



# Williamstown Lacrosse Club

Established 1897



## 2022 Annual Report

26 October 2022



# **WILLIAMSTOWN LACROSSE CLUB INC.**

**FOUNDED 1898.**

<http://www.williamstownlacrosse.com.au/>

## **Annual General Meeting**

*Williamstown Lacrosse Club*

*Fearon Reserve*

*Garden Street, Williamstown*

*Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2022 @ 7:30 PM*

On behalf of the 2022 WLC General Committee, I commit the following 120<sup>th</sup> Annual Report and Financial Statements for your consideration and approval.

Simon Brown

Secretary

### **2022 ANNUAL REPORT**

#### **Business:**

1. Confirmation of minutes of the 2021 AGM
2. Adoption of 2022 Annual Report.
3. Adoption of Financial Statements for 2022.
4. Election of Office Bearers for 2023.
5. General Business

### **2022 OFFICE BEARERS**

PRESIDENT : John Price

VICE PRESIDENTS: Simon Brown  
Robert Speakman

SECRETARY: Simon Brown

TREASURER: Matthew Price

#### **COMMITTEE:**

| <b>Member</b>    | <b>Portfolio</b>      |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| John Price       | Grants & LV           |
| Matthew Price    | Finance & Merchandise |
| Damien Orr       | Junior Co-Ordinator   |
| Troy Butson      | Sponsorship           |
| Simon Brown      | LV, HBCC & Co-Tenants |
| Darren Gibson    | Senior Co-Ordinator   |
| Stephen Pike     | Wellbeing & Grounds   |
| Michael Kindred  | Communications        |
| Robert Speakman  | Sponsorship & Grounds |
| Darren Henderson | ALRA & Club Referees  |
| Ben Rotin        | Bar Manager & RSA     |

AUDITOR Colin Taylor

RECORDS Robert Speakman, Alan Rolley

LV CLUB DELEGATES John Price, Darren Gibson



# WILLIAMSTOWN LACROSSE CLUB Inc

Annual General Meeting MINUTES  
7:30 PM Monday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2021.  
Williamstown Lacrosse Club

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Meeting Opened: 7.30 PM

1. Present: Robert Speakman, Carl Radford, Darren Henderson, Geoff Van Wyngarden, Darren Gibson, Daryl Wilkinson, Simon Brown, Damien Orr, Troy Butson, Brooke Poynton, Alan Rolley, Sean Clarke, Margaret Clarke, Ian Fraser, Cardin Flaherty, Georgia Flaherty, Robert Flaherty, Stephen Pike, Michael Kindred, Alec Inglis, Gregor Garnsworthy, Jock Garnsworthy, Ben Rotin.

2. Apologies: Ron Twomey

3. Minutes last meeting

Motion "The minutes accepted as accurate account of 2020 AGM held 9/12/2020"

**MOVED:** Damien Orr **SECONDED:** Ben Rotin **PASSED**

4. **2020 Annual report:** Presented and Accepted.

**MOVED:** Alec Inglis **SECONDED:** Geoff Van Wyngarden **PASSED**

## 5. REPORTS

Presidents Report – as tabled. 2021 was another difficult year both on and off the field due to COVID interruptions and eventual cancellation of the season in August. Considerable effort was put in by all our playing and non-playing members to bounce back from 2020. 2021 saw the completion of the new Lighting and Barrier Nets major projects as well as the acquisition of a new electronic scoreboard. Financially the Club made a small cash surplus as a result of LV waiving the final instalment of subs due to COVID. Simon thanked all coaches, committee members, and players and made special mention to Carl Radford, Brooke Poynton and Margaret Clarke for their contributions to the Committee.

**MOVED:** Sean Clarke **SECONDED:** Darren Gibson **PASSED**

Financial Report – as tabled. Presented by Simon Brown on behalf of Margaret Clarke noting an overall cash deficit of \$2,766 for the year. Details are in the financial report tabled. Simon thanked Margaret who is stepping down as Treasurer after holding the position for the past three years. Thanks to Colin Taylor for auditing the report.

**MOVED:** Daryl Wilkinson **SECONDED:** Ben Rotin **PASSED**

Major Projects Report – as tabled. Future projects in conjunction with HBCC to be progressed in the coming years including reconfiguration of the Box Lacrosse Court.

**MOVED:** Troy Butson **SECONDED:** Damien Orr **PASSED**

## 6. 2022 OFFICE BEARERS

Robert Speakman called for nominations for President, Secretary, Treasurer and General Committee. The following were elected unopposed.

President: John Price, Vice President: Simon Brown, Robert Speakman Secretary: Vacant, Treasurer: Matthew Price, General Committee: Troy Butson, Darren Gibson, Stephen Pike, Michael Kindred, Damien Orr, Darren Henderson, Sean Clarke, Ben Rotin Auditor: Colin Taylor

**MOVED:** Alan Rolley **SECONDED:** Ian Fraser **PASSED**

## 7. LIFE MEMBERSHIP

"That this Annual General Meeting of members of the Williamstown Lacrosse Club endorse Georgia Flaherty as a Life member of the Williamstown Lacrosse Club."

**MOVED:** Robert Speakman **SECONDED:** Alec Inglis **CARRIED**

Robert presented Georgia with her Life Membership highlighting her many years of service running the Junior Soft Lacrosse of "Locals" programme, being official scorer for over 400 State League Games, assisting with social functions and other club events over a period of more than 40 years. Georgia is also a Life Member of the Newport Ladies Lacrosse Club having played, coached and acted as a club administrator in various capacities since the early 1980s.

All reports were received well.

Meeting Closed: 8:45 PM

## NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

The following WLC players represented Australia at the Under 21 World Championships in Limerick, Ireland in July 2022:

|               |              |                            |               |
|---------------|--------------|----------------------------|---------------|
| Lachlan Hodge | Harry Gibson | Ed Pyke                    | Brock Gourley |
| Rron Govori   | Shae Moate   | Kade Robinson (Ass. Coach) |               |

## VICTORIAN & U15 REPRESENTATIVES

Seniors: Sean Clarke, Noah Jenney, Ben Newman

Under 18s: Artchwan Papazoglou, Sid Dunham, Angus Menzies, Bryce Emery, Jake Mannix, Tahu Roordink, Zac Wallis, Josh Ardossi (Assistant Coach), Adam Dobson (Assistant Coach).

Under 15s (Western Metros): Flynn Crawford, Sebastian Dabner, Archer Flaherty, Gus Mee, Josh Mannix, Sam O'Dea, Ryland Prinsloo, Blake Radford, Oliver Russell, Lachlan Wright.

## 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            | D1, D2, D3, 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                    |
| 2018 | 68                                     | 4     | SL/D1/D2/D3 | 79      | 6     | 11D, C & F,13, 15, 17    | 1            | U 17                           |
| 2019 | 65                                     | 4     | SL/D1/D2/D3 | 85      | 7     | 11D,C,F, 13B,G,15,17     | 5            | S/L, D1, U17, U15, U13         |
| 2020 | N/A – Season cancelled due to COVID-19 |       |             |         |       |                          |              |                                |
| 2021 | 46                                     | 3     | SL/D1/D2    | 69      | 5     | 11C,F, 13,15,17          | -            | N/A Cancelled 1/8 Due to COVID |
| 2022 | 51                                     | 3     | SL/D1/D3    | 64      | 5     | 12C,F,14,16,18           | 3            | D1, D3, U18                    |

Williamstown Lacrosse 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>

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

What an interesting season we had in 2022.

The year started with the uncertainty as to how the season would pan out due to Covid 19 restrictions. It ended with six teams in finals, five grand finals, three flags and a clubroom vibrating to the sounds of our players and supporters.

As a new President and committee, it was very much a year to assess the impact of the events of the previous two years, what worked, what didn't and how we need to grow. While it was clearly not business as usual and we have a lot we can work on, it is great to see our fundamental philosophy as an inclusive, safe family club has put us in a strong position.

On the field, the club fielded eight teams (3 senior and 5 junior) and had an under ten group training and competing in round robin tournaments. The numbers remained down on pre-covid levels, something that has impacted on the whole competition.

Despite this, the club performed incredibly well. As Simon reported last year we again fielded large contingents of younger players in our senior sides continuing WLC's long tradition of promoting our juniors and developing their talent training and playing with and against the best players in Victoria.

It was great to see our club so well represented in Ireland in the Australian under 21 team. Six players out of a squad of 23 is a 'fantastic' effort and a testament to their hard work and dedication. It is also a testament to the hard work and patience of their parents and coaches. Next year will see some of those players, with other senior players, trying out for the Australian Senior side to compete in San Diego in July 2023.

To Darren Gibson, as Senior Coach and Coordinator thank you for your commitment in particular over the past 3 years. Darren is very much part of the glue that keeps the fabric of the club together. To Damien Orr, thank you for your work as Junior Co-Ordinator and efforts to grow the junior program at a time it has been difficult to get access to the schools.

I'd like to acknowledge the tremendous work of all the Senior and Junior coaches, team managers, scores and umpires. Without your dedication and support we would not be able to field the teams or enjoy the success we have.

To Brooke Rolley, a special thank you for coordinating the kitchen and to all the parents and supporters who helped out, thank you. It felt like an episode of MasterChef each Saturday and made the nights a lot of fun.

To the Committee, thank you. The committee operates on a portfolio basis with each member having a specific responsibility. It is fair to say we might have been a bit rusty at the start of the season, but everyone has put in and contributed to the club's success. Simon Brown in particular, despite his very busy life, has been tireless in his effort as Secretary, Matthew Price as treasurer has brought us into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century with the introduction of the 'square' and a cashless club and Michael Kindred not only provided our IT support, website updates, Div. 3 coordinator, captain and League B&F, but cooked some very good hamburgers on a Thursday night. Ben Rotin & Mick Ryley again did a great job managing the Bar.

Thank you also to our Sponsors (including Cliff and the team from Williamstown Health & Lifestyle), and the many others who helped out week to week without whom our success as a club would not happen.

Off the field 2022, we have been successful in obtaining a \$5,000 to help junior players re-engage in team sport. We have engaged in discussion with the Williamstown Women's Lacrosse Club to work more closely in developing the game and are currently jointly conducting clinics at the local primary schools. As Simon reported last year the new lighting and barrier nets have been transformational to the Fearon Reserve lacrosse facilities. This allowed us to host with WWLC the opening round against Footscray under lights. The new mobile Electronic Scoreboard was put into action and overall the night was a great way to get back into a post covid world and a tremendous success.

Thanks to the efforts of Carl Radford and Cardin Flaherty the lights in the Box area were finally repaired by the council. The box is a great facility for young players and it was pleasing to see so many enjoying the facility on Saturday nights. The Council upgrade of the Box Court, is still scheduled to occur in 2023.

This year we have brought the AGM forward to the last week in October rather than the traditional December date. As a committee we felt it important to get an early start on our program for 2023.

We are keen to ramp up our junior program and recruiting overall, work with the joint tenants of the ground to continue to improve facilities. Next year is also the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the club and a huge reason to celebrate the club as both a community and lacrosse institution.

We will be looking to volunteers to organise events to celebrate the year and encourage anyone interested to get involved. We want to continue to grow our great club and encourage anyone who is interested to get involved either on the committee or helping out around the club.

On behalf of the 2022 WLC Committee, once again thank you to all our members and supporters for their support throughout 2022. We look forward to our 125 anniversary in 2023.

John Price  
President

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

The Financial Statements for the year ending 30 September 2022 should be read in conjunction with the following notes.

The financial statements presented for the 2022 year include the period between 1 November 2021 and 30 September 2022. The committee decided to bring the AGM forward this year and as a result present financials for 11 months. Going forward we will present a financial year of 1 October to 30 September.

As is presented in the financial statements, we ended the year with an operational deficit of \$7,223.48. Given the impact of Covid over the past 2 seasons, a direct comparison with 2021 or 2020 is difficult and as such the last valid comparison is 2019 where we completed a full season.

The deficit was largely driven by;

- One off Liquor Licence application fees;
- Low Sponsorship levels;
- Reduce Function proceeds;
- Increases in the level of LV Fee subsidisation (due to playing numbers); and
- Offset by an increase in Grant funding

The impact of not having completed a season in two years, and the uncertainty around the ability to hold function or understand capacity constraints made 2022 a difficult year to plan for. We also allowed our Under 21 Australian representatives to run and take all profits from the major function (\$1000 Draw), whilst as a club we did not run any other functions to raise funds.

The club decided to introduce a new Point of Sale (POS) System this year and largely transition to a cashless environment, which has made integrating and understanding the revenue streams far better and has generally been well accepted by the members and guests.

Grant funding for the year was \$6,998.50, of which \$5,000 is still required to be invested in goods or services for the benefit of the younger members of the club. The major cash investment this year was the second instalment of the electronic scoreboard (\$6,364).

Key areas which the 2023 committee should look to address in planning for the season include Bar Prices and Playing Fees and Sponsorship. The strong financial position of the club has meant that we have been able to adapt to the post-covid environment well, going forward we will be in a far better position to plan and budget to ensure we remain in a strong financial position.

### **Major Projects**

The final instalment for Electronic Scoreboard was paid (\$6,364.60) – no other major project were entered into in 2022.

### **Major variances to 2019**

Total income down by \$26.4k, mainly due to;

- Function (\$7.3k)
- Bar sales (\$4.9k)
- Merchandise (\$4.9k)
- Membership Fees – Playing & Social (\$8.3k)
- Sponsorship (\$9.9k)
- Offset by Grants (+ve \$7k)

The \$26.4k of reduced revenue only materialised in a \$10.8k net cash turn around (as compared to 2019) due to some reduced expenditure, expenditure was \$15.6k lower driven mainly by;

- Reduced "Lacrosse" spend – (\$10.8k)
- Reduction in LV Playing Fees – (\$4.4k)
- Merchandise for Sale – (\$3.8k)
- Prior Period Recoveries – (\$4.1k)
- Offset by Electronic Scoreboard - +\$6.3k

- One off Liquor Licence pmts – +\$1.8k

## **Key Points**

There are a few other items driving the result which are worth mentioning

1. Merchandise stocks were very low to commence 2022, as a result we purchased a number of hoodies and other items throughout the season. Costs exceed sales by ~\$2.8k but there is stock on hand going into 2023 – thanks to Vanessa Wilkinson for taking on the role of managing the merchandise
2. Bar Margins as a percentage of Sales have reduced slightly from 2019
3. Within the accounts there are two items which have been represented as “Prior Period Recoveries” from 2021. The reimbursement of The WWLC portion of the Gas, Electricity and Bin Hire bills and the sale of Bar Stock to WICC were not in the 2021 accounts, to ensure comparability going forward these amounts have been separated in the Income and Expenditure Statements.
4. All items included in Accounts Receivable or Accounts Payable have been accounted for prior to the AGM

Overall, 2022 served as a bit of a reset for the club, however we have a much better idea of what the club revenue and cost base will look like in 2023 which will allow for more confident planning going forward.

## **Special Mention**

There are a few people who I owe big thanks for their support this year. Firstly, to Michael Kindred, who was a great support in transitioning to the new PoS system and in general with making things happen on the committee.

Brooke and the team that worked in the kitchen this year, your contribution is always valued and some of the Saturday night food this year was pretty awesome – it was great to see so many new faces serving the food on a Saturday.

To all the loyal Social Club members, and our Sponsors, in particular Duncan Russell (International Mowers) and David Robinson (Garden Street Gin Club) for their ongoing financial support.

To Vanessa Wilkinson for stepping in and taking on the Merchandise role this year, thank you very much and we look forward to being ready to go with some exciting new merchandise in 2023.

Finally, to Darren Henderson and Chris Welsh for organising refs this season, and especially to those who were entitled to be paid for their time but essentially donated the money back. Overall of the \$3,120 that was owed to club members, \$1,740 was donated back to the club, with a special mention to Jake Rooney who volunteered nearly every week and donated back \$650 – an amazing contribution to the club for 2022 and many seasons prior.

## **Audit**

The 2022 Financial Accounts for the Williamstown Lacrosse Club Inc have been audited by Mr C Taylor. My thanks to Colin for time and input into the reporting of the accounts. The club is lucky to have an auditor who understands the way the club works and challenges to ensure the financials are reported accurately year-on-year.

In summary, the financial result of the club while negative in terms of the cash in the bank, is positive in the sense that our strong financial position has allowed us to come through a very challenging period with a strong balance sheet and the ability to plan and reset to continue as a strong club well into the future. As mentioned in previous Treasurers reports, the club exists for its members and not to make profits, however having a robust asset base provides the club the ability to plan and invest in the future as well as weather unpredictable and unforeseen circumstances. The ongoing challenge of the Committee is to make sure it leverages the financial position to continue to strengthen our club, and sport, both on and off field.

Matthew Price  
Treasurer



## COACHES REPORTS

### State League

After 2 years of covid disruption, it was great to have the club up[ and running again. The break however did have an impact on the club and further uncertainty amongst players etc. It took some time for the group and club to get to some resemblance of normal.

During the year we had a total of 26 players come through the team. This is the highest number I can remember, which included some 6-7 first gamers. The cause was things like holidays, covid, Aussie U21 reps, etc. No other club in the competition could have run this many people through its top team and remain more than competitive. This is a credit to the club and the total squad who all had a part to play with the team this year.

Although the end result was a second place finish, we need to hold our heads up as we battled it out to the end. Footscray had a number of imports which made the task more difficult, however we gave them one heck of a scare. With our age demographic, we are primed to stay competitive for future years.

The successful year was a result of lots of assistance from many people. A big thank you to Darren Nicholas, Sam Marquard and Mike Sullivan for helping with the coaching through the year. This started in Feb with preseason and continued throughout the season. Thanks fella's. Thank you to Cardin and Dano who looked after the D1 team. Loz for scoring for the year, to Welshy for making sure we had referees each week, Stephen Pike for looking after the fields, Kinders and Carl for your help on the BBQ on a Thursday night and then to John Price and Simon Brown for all the work you do behind the scenes.

Our award winners this year was a tied B&F. Sean Clarke and Troy Butson fully deserved to share the award after very consistent years. Most consistent attack player was Matt Price, most consistent defence player was Matt Nuemann- Duffin, with our final award going to Liam Clarke. We named it the Team Excellence award. Well deserved to all.

As another year passes, we must remain focused on our desire to continue to improve. With so many distractions these days, we remain committed to making the club a desired location, where people want to be included and support each other and share whatever success comes our way. Hopefully covid and the resulting change in people has passed. On speaking to a number of players, this year's result has sparked a keenness to get back early, work hard and go one better in 2023.

Darren Gibson  
State League Coach

## Division 1

Division 1, as always is a great mix of talented youth / player pushing for State league positions and some older guys with lots of experience. Being able to train alongside state league player all year really helped everyone improve all aspects of their game. Thanks to Darren Gibson, Darren Nicholas, Mike Sullivan and Sam Marquard for getting all players together to create a squad for most training sessions this really pushes player to strive be better players and people. We believe this approach helps everyone come together to become greater players and a stronger club.

With the D1 game style we took into the first game and end in the same attacking mindset was awesome to be a part of. Our game plan was to push the ball and attack the goal but keeping a balanced offence at all times was a fun game for all to be a part of. Our defence also had the green light to push the ball up field and create attacking options. All of the defenders were instructed to attack the goal on a fast break until the ball had settled. Some of our up and coming defenders really embraced this instruction and scored some fantastic goals.

Once again we received a walkover in Div 1, The VLA needs review why we have 4 grades of Senior lacrosse when no club is fielding 4 teams. We should be consolidating the grades to provide a stronger competition.

During the middle of the year we also struggled to field a team, this was extremely taxing on the players that we did have, with a small or even no bench. It was in times like this that the depth of our Club really presented itself. I would like to call out Daniel Jennings and Michael Kindred for all of the work they did to find past players to pull on a jumper and play a few games. I'd also like to give Michael Kindred and Carl Radford a big shout out for all of the work they do in arranging dinner for the players on a Thursday night, this really does help to bring people together off the field and build stronger relationships between the players.

I'd like to say a big thank you to all of the Juniors and their parents for supporting the club and helping our Div 1 team through the lean times.

Our kids! We have some awesome young men coming through and we believe will hold us in good stead for years to come. We had conversations throughout the year with Mark Butter whom coached the under 18s this year. He provided us with a number of kids that played most of the year with us and he probably had more kids that could have played also. Sidney Dunham and Artchawin Papazoglou have certainly cemented themselves into the team. We had Josh Gordon, Angus Menzies and Jake Mannix all display skills and determination to improve that could see them all become extremely valuable members of our S/L Team if they continue to grow and develop at their current rate.

With our face off, Gabe Nicolas and Jayden Smith played all year long, while Brent Lavelle played the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the year. All played very well throughout the year, but I need to acknowledge Gabe Nicolas, for the improvement that he has displayed this year.

After winning the last Div1 Grand final in 2019, then having 2 years off for COVID it was great to come home with an 11-4 win over MCC. MCC had a very strong attack line, but our defence of John Tokurua, Chris Welsh and Flynn Hogan managed to hold them to 3 goals. Our attack line of Daniel Jennings, Josh Ardossi and Thomas Garnsworthy outscored MCC 6/0 in the last quarter. Captains were Ben Hussey and John Tokurua

I would also like acknowledge that Georgia Flaherty has been running the scorers bench again, It was great to have the old girl back on the clocks ensuring everything was running smooth.

We could sit here listing all player that played this year but we would just like to thank each and every player that put on the Blue and Gold. We are extremely proud of the side for consistently demonstrating the values of the Williamstown Lacrosse Club:

- Play Hard,
- Play Fair
- Have a drink in opposition clubrooms after the game, then head home to the Fearon!

Most Consistent - Brechan O'Duil

Most Improved - Gabe Nicolas

Coaches Award - Brad Lane

Best & Fairest - Daniel Jennings

Regards,

Daniel Jennings / Cardin Flaherty

## **Division 3**

2022 was an interesting year for our Division 3 team.

Michael Kindred took on the coaching/co-ordination role again in 2022. Initially we were considering not even running a 3rds team due to low player numbers across Division 3 & Division 1. However, we persisted and managed to pull together a team with a total of 39 different players playing throughout the year.

The year was frustrating for all involved, with our team playing fewer games than every other club in the competition due to the lack of Division 3 numbers from other clubs, which meant we were often given walkovers. We took the field a mere 7 times out of a possible 15 home and away games, and as Altona pulled out of the competition halfway through, it saw our final series restructured to the top team going directly into the grand final with 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> playing off to participate in the grand final.

Of the 7 times we took the field we were undefeated, claiming the minor premiership and going on to defeat a combined Melbourne University / Brunswick team 6-5 in the Grand Final.

The age demographic of the team was significantly higher than usual this year, with only a small number of junior players available to play Division 3, with the bulk of our U18 contingent playing seniors in State League & Division 1.

A highlight of the year we were able to field 3 father-son duos in a single game at the Fearon:

- Scott & Zac Garnsworthy
- Duncan & Olli Russell
- Carl & Blake Radford

Congratulations again to all the award winners:

- Club & League Best & Fairest – Michael Kindred
- MVP – Damien Orr
- Most Improved – Cam Smith
- Best Team Man – Matt Ryley

Michael Kindred  
Division 3 Coach

## **Under 18s**

Finally, after a stalled then cancelled season the VLA got Lacrosse back on track in 2022, so congratulations to them for getting all comps up, running and completed. The year was likened to the return to sport after WW II, and although to young to even proffer a comparison, I did get the sense that the sport was in dire straits during the year, so, for those clubs to compete on any level during the year we are very appreciative.

The attitude & nimbleness of clubs to get on the front foot and solve issues around grounds, team selection and lack of players was really humbling and shows that Lacrosse is really about community, friendship and a sense of fraternity, because if you haven't played the game or supported it closely, you will never understand it is much, much more than catching and throwing a lacrosse ball, and it is not measured by a person's ability. If you play or have played, then you're in!

I will remember fondly, early in the season, asking coach Barr Kemp from Eltham – Moreland LC if he had a spare Goalie stick as Covid meant ours was left back in Willy, not only did they lend us a stick, but we also got up by a goal after a great save by Jakob Salter at the death. We shook hands at the end and both of us had a wry grin given the circumstances. My point is that perhaps another sport may have not provided equipment and seen the situation as an opportunity to prosper?

Before I get to the season and the final, I just want to say a sincere and heartfelt thank you to both Sue Kropik and Tim Hayward. Firstly, Sue volunteered to score and manage us this season and frankly it was a huge weight off my shoulders. To have someone take care of "ALL" the other issues relating to an underage side was terrific and allowed me to focus on coaching. Thanks again Sue. Tim Hayward was the calming influence

needed when things got a little hot in the kitchen, his laconic, black and white approach really was the difference. I've said it before, and I know Tim is a busy boy, but a future coaching role in the sport wouldn't be that out of place. Thanks Tim.

The season was fantastic for lots of reasons, not least of which is the fact we won the whole thing, and credit where its due, the boys simply wouldn't be denied. The opposition had us a couple of times and it was not lost on me that injuries, a couple of umpiring decisions and some basic errors on our part were going to derail us but somehow when the final whistle went, we were in front on the score board.

That night at the rooms I tried to explain to the club members and supporters just how proud I was of them and why I was so proud of them. I probably mucked that up, but let me try, quickly, to give you a glimpse... from the very first time we played Melb High School I asked them to be mindful of the fact that the other side had only just picked up the sport and probably weren't up to U/18 standard yet, but as lacrosse players in these types of games we were also ambassadors and we need to ensure that every player from Melb High had a positive experience from playing Willy and that no player from Melb High quit the game due to something we did. The Willy players, to their absolute credit, bought in to that philosophy and the foundations of our player – coach relationship was in place. Quite simply, to whoever reads this, they are just a good bunch of guys who do things that all 16,17- and 18-year old's do, but they hold the team, the club and just as importantly, the game in very high regard. I couldn't be happier for them.

I've congratulated the parents before, but officially, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to coach these young men. Your trust in me is very gratifying. I will watch their progress very keenly over the coming years.

To the club, of which I am merely a servant, thank you also for trusting that these players may benefit from my involvement.

Thank you.

Mark Butler

## **Under 16s**

Our U16 lads fielded a team made up of predominantly bottom-aged players, improving steadily throughout the season, before being defeated by the eventual Premiers (Footscray) in the preliminary final. We made pleasing gains during the year around defensive positioning, contesting ground balls and transition offense, but ultimately our inconsistent stick sticks meant that we could not challenge the top sides.

Blake Radford's relentless competitiveness and consistency saw him take him take out the BnF narrowly from team MVP Ryland Prinsloo. Ry had started the year as a short stick, before stepping into the vacancy in the net - he finished the season as one of the most dominant players in the competition. Josh Mannix's persistence and Archer Flaherty's leadership saw them each honoured with accolades. Ezra Hope and Jack Thurston both had excellent debut lacrosse seasons.

Our team placed Blake, Ry, Archer, Josh, Gus Mee, Lachlan Wright, Seb Dabner, and Ollie Russell on the U15 Western Metros team.

Thanks are sent to team manager Carl Radford, scorer Lisa Wright and all players and parents - their support was much appreciated. Thanks also to fellow junior coaches Mark Butler (U18) and Sam Marquard (U14) for their support during the year.

Go Willy.

Chris Welsh

## **Under 14s**

The U-14s had a great year, growing from a playing roster of 8 and questions of whether we would have a team to a roster of 13 players and almost winning a grand-final.

The commencement of 2022 season saw only 8 of 17 eligible players returning to play from the 2021 season. However, with significant contributions from several top age under 12s playing up and the arrival of two new players we were able to consistently field of a team of 11 to 13 players each week.

Although numbers were smaller than previous years the commitment shown from the players each week saw substantial gains in skill development and the steady growth a game play focused on fast ball and player movement. Equally important was the growth of a strong and supportive team culture that focused on looking after each other on an off the field.

These forementioned attributes were clearly demonstrated in the regular season results of:

- 8 wins and 3 losses
- 165 goals scored (First in the comp) and 74 goals conceded (second lowest in the comp)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> overall and place in the finals

I was extremely proud of how our players performed in their first finals series and our win in preliminary final against Eltham to gain a grand final birth was a highlight for the season. I was equally proud of the team's grand final performance against Malvern. Although the end result would see us going down 8 to 10, the team never gave up and the result was still in dispute with 2 minutes left in the game.

Thank you to all the parents for the season. The growth of a strong and supportive team culture on and off the field was integral to the team success. This was a testament to the players but equally to the under 14 parents and was clearly evident in the support they gave me, the players, the club and each other throughout the season.

Also a huge thankyou to our team manager and organisational power house Cameron Smith, our medical and osteo magician Cliff Butler and to Tom Garnsworthy, Scott Garnsworth, Damian Orr, Darren Gibson and Rron Gavori for their coaching support throughout the year.

Lastly Congratulations to our award winners, Tyler Smith (Most improved), Sam O'dea (Best Defensive Player), Max Marquard (Best Offensive Player) and Flynn Crawford (Best Club and Completion Best and Fairest).

Sam Marquard

## **Under 12 Fearons**

The U12 Fearons had a fantastic season in 2022, finishing the year with 3 wins 5 losses plus a drawn game. 2 losses by only a single goal was tough on the kids who showed they really have a passion to win. Mike Sullivan and I started the season coaching together with crew of kids who have played together before. We did have a couple of new faces which was awesome to see. 2022 would be a new challenge for the kids as they now got to wear Helmets which all seem to really enjoy. We saw all kids improving their skills and comprehension of the games as we moved through the season. We lost a few kids to Under 14 which gave some of the other kids more playing time to develop the game. I also lost Mike and his 2 kids Raff and Jarv half way through the season as they traveled to the USA. We stuck together and played some wonderful Lax in the back Half of the season. Our endeavour to improve and work together as a team started to show with an awesome lightning carnival and registering 5 more wins and only 1 loss and finishing in 3rd place. I would like to thank all parents who really showed up each week helping out anyway they could, it made my job a lot easier to just turn up and coach. Once again congratulations on a great season and look forward to seeing the boys and girls back again next year. Well done under 12 Fearon we had a fun and successful year.

Award Winners:

- B&F: Alby Stephenson
- Most Improved: Huxley Jennings
- Most Consistent: Jack Larsen
- Coaches award : Toby Modrich

Daniel Jennings & Mike Sullivan

## Under 12 Cities

With a new format at the U12 level it was always going to be interesting to see how the boys would adjust. The first big step this year was learning how to wear a helmet. This was a big learning point for the coaches as well as extra time was needed in the early practices to make sure everyone was safe and ready to go. Next we had to learn to run up and down the field at a non-stop pace even after we scored a goal. From here much fun was had and a very memorable victory over Eltham Durham and an equally memorable loss to the same team by a very young inexperienced team midway through the season.

Thanks to Dano and Sully for all their help coaching this year. Also to Troy and Cam for always being there and willing to help out.

Really thanks to everyone who helped this season with a special mention to Leo Gray our team stats man.

### ***U12 Cities 2022 Statistics and Award winners:***

| <b>2022 Stats</b> | <b>Games</b> | <b>Assists</b> | <b>Goals</b> |
|-------------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| F Orr             | 10           | 15             | 81           |
| T Smith           | 10           | 6              | 25           |
| C Pangrazio       | 3            | 4              | 24           |
| K Butson          | 8            | 5              | 19           |
| O Crawford        | 12           | 8              | 18           |
| L Wood            | 8            | 2              | 7            |
| Q Keegan          | 9            | 4              | 7            |
| H Ninnis          | 5            |                | 5            |
| T Modrich         | 1            |                | 5            |
| X Reynolds        | 4            | 1              | 3            |
| B Smith           | 6            | 1              | 2            |
| J Sullivan        | 2            |                | 2            |
| R Butler          | 2            | 1              | 2            |
| L Pangrazio       | 2            | 1              | 1            |

***Team Performance:*** 7 Wins -1 loss - 1 Draw

***Lightning Carnivals:*** Runners-up and winners

***New players for 2022:*** Harvey Ninnis, Kai Butson and Xavier Reynolds

### ***Best and Fairest - Finley Orr***

Another excellent year for Finley at the U12 level. He lead the league in total points and assists and was second in goal scoring. He really enjoyed his role as an older team leader and continues to absorb everything he can about the game of lacrosse and developing a love for the Williamstown Lacrosse Club.

### ***MVP - Toby Smith***

This year Toby stepped up and gave notice of the kind of lacrosse player/sportsman he is going to be. He tirelessly ran the field and worked hard to find himself in the right position to score. Toby's most impressive feat this season was his defence and tenacity in the riding game. He made checks and picked up ground balls that turned defence into offence. Toby is truly deserving of being the U12 Cities MVP.

### ***Most Improved - Quincey Keegan***

Quincey has been working hard at his lacrosse skills and has been able to translate this into his game play. A leader on the defensive end of the field Quincey also stepped up his offensive output this year. Even with his busy schedule Quincey always managed to get himself to practice and really put work into improving himself. Great job.

### ***Best Team Man - Oscar Crawford***

Oscar is an emerging lacrosse star and his contribution to the team effort this year was second to none. He was up and down the field equally as fast into defence and offence. A defining highlight of Oscar's exploits this year came in the final of the second lightning carnival when Oscar scored the opening goal in the final after the game had stayed at 0-0 for a long time. This sparked the team into action and we went on to a sizeable victory and this is a great example of Oscar efforts throughout the year.