we can all agree that it was quite to the contrary as the level was the best that it has ever been. Throughout the year the teams continued to improve and I think that there will be continued improvement into next year.

Junior A

The introduction of Junior A was a highlight for our league. We are starting out small but surely with the growth of players and the quality that we are seeing we are not too far from seeing more teams. Continuation of development of this league is very important. We need to continue to promote this league and with the Minto Cup scheduled to be here in 2005 we should continue to put the spotlight on this league.

Junior B

To me this may have been the most pleasant surprise for our league. The three teams that went to the Founders Cup did very well. With the introduction of Junior A it occurs to me that most people in the rest of Canada counted us out as no longer being competitive but they were proven wrong. I am very pleased to see how well we did.

In the coming year it is clear that a number of clubs are ready to make the jump to Jr. B from Tier 2 and I think that it is time to consider this and to make a separate Junior B league who would not play the Sr. or Jr. A teams but rather play within their own league. I know that St. Albert and Sherwood Park are ready and if Calgary or Red Deer could add one more team we would have 7 teams. A pretty good league.

Tier Two

In some ways this league went pretty well but in others it needs help. We need to put more attention to this league or perhaps drop it down to house league status. I am unsure which way to go but look forward to discussions on this matter.

Calgary Lacrosse

My biggest concern is the relationship between certain clubs and governing bodies. I know of the issues arising between the Raiders and the CMBLA but I have also heard that there are some unhappy people within the CMBLA. We need a strong Calgary program for the RMLL to continue to improve and therefore I am hoping that issues can be resolved before the next year.

In conclusion I am very optimistic about our league but have some concerns. We must address our issues today. The addition of 500 graduating Midgets is just the beginning of the great growth we can expect in the coming years and it is up to us to make sure they all have the opportunity to play this game at its highest level.

2003 RMLL Registrar/Statistician

Registration – This year we had 568 players registered under the RMLL, but there were also players in the outlying areas that ended up registering under their Minor programs. Thanks goes out to Bob Thompson for getting the program setup completed. The procedure to get all the teams/players registered was quite a tedious job. There will be a change to the ALA/RMLL Registration card this year – a place for an email address will be added. I would like to recommend that in the future the following procedure happen. 1. It will be up to the team manager to make sure all areas are properly completed; such as – full name, address, city, postal code, date of birth, health care number, phone number and email address (failure to comply will result in player not being registered and unable to play) 2. All registration cards/teams be sent in by the end of May to get this job completed sooner. Once a player is entered into the system, new players can be added and players can also be released and deleted from the program once approved by the Commissioner. 3. It is also recommended after speaking to the ALA that payment for player registration/insurance be sent into the ALA by June 1st. If a team knows they are going to register 30 players, then pay that. After July 1st, if it is found that a team has overpaid then the ALA will send out a refund.

Jr.'s not registered under the RMLL

Kneehill – 15

Lethbridge – 18

Medicine Hat – 12

Vegreville – 16

Vermillion – 16

Wainwright – 33

Statistician - This is another job that takes an enormous amount of hours to complete. I would like to thank all the teams for getting all the game sheets into me on time. I have tried to do my best to make sure the stats are complete and correct, but sometimes it is very hard to read game sheets and give the right goals/assists to the proper player. There is absolutely no way to make this any easier. The only recommendation I would make is that we keep the procedure that it is up to the home team to send the game sheet (The White Copy) in. This is the easiest way to track.

Thank you.

Rhonda Croswell