



Williamstown Lacrosse Club



2017 ANNUAL REPORT



WILLIAMSTOWN LACROSSE CLUB

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WILLIAMSTOWN LACROSSE CLUB INC.

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Annual General Meeting

WLC Clubrooms, Fearon Reserve
The Esplanade, Williamstown
Tuesday 5th December 2017 @ 7:30 PM

On behalf of the 2017 WLC General Committee, I commit the following 115th Annual Report and Financial Statements for your consideration and approval.

Jock Garnsworthy
Secretary

2017 ANNUAL REPORT

Business:

1. Confirmation of minutes of the 2016 AGM
2. Adoption of 2017 Annual Report.
3. Adoption of Financial Statements for 2017.
4. Election of Office Bearers for 2018.
5. Confirmation of Life Membership
6. General Business

2017 OFFICE BEARERS

PRESIDENT : Robert Speakman

VICE PRESIDENT: Wayne Butson

SECRETARY Jock Garnsworthy

COMMITTEE:

Member	Portfolio
Kyle Morlang	Building & Grounds
Darren Gibson	Junior Manager
Matthew Price	Finance
Wayne Butson	
Damien Orr	Club History
Troy Butson	Sponsorship
Carl Radford	
Simon Brown	

AUDITOR Colin Taylor

RECORDS Robert Speakman, Alan Rolley

LV CLUB DELEGATES Robert Speakman, Jock Garnsworthy



WILLIAMSTOWN LACROSSE CLUB Inc

Annual General Meeting MINUTES
7:30 PM Tuesday 6th December 2016.
WLC Clubrooms

MEETING OPENED by President Rob Speakman @ 7:40PM

PRESENT: R.Speakman, I.Fraser, J.Garnsworthy, M.Price, D.Gibson, D.Orr, S.Brown, T.Butson, M. Ryley, C.Radford, C.Taylor, A. Rolley, M. Mercer, S.Clarke, A.Inglis, D.Wilkinson, G. vanWyngaarden, K.Morlang.

APOLOGIES: D.Brown, G. Garnsworthy, W. Butson, A. Mercier

MOTION: The Minutes of the 2015 AGM held Tuesday 1st December, 2015 confirmed.

MOVED: Alan Rolley **SECONDED:** Simon Brown **PASSED**

2016 ANNUAL REPORT: presented & accepted

MOVED: Jock Garnsworthy **SECONDED:** Colin Taylor **PASSED**

PRESIDENTS REPORT:

Rob presented the President's report highlighting another successful year thanking coaches, committee members, Bar and Kitchen volunteers for their efforts during the year. Thanks to Ben Watson our major sponsor and all other sponsors who continue to support the club. Thanks to the 84 100 Club members for their support of the Junior program, Lauren Gibson for her work with organising the club's merchandise and Janine Duncan for organising the canteen.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

The audited 2016 Financial Report for the club was presented by Matthew Price.
Thanks to Colin Taylor for the audit.
Club continues to run at a surplus.

MOVED: Matthew Price **SECONDED:** Alec Inglis **PASSED**

2016 OFFICE BEARERS:

Rob Speakman called for nominations for the positions on the General Committee with the following being elected unopposed:

President: Rob Speakman

Vice President: Wayne Butson, Alan Rolley

Secretary: Jock Garnsworthy

Treasurer: Matthew Price

General Committee: Darren Gibson, Troy Butson, Kyle Morlang, Damien Orr, Carl Radford, Simon Brown.

Auditor: Colin Taylor

GENERAL BUSINESS

Rob reported on-going discussions with HBCC regarding shared tenancy of rooms, Fearon upgrade and financing of new light towers between tenant clubs and HBCC. Committee will continue to monitor.

Discussion on Junior development and Damien Orr gave a run down on development activities including school clinics, 7 x 7, and school competition days. Sean Clarke taking on responsibility of Junior Development & Recruitment.

2016 Coaches

State League: Damien Orr; Division Two: Carl Radford; Under 15 : Sean Clarke

MEETING CLOSED 8:15 PM

2017 WLC AWARD WINNERS

Team	Position	Coach	Award	Winner
State League	Premiers	Damien Orr	Berry Newgreen Best & Fairest Darren Gibson Players MVP Most Consistent Player Best Team Man Coach Recognition Award	Huw Wilson Troy Butson Evan Willis Sean Clarke Gill Cordell-Radford
Division One	Premiers	Mark Butler	Arthur Deacon Best & Fairest Most Valuable Player Most Improved Best Team Man	Ashley Wilkinson Adam Dobson Brechan O'Duill Joel Williams
Division Two	Premiers	Lee Davis	Ken Speakman Best and Fairest Most Valuable Player Most Valuable Player Best Team Man	Tim Ryley Marc Kydd Sean Martin Ben Rotin
Division Three	3 rd	Simon Brown	Robert Speakman Best & Fairest Most Valuable Player Best First Year Player Best Team Man	Jayden Smith Tim Hayward Tane Roordink Jake Rooney
Under 17	Runners-Up	Sean Clarke	S K McGregor Best and Fairest Most Valuable Player Best Team Player Most Improved Player	Jayden Smith Will Olver Lachlan Hodge Edison Pyke
Under 15	4 th	Darren Nicholas / Brendan McGuire(US)	Frank Hogarth Best and Fairest Most Valuable Player Best Team Player Most Improved	Alex Brown Rory Gvori Alex Gramatakos Chinaka Roa-Egbujor
Under 13	4 th	Chris Welsh	Dennis Newman Best & Fairest Most Valuable Player Coaches Award Best Team Player	Tahu Roordink Cormac O'Duill Will Hayward Artchawin Papazoglou
Under 11 Fearons		Carl Radford	Best & Fairest Most Valuable Player Best Defender Most Attack	Zane Nicholas Lachlan Stephenson Gus Mee Blake Radford
Under 11 Cities		Duncan Russell	Best & Fairest Most Improved Best First Year Player Best Team Player	Angus Menzies Oliver Russell Jake Andrews Finley Orr
Under 11 Deacon		Scott Garnsworthy	Best & Fairest Most Improved Most Valuable Player Best Team Player	Josh Gordon Owen Quilty Joss Emini Cooper Logan
Club Award			Mal Taylor Best Clubman Award	Lee Davis
LV Awards			Division 1 Best & Fairest	Ashley Wilkinson

2017 STATE & NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

Under 15 Western Metro	Under 18 Victorian Side	Senior Victorian Side
Harry Gibson, Ron Govori Lachlan Hodge, Shae Moate Will Olver, Edison Pyke, Roa-Egbujor Chinaka, Tane Roordnik, Lachlan Warren, Alex Brown, Flynn Hogan (Alt) Gabriel Nicholas, (Alt) Ronan Redshaw, (Alt) Darren Gibson (Co) Lee Davis (A. Co) Wayne Butson (Mgr)	Callan Gibson Jacob Poole Lachlan Russell	Noah Jenney Sean Clarke Lachlan Russell Alex Pike Damien Orr (A. Co) Wayne Butson (Mgr)

MEMBERSHIP

Year	Seniors			Juniors			Premierships	
	Nos	Teams		Nos	Teams			
2002	43	3	SL/D1/D2	72	5	11,13 C&F,15,17	1	U17
2003	45	3	SL/D1/D2	88	6	11,13F C & D,15,17	4	S/L, Div1, U13, U 15
2004	46	3	SL/D1/D3	103	7	11F&C,13 F&C,15F&C,17	1	Div 3.
2005	45	3	SL/D1/D3	110	7	11,13 F & C,15 F & C & D,17	1	Div 3
2006	49	3	SL/D1/D2	74	5	11, 13, 15 F & C, 17	1	U 15
2007	45	3	SL/D1/D3	90	6	12,14,16,18	1	U 16
2008	49	3	SL/D1/D2	80	6	12,14,16,18	3	S/L, D3, 18
2009	52	3	SL/D1/D2	78	6	12,14,16,18	1	S/L
2010	61	3	SL/D1/D2	62	4	12,14,16,18	1	S/L
2011	55	3	SL/D1/D2	56	4	12,14,16	2	U 16 Cities, Div 2
2012	77	4	SL/D1/D2/D3	64	5	12F&C,14,16,18	5	S/L, D1, D2, D3, U18
2013	68	4	SL/D1/D2/D3	72	5	12F&C,14,16,18	4	Div 1, Div 2, Div 3, U18
2014	64	4	SL/D1/D2/D3	73	6	11,13F & C,15,18F & C	3	Div 1, U 15, U13
2015	75	4	SL/D1/D2/D3	71	6	11C & F,13C & F,15,17	4	S/L, D2, D3, U13
2016	76	4	SL/D1/D2/D3	67	5	11C & F,13, 15, 17	3	S/L,D2,U15
2017	74	4	SL/D1/D2/D3	79	6	11D, C & F,13, 15, 17	3	S/L,D1,D2

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The 2017 season was another great season for the Williamstown Lacrosse Club, all of our teams played in the finals and we won State League, Division 1, Division 2, Division 3 were beaten in the preliminary final, Under 17 were runners up to a team made up of 3 clubs, under 15 and 13 were beaten in Semi Finals.

To our Secretary Jock Garnsworthy, Treasurer Matthew Price and the members of our Committee I thank you for all time and effort you put in and attending meetings throughout the year.

Congratulations and a big thank you to all the Coaches, Managers, Scorers, Parents and helpers for their contribution to our Club.

Darren Gibson our Junior Co-ordinator and all his helpers we thank you for your effort throughout the year.

Simon Brown, we thank you for your great work on the registrations and entering results each week, making sure players played the correct number of games in each grade, (no easy task)
Lauren Gibson for once again being in charge of our merchandise, we certainly set the bench mark for other clubs to follow.

To all our Sponsors and people who once again joined our 100 Club we thank you for your contributions which help with the purchase of Junior equipment and help pay for all the Junior clinics we run to encourage kids to play lacrosse.

Janine and all her helpers for Saturday Night Food, Kyle for feeding the boys on a Thursday Night and Mick our Bar Manager (when he was not on holidays) we thank you all for your efforts during the season. Thanks to all who umpired during the season, if we don't have an umpire we don't have a game.

Sean Clarke and Damien Orr and all the others that organised and ran our Junior Clinics throughout the year a great big thank you.

It is with great sadness that I inform you all of the passing of Gordon (Joey) Ritchie. Gordon along with Wocka Bourke and Rose Ritchie were for many years the backbone of our Junior programme, many senior players playing today went through juniors being coached by Joey at some stage. To his Daughter and Sister Rose and the rest of his Family we offer our sincere sympathy. Vale
Joey R.I.P.

To all our Members and Supporters I hope you have a great Christmas and a safe Holiday period and we look forward to seeing you all refreshed and ready to go in 2018.

Robert Speakman
President

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Financial Statement for the year ending 31st October 2017 should be read in conjunction with the following notes.

At the beginning of the 2016/17 financial year the club committee, agreed to aim to achieve a neutral position from an operation surplus/deficit perspective, however at that point there was no plan/proposal for our major functions to support an Australian Representative team, providing an opportunity to invest fund in club and junior development whilst remaining in a neutral position.

As is presented in the financial statements, we ended the year with an operational surplus of \$5,308.29 being achieved which was a positive outcome given the decreased surplus from the bar takings; however our plan to purchase new training goals did happen due to logistical difficulties and the delay in LV providing the 2017 Referee Fees schedule, would have seen the surplus almost removed. Per the plan, the goals are now on order and we are in dialogue with LV on the referee fees.

This is our third year operating under the revised tenancy model and our ability to plan is improving as we continue to grow confidence in the underlying club operating/financial drivers. This continues to allow us to invest more heavily in development of our club and sport with confidence.

To that end, we have recently delivered a joint funding proposal to the Hobsons Bay City Council, in partnership with Williamstown Women's Lacrosse Club and Williamstown CY's FC to support the upgrade of the Fearon Lighting to extend the use of the playing field including for training, the potential for night games and other special events. While there is no firm commitment in the proposal at this time, our initial offer is for the winter tenant clubs to jointly fund 30% of the project, which would require a contribution from WLC in the order of \$20-25k depending on the final scope of works. Council are supportive of the club's submitting the proposal, however noting the drainage and resurfacing works completed at the Fearon in 2017 and projects scheduled for other sporting facilities within the municipality, the expectation from our joint discussions with council is that if successful, the project would likely not be completed before 2019..

Some of the major contributing factors;

- Bar Revenue: Down \$9.7k on 2016 with an reduced operating surplus of \$5.5k
- Functions: Up \$6.2k on 2016
- Lacrosse Development: Increases of ~\$1k
- Sponsorship: Net up \$3.7k from 2016
- Referee Fees: LV have been delayed in by LV in 2017. expect ~\$2k expense in 2018 financials for 2017
- Equipment Purchases: Up ~\$8k with sales of ~\$3k. Net \$5k difference

Sponsorship

Again in 2016/17 the club has been extremely well supported by local sponsors, Troy, Rob & Kyle did a great job in generating new sponsors and retaining those who have previously supported the club. For further details please see the Sponsorship Report. Total sponsorship income for the year was \$12,200. a great result.

Social Memberships - 100 Club

The club is extremely grateful to our 100 Club members. The support provides valuable funds which we primarily direct into lacrosse development and supporting our junior program. To the 52 members this year. Thank you very much, our juniors and wider club look forward to your ongoing support in 2018.

Eftpos

The Eftpos terminal continues to be well utilised in the club and despite cost increases in the past year is still view as an essential requirement.

Bar & Canteen

The bar and canteen saw reduced turnover in 2017, predominantly due to the late access to the Fearon, followed by the football ground being closed for the last part of the season.

With the RSL closing, the early part of the season saw increases in the price of beer, we also saw a general increase in prices across the board leading to a small reduction in margin from 50% in 2016 to 48% this year. We have since opened an account with CUB which worked well in the second half of the year.

Another huge thanks to the team working in the Kitchen and lead by Janine, your continued contribution on Saturday nights is as always highly valued, once again a healthy return of \$3,322 direct from the kitchen and raffle ticket sales but there was also considerable contribution to the profitability and patronage at our events which is not accounted for in the kitchen takings specifically.

Once again, the playing group and coaches were incredibly grateful for the efforts of the chefs who put on the Thursday evening food; it returned a profit of almost \$838 – thanks to Darren, Kyle, Rob, Wayne, Carl and helpers for their efforts.

Lacrosse Development

Spending on Lacrosse Development for 2017 was over \$9k, this is a significant increase on previous years, we plan on continuing to invest heavily in this area and the benefits are starting to be seen through the increased numbers at the under 11 level which is promising for the club and the sport.

Functions

The \$1000 draw was our major function for the year returning nearly \$6500, a huge thanks to Sean Clarke for his efforts as well as his contribution as Development Officer.

Merchandise

In 2017 we continued providing a wide range of club apparel and merchandise. Thanks to the efforts of Lauren Gibson as we are seeing a great response and plenty of new WLC gear now out in the local community. This year we achieved a cash surplus of just over \$2.3k with significant sales towards the end of the season.

Equipment for Sale

This year we decided to purchase equipment in bulk from the US to sell on to members and ease the burden on international orders. We price the equipment at cost (or below in some cases) in an effort to make accessing equipment more timely, particularly for our Juniors. This year we had a cash deficit of ~\$3.7k, however we do hold significant stock. This stock has not been recorded on the balance sheet as a lot of it will inevitably end up been leant out to juniors to ease the burden on parents when then kids are starting out in the sport.

Purchase of New Assets

Point of Sale System: A new point of sale system was purchased this season which has given us far better visibility of sales trends and has reduced the time taken to prepare weekly reconciliations.

BBQ: After much debate, Rob conceded the old BBQ had run it's race and we purchased a new one – this one is of far better quality according to the Thursday night Chef's – not sure the patrons are convinced yet but time will tell!

Account Keeping System

This year we have moved our account keeping to the online accounting software package Xero – this made producing monthly reports and reconciliations a lot easier and gets us away from recording everything in Excel. We will continue to refine how we use the system to further streamline the process going forward. Depreciation has been applied at a rate of 10% per annum.

Audit

The 2016/17 Financial Accounts for the Williamstown Lacrosse Club Inc have been audited by Mr C Taylor.

This year provided some unique challenges with the change into the new system and I would like to personally thank Colin for his approach – his challenge and advice is always appreciated and should give all member confidence in the accounts of the club.

All in all the financial result of the club this year has been strong, but as I have said for a few years now, this club does not exist to make profits, having money in the bank is a great position of strength to be in, however the ongoing challenge for the future committees of the Williamstown Lacrosse Club is to leverage our position to continue to strengthen our club, and sport, both on and off field.

Matthew Price
Treasurer

JUNIOR MANAGERS REPORT

During our 2016 year we identified that the club was a bit light on for junior development. Our co-ordination was a bit all over the place. As a result we commenced the 100 Club to help fund Junior development. We were able to engage Damien in 2016 who did a great job in getting things started. In 2017 Sean Clarke took over the role. The role has developed to connect, maintain, co-ordinate and then enhance our school programs in the area. The program is working with Lacrosse now much more of a focus at our local schools.

The 2017 season was one that we were again one of the few clubs to field teams in all junior divisions. Our playing numbers were very good in comparison to all other clubs. These teams all had very successful seasons. Our numbers were pretty good, although we do have some work to do in the coming years. Great to see all our kids with club shorts and socks for all games. We continue to brand well and provide a professional set up which I'm sure flows on to our reputation in the area and within the game.

A big thank you goes out to all our coaches. We had all grades covered before Christmas which made life much easier for the club. Sean Clarke took on the U17 squad which was topped up by a group of U15 kids who played all year at U17 level. Darren Nicholas looked after the U15 kids until injuring his knee badly during the year. Kade Robinson and our USA import Brendan McGuire stepped up and took over the role for the remainder of the year. Chris Welsh stepped back from the U15 squad and helped develop our crop of U13 kids. We were able to field 3 U11 teams this year with Duncan Russell, Carl Radford and Scott Garnsworthy taking on the respective squads, all doing great work with the development of these U11 kids. Well done fellas.

2017 we had the following playing numbers for each of our age groups.

U17 = 8, U15 = 23, U13 = 18 & U11 = 32. In total there were 81 juniors, which was up from 67 in 2016. The low U17 number again this year did cause concern. Due to the standard of some of our U15 kids, we pushed them up to the U17 level. A big thank you to these boys. They really did give up a premiership, however developed into much better players. This decision also allowed a bunch of new boys to play in our U15 squad without having too many players. Good result all round really. So in 2017 we fielded teams in U17, U15, U13 and 3 x U11 which means we were back to our 2015 number of teams playing.

In all, our results were excellent. The U17's were Runners up, the U15 and U13 squads made finals. Our U11 kids don't play finals, however remained very competitive, winning one of the Lightning Cup's again during the year.

Thank you to those people that refereed during the year. Unlike other years all games were covered well.

Thank you to all the parents who offered assistance and got involved on game days and supported the club when they could.

Cheers,

Darren Gibson

SPONSORSHIP PORTFOLIO REPORT

The club would like to thank all our Sponsors and 100 CLUB members for their generosity and support in 2017, your contributions allow the club to invest in our future and our members.

Once again we must give a Special thanks to our long standing Major Sponsor Ben Watson and team at Sweeney's Estate Agents. Bens continued support as Major Sponsor over many years has certainly played a big part in getting the club to where it is today and it is very much appreciated by all.

We welcomed back existing sponsors Doric, John Beckman, Shawn's Swim School, Williamstown Osteopathy, Williamstown Plaster, Get Painted, Scottish Pacific and Williamstown Football Club and thank them for their continued support over a number of years.

We also welcome new sponsor Digiworld and look forward to building a strong partnership over the coming years.

The 100 CLUB continues to grow and once again allowed social members to contribute financially to the club which allowed us to continue our junior development investment, purchases the essential equipment for new comers and also keep the game cost affective for all players.

We thank you all for your support, it is very much appreciated.

Troy Butson

COACHES REPORTS

STATE LEAGUE

To begin with I would like to issue my thank-yous:- There are the usual suspects in our scorer Georgia Flaherty and manager Wayne Butson. Both contributions are huge in value to myself and the team and it doesn't seem enough to just issue thanks and gifts at season's end. The embodiment of our team and club, and its success, is only possible with contributions as selfless as they both make season after season.

Alex DiAgostin has figuratively and literally held the team together for three seasons now; next season her presence will be missed by all. Alex has been on loan from Williamstown Osteopaths, as part of their sponsorship package for the club, and we have enjoyed her expertise and experience as well as her friendship. I wish Alex all the best in her future career and if by chance we can get her back to WLC she will be welcome with open arms.

Lee Davis has had another stellar year and brought a lot to the assistant coaching role. Lee multi-tasked as head coach of division two, official for juniors and when needed for seniors, player (until injury forced him from the field) and as already mentioned state league assistant coach. I cannot think of a worthier recipient of the Mal Taylor best club man award. Lee's study and love of lacrosse was a major factor in getting our team across the line for its 33rd premiership in 2017. He injected life and system into our play and best of all an energy that helped steer our young team in a direction that bought us ultimate success. Congratulations on leading division 2 to the 2017 premiership as well. All accolades well earned.

Our season:

12 wins 5 losses 1 tie

Ladder position 3 rd

Goals for 240 Goals against 128 Goal difference 112

Over all outcome: Premiers 2017 (it's a Grand old flag)

This year we found ourselves milling around the 3rd-4th position on the ladder in part due to an unfortunate weather event in round one of the season but also due to the rise of Camberwell and the offensive strength of Footscray. Although we languished in the lower echelons of the top four by seasons end only seven goals were the difference between first place and our position. There was plenty to be confident about come finals time. Even though we stumbled late to Camberwell. The strength of our comeback in that game built an awareness that we could do more with our potential but needed also to improve our play. With the mantra set to stick with our youth we played out an outstanding finals campaign defeating Surrey Park 13-6, Footscray 14-7 and eventually claiming our 33rd premiership over Camberwell 8-6. An aggregate score of 35 for and 19 against. The strength of our goalkeeping and defence was the telling factor in our premiership run.

Captain Matthew Price again led from the front. Unafraid of any lacrosse challenge Matthew led the 2017 team with outstanding conviction to task. We will laud the youth who emerged this year but we should not underestimate the leadership and drive that Frogga provided for them.

Vice-Captain and best and fairest Huw Wilson compiled an outstanding season on the field and admirably took the reigns as leader when leadership was needed. Huw's focus on his own game set an example for the team to follow and his administration of the fines system was truly a master-stroke of genius that galvanised the team.

Vice-Captain Tom Pike unfortunately missed the finals campaign in State League due to commitments elsewhere but upon his return, Tom stayed true to the team and helped with off-field encouragement and was ready to step in if needed.

Adam Dobson made one of the storied appearances in State League in 2017. Evan Willis was unavailable, due to the arrival of his second child, for a pivotal clash against Surrey Park in our late season. If we were to lose the game we may have been facing dropping out of the four and possibly not making the finals. Adam led the team to victory on the back of a 15 save performance and earmarked the turning of the tide for the 2017 flag-run as it was our first win over a top four team for the season.

The collective defense of Chris Welsh, Huw Wilson, Matthew Neumann-Duffin, Lachlan Russell and new comer Brian Bach were colossal through the season. Cameron Molloy, Cardin Flaherty and Josh Robinson pitched in to fill the roster when injuries occurred.

In the mid-field Troy Butson played a season of distinction. No one will forget his low to high blast in the grand-final but that is a very small representation of the season he forged. Troy's midfield play, clearing and defense was the quill that wrote the story of the season.

Sean Clarke continues his rise to prominence as a leader of the team and at the club. He lifted his work ratio in the offence this season and as a result teams could not get a fix on who to honour in

our attacking game.

Noah Jenney also battled away in the face-off and gave us the invaluable luxury of first use of the ball. Sean and Noah are the best one-two face-off unit in the competition.

Brendon Mcguire joined the club from Providence College Rhode Island and led the team with 42 goals. It was great to have him onboard as part of our US player program.

Liam Clarke had the distinction of winning his first grand final for the club at any level. A rare distinction at Williamstown for a player of such ability.

Liam, Brendon, Kade Robinson Alex Pike and Cal Gibson all pulled together this season, particularly in the finals, to create an offence that was very young but as we saw very formidable. Brendon lead the team in points but the spread of points was very even among the team as a whole.

Gil Cordell-Radford emerged through the season and put in an MVP performance in the grand final and although he did not receive official recognition of this the coaches and players were very aware of his performance and its quality.

To round off this report it is very import to record what set us on the path to being premiers in 2017. Mark Butler was never afraid to pick up the phone and offer advice and motivation. Darren Gibson provided excellent advice and service heading into the finals and Simon Brown's record keeping of every player and their qualification status in seniors is a resource I have always been fortunate to have.

The club's health is blossoming and this was very evident across our Grand Final weekend. Friday Night's junior presentation in which well over 100 people attended, the huge crowd that attended the Grand Final at Footscray, family day's perfect weather combined with fun on the bouncing castle and finishing with "Herbie" Taylor's magnificent fair on Monday morning all capped off a busy season with aplomb.

Damien S Orr

State League Coach

DIVISION ONE

Terrific result for the club with flags in State League, D1, & D2.

Still a difficult year as State League needed to retain a core of 18 players with injury, representative lacrosse and other factors not allowing a natural flow of players both ways.

Congratulations to the Fearons for an emphatic finals series with a host of new players that was probably one of the youngest State League sides we have sent out in a Grand Final in recent memory.

Congratulations also to our Division 2 side, winning a Grand Final at any level is special, but coming from behind to force overtime and then getting up – very satisfying.

Due to reasons touched on above, Division 1 had to field sides of 11, 12 and 13 players for a lot of the year.

To do this and only lose a game is testament to the competitive (and combative) nature of Messrs Flaherty, Williams, Wilkinson & Dobson. Those four players were the mainstay of the side and in real terms were the best coaches this side could have. When you include Ardossi, Taylor (B & M), Garnsworthy & Menzies, we had most bases covered allowing us to run a number of juniors through, giving them ample exposure and access to players that other clubs can only dream of ever being involved.

To watch and listen to Wilko or Card explain the nuances of the game to the likes of Will Olver, Shae Moat or Brock Gourley was fantastic. I (and the club) owe the senior guys that played in Division 1 a high level of gratitude for this alone.

Ash Wilkinson, for mine, is still one of the best players at Williamstown, I can tell you he was shattered to lose last year and wasn't going to let anything stop the side from going one better this year. His ability to share knowledge yet retain his focus on playing well & winning was extraordinary. It was no wonder he not only won our B & F but also the competition Best & Fairest. As I said – extraordinary.

I hope to apply for the position again for season 2018 and (if successful) will rely on the senior guys to mentor the junior players that are selected. I have seen the young talent first hand and am extremely excited to get a hold of these players and try and continue to teach them how to play the best game on the planet, in readiness for long State League careers.

Big thank you's to Flazza and Pete Marshall as manager and scorer respectively. We struggled early to fill these spots and I don't take your involvement for granted. Simon Brown – hardest job of the lot of us. To juggle the amount of players you did to ensure 99% get a game at the pointy end is proof of your organisational skills. Thanks.

I've missed a few I know, so if you played ANY part in helping us get to where we wanted to go Thank you. That includes a shout out to Ben Hussey who was under a lot of pressure from the side to play HIS part. He did, we won and that's that!

Mark Butler

DIVISION TWO

The 2017 season saw the recent trend continue, as Williamstown Division 2 again won the premiership. 3 flags in a row is a great effort at any level, in any sporting endeavour. The road to the premiership was as typical as it was not.

54 players moved through the Division 2 team this year, some fleeting, others part of the weekly grind. Injuries, European holidays, ski trips, illness and some late Friday nights all contributing to the mass of bodies it took to fill a team each week.

The Division 2 team experienced 3 losses in the home & away season, Altona, MCC and Surrey Park getting the better of the boys at different times. The best win of the season came at home to Camberwell in round 8. It was a bizarre day, with a serious leg injury (to Darren Nicholas) in the 3rd quarter almost resulting in the game being abandoned. Division 2 finished with 9 fit players, 2 huge goals in the fading light by Shannon Beckham were the difference in the end, 12-10 Williamstown.

Finishing the home & away season as minor premiers meant Division 2 earned the double chance, and this season it was needed as MCC swiped Division 2 aside in the 2nd semi-final, 13-7.

The Preliminary final saw the Division 2 boys bounce back at a mud plains of Eltham to defeat Altona 9-3, earning the right to take on MCC for the premiership.

The Grand Final, played at Footscray was a fantastic game of the lacrosse, the consent ebbed and flowed, with both teams having their run of play across the 80 minutes. A victory looked unlikely as MCC built a 3-goal lead late in the 4th quarter, but thanks to some big saves, timely checks, clutch goals and stellar faceoff play Division 2 clawed their way back, tying the contest 10-10 with 43 seconds remaining in regulation. The 8-minute over-time period (two 4 minute halves) saw Division 2's momentum carry through, resulting in a terrific win, 12-10.

The Division 2 recent dominance is a direct reflection of the talent still at the club and continually being developed. The grand final saw 2 Australian representatives running around, not to mentioned several state league and representative players in support.

The biggest positive throughout the season were our junior players Harry Gibson, Edison Pyke and Will Olver who excelled in their first full year of seniors.

I must thank Damien, Mark, Carl and Simon for their help in getting 4 teams on the park each week. It was an eye-opening experience to see firsthand how much time, effort and energy it takes to make this happen, and all for the love of game.

Lee Davis

DIVISION THREE

Notwithstanding fielding 96 players throughout the Club's 4 Senior teams – a tremendous effort in itself - 2017 was a frustrating year for selection with anywhere between 20-30 senior players unavailable for extended periods of the Home & Away season. At an individual level most would be unaware of the impact of their absences, but collectively it places a great deal of strain on the club more broadly including the Senior Coaches who were forced to play the weekly game of Snakes & Ladders each Thursday (and in many instances on into Friday and as late as Saturday afternoon!).

As always, with finals time upon us all was forgiven and forgotten when miraculously all ailments were cured, excuses evaporated, and the depth and calibre of the WLC playing group, both Juniors and Seniors alike, rose to the occasion ultimately delivering a very successful season with State League, Division 1 and Division 2 all winning premierships, and our young Under 17 team finishing Runners-Up! Congratulations to all.

Being the committed clubmen we are [and on occasion needing a break to soothe the old bones], Division 3 took on the role of 'Fall Guys' giving 4 walkovers, yet still finishing a respectable 3rd for the third successive year ultimately going down to Footscray 10-7 in a tough fought Preliminary final.

Throughout the year 45 players represented Division 3 with a number of new and old faces (and bodies) strutting their stuff. We were fortunate to have a number of players from our hugely talented Under 15 and Under 17 teams play their first season of senior lacrosse in 2017 alternating between Division 2 and 3 (with the odd cameo in Division 1) including first season player Chinaka Roa-Egbor, Shae Moate, Harry Gibson, Ed Pyke, Tane Roordink, Ronan Redshaw, Rron Gvori, and Xavier Soares-Jury.

Additionally, Jayden Smith, Evan Fortsecue, Lachlan Warren, Will Oliver, and Alex Brown all excelled in their second year of seniors, with a special call out to Jayden who dominated face-off, scored frequently and ended up taking out D3 Best & Fairest (in addition to his Under 17 B&F gong) – great effort.

Junior dad Tim Hayward played his first season with Williamstown returning to the game after a 20 year break taking out our MVP award after dominating in defence ably supported by Jake Rooney and Jordy O'Driscoll who both had great seasons in defence and goals respectively – well done.

As usual the older brigade were typically dependable with the likes of Henderson, Rooney, Otter, Russell, Radford, Brown, Orr, and Garnsworthy gritting their teeth and pushing aside their hamstring, calf, achilles, ribs and shoulder twinges on occasion providing slow motion flashbacks from their heyday. Sophmores Jury and Fortescue were keen and dependable as ever.

Thanks again to Wayne Butson, Nick Brown, Rob Flaherty, and Marcus Civelle for helping out on the sidelines. To Mark Butler, thank you for stepping in to coach our Preliminary Final and for showing our young guns what finals time and for WLC are all about.

2017 Results

Regular Season

- Won 10, Lost 1 (plus 4 Walkovers given .)
- Goals For 160, Goals Against 75

Finals

- Semi Final – Williamstown 16 d Malvern 1
- Preliminary Final – Footscray 10 d Williamstown 7

Awards

- Best & Fairest – Jayden Smith
- Most Valuable Player – Tim Hayward
- Best First Year Player – Tane Roordink
- Best Team Man – Jake Rooney

To all the members and broader WLC family, best wishes for Xmas and the New Year and look forward to seeing you all in 2018.

Simon Brown
Division 3 Coach

UNDER 17

2017 saw Williamstown Lacrosse Club field an extremely diverse Under 17 side, made up of two top-age players, five bottom-age players and eight under 15 players. These boys proved week-in-week-out that they had the ability and tenacity to compete in the older division, competing and coming out victorious over every side bar one in the competition.

To highlight the achievement and hard work of every boy in the team even further, it took a team made up of four clubs, mostly made up of top age under 17 players to best this Williamstown side in the Grand Final by a tight margin of two goals. I cant commend the boys enough on their commitment and effort given to the team and the club throughout the 2017 season, it was shown not only in the results achieved on the field, but the enjoyment and enthusiasm shown at training and around the club. It made coming down on those wet and wild nights in the middle of Winter that much easier for me knowing there was a great bunch of guys waiting down there ready to learn and have some fun.

I must also commend the 13 or so boys from under 15s and under 17s who stepped up to play senior Lacrosse in 2017, it speaks volumes of their willingness to improve and enjoyment of the game, I certainly have never seen such a great number of young men playing Senior Lacrosse in my time at the club.

I would also like to congratulate the award winners (Jayden Smith, Will Olver, Ed Pyke & Lachlan Hodge), the State and Representative team participants (Jacob Poole, Harry Gibson, Will Olver, Ed Pyke, Shae Moate, Lachlan Warren, Tane Roordink, Lachlan Hodge, Alex Brown, Rron Govori, Chinaka Roa-Ebujor) and finally to all the parents for bringing the boys to training and games and putting in throughout the season, I can't thank all of you enough.

I hope you enjoyed the season as much as I did, enjoy your Summer and I hope to see you all back in 2018.

Sean Clarke

UNDER 15

Coaching the under 15 boys this year was an absolute blast for me! Unfortunately, it was due to Reggie's knee injury. I want to thank Reggie for making my job much easier because of the fundamentals and skill level he had the boys playing at early on in the season. I also want to thank Kade for assisting me, while also being a trooper and reffing almost all of our games. It was a huge help and greatly appreciated. Lastly, before I get to the actual players, is Sean Clarke. Clarke was leading the way all season for both the 17's and 15's (mostly stealing my 15's, but that is beside the point..) I admire Sean for his commitment to the Club and generosity of time he gives to boys.

Finally, I want to congratulate the boys for a great season! It may not have ended the way we wanted it to, but I think everybody on the team and in the Club knows what could have happened, had the opportunity presented itself. Nonetheless, it was a fantastic journey with this team. Sean and I had been moving players around between the 15's and 17's which meant there had to be a stronger focus on the guys stepping up to take advantage and help the team. I was deeply impressed with the players showing up every practice ready to work and listening to all the instruction I had to offer, I only threw my stick from across the field one time at Gabe for staring at the birds and I think Harry even listened to a few things along the way! This is a great group of both experienced players as well as newcomers, but if they stick together and keep honing their craft the future will be bright and filled with premierships! Keep working and continuing to enjoy the game, it has given me a great deal and I hope I can begin to return that by helping in any way I can!

Lastly, I want to thank the club for everything it has done for me and allowed me to be apart of. I am indebted and grateful beyond words.

P.S Rron, don't forget to retrieve your Providence College Friars T-shirt!

Brendon McGuire
Providence College Marketing 16'

UNDER 13

We had a great group of young lads in the U13 side this year, and their enthusiasm and willingness to learn made for an immensely fulfilling and fun year being their coach. Our guys had fun and their play & game understanding developed a great deal over the course of the year.

We were eliminated in the first week of the finals by Eltham - playing our best lacrosse of the year when it mattered the most when faced with a large 3Q time deficit. Ultimately, we came up a goal short - but to stick to our game plan and play so well when the season was on the line was very pleasing and a testament to the young guys.

Congrats to all the players on their seasons, particularly our award winners Tahu Roordink, Zack Wallis, Will Hayward and Archie Papazoglu.

My deep thanks to Tim Hayward, assistant coach for all his efforts in helping develop our group; Michelle Grant for scoring and being the unofficial team manager; Cal Gibson, Shae Moate and Darren Henderson for completing the referee duties early on Saturday mornings; and the Committee (particularly Darren Gibson) for their work behind the scenes that allows Tim and I to focus on coaching. Finally, the biggest of thanks to players for their commitment and their families for the support.

Go Willy
Welshy

UNDER 11 FEARON

The U-11 Fearons had a fantastic 2017 session. The boys went through the regular session with 9 win 4 losses, and put in strong performances in both Lighting Carnivals.

This year the Fearons had approximately 10 players. The composition of the team was made up of

1st Year Players:	2nd Year Players	3rd Year Player	4th Year Player.
Henry Turnbull Hunter Spicer Sam O'Dea Wil Spicer Will Barnes	Gus Mee	Zane Nicholas Aidan Nicholas Lachlan Stephenson	Blake Radford

We had great attendance at training throughout the year and it was great to see so many parents involved, participating and supporting their kids, team and the Club. It certainly makes my job, as coach, a lot easier. All players demonstrated great enthusiasm, lacrosse skill, teamwork and sportsmanship during the season and we can all be proud of their achievements and the contributions each has made to the team's success. The following trophies were awarded as follows:

Best Team Player	Zane Nicholas
Best Defender	Gus Mee
Best Attack	Blake Radford
Most Valuable Player	Lachlan Stephenson
Best & Fairest	Aidan Nicholas

There were many parents that assisted me throughout the year. Special thanks go to Jo Spicer, Vanessa O'Dea and Reenie Nicholson and my team Manager Mathew Stephenson. I'd also like to thank the U-11 City's Coach Duncan Russell and Scott Garnsworthy who assisted with training on Tuesday and Thursday nights.

Yet another season has come to a close and I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our State league, Division 1 and Division 3 teams on their Grand Final wins! All sides played some fantastic lacrosse and secured another three premierships flags for the Williamstown Lacrosse Club. Well done to all involved! To all of our other teams, well done on another successful year right across the board.

Carl Radford

UNDER 11 CITIES

We had another solid year with some strong results both on and off the field. This year we had a number of new players which was great to see, we did our best to rotate positions so as everybody got an equal opportunity to play at both ends of the field. Of the 8 players, 2 are going up to U13 next year, so we wish them all the best, and look forward to seeing the other 6 down at pre-season training early 2018.

Duncan Russell

UNDER 11 DEACON

This year the club had over 30 registered U11 players which forced us to field a third U11 team, the Deacons. The increase of numbers was mainly due to the fantastic work performed by Sean Clarke in schools, who should be commended on his efforts!

I was asked to fill the role of the coach of the Deacons which was to be a great experience.

We were able to get a good mix of experienced and new players across the 3 teams and it was fantastic to see the enjoyment, enthusiasm and development of each and every one of the boys throughout the season.

The Deacons had a successful year with an 8 win and 5 loss record, along with back-to-back Lightning Carnival Premierships in the Kangaroos Division at the mid-season and end of year events. I'm certain that all of the Deacons will suit up again next year for the club, with most of them devastated that the season is over - we have definitely converted these new players (and families!) to the Lacrosse fraternity!

Huge thanks to Nat Miller and Sue Comeadow for their assistance throughout the year, along with my fellow U11 Coaches, Carl and Duncan.

Finally, congratulations to the whole club for yet another successful year.

All the very best for season 2018.

Scott Garnsworthy

Club's History of Office Bearers, Honour Rolls & Representatives can be located on our web site at:

<http://www.williamstownlacrosse.com.au/?/m/club-statistics>