



**REPORT OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT AND JUNIOR "A"
COMMISSIONER
GREG LINTZ
NOVEMBER 2007**

THE 2007 SEASON DID NOT HAVE THE MAJOR TIME-CONSUMING ISSUES OF THE PREVIOUS SEASON BUT DID NONETHELESS PRESENT SOME SIGNIFICANT CHALLENGES AND DEMONSTRATED SOME AREAS THAT NEED TO BE ADDRESSED IN THE UPCOMING SEASON.

THERE WAS AGAIN GROWTH IN THE NUMBER OF TEAMS, PLAYERS AND JURISDICTIONS INVOLVED.

IN THE JUNIOR "A" DIVISION, THE FOUR TEAMS OPERATED ON THE BASIS OF AN AGREEMENT REACHED AT LAST YEAR'S BREAKOUT SESSION. THE TEAMS WENT TO A 45 MAN PROTECTED LIST AND PROVISIONS FOR RETAINING OF PLAYER RIGHTS ALONG WITH A DRAFT FORMULA. MOST OF THIS WORKED WELL AND WE WILL NOW DISCUSS INCORPORATING THESE TERMS INTO AN OPERATING POLICY THAT THE TEAMS CAN SIGN.

ON THE FLOOR THE DIVISION WAS VERY CLOSE. NEAR THE END OF THE SEASON ANY ONE OF THE FOUR TEAMS COULD HAVE ADVANCED TO THE MINTO CUP. IN THE END, THE MINERS PREVAILED AFTER A COME FROM BEHIND, EXTREMELY CLOSE SERIES WITH THE ECLIPSE.

I ATTENDED THE MINTO IN NEW WESMINISTER. OUR TEAMS STILL HAVE A WAYS TO GO TO COMPETE WITH THE ELITE ONTARIO AND B.C. TEAMS AND THE NUMBER OF IMPORTED IMPACT PLAYERS THAT THOSE TEAMS BOTH HAD. AS WELL, OUR TEAMS ARE VERY YOUNG. I NOTE THAT WE LOSE FEWER THAN 10 PLAYERS FROM THE ENTIRE DIVISION THIS SEASON. WE ARE ALSO NOW TWO SEASONS POST-EXPANSION. FURTHERMORE, THE NEW CLA TRANSFER POLICY HAS MADE IT UNLIKELY THAT OUR TOP PLAYERS WILL LEAVE TO GO TO ANOTHER PROVINCE TO PLAY. THIS NUMBER HAD SHRUNK TO A VERY SMALL ONE IN ANY EVENT. WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT THIS COMBINATION OF FACTORS WILL LEAD TO A BETTER SHOWING AT THE MINTO IN CALGARY IN AUGUST OF 2008.

WHEN YOU GO TO THE MINTO IN ONTARIO OR B.C., YOU BECOME VERY AWARE OF THE INCREDIBLE HISTORY OF LACROSSE IN THOSE AREAS, GOING BACK GENERATIONS. WHEN THEY INTRODUCE ELDERLY HALL OF FAME PLAYERS FOR THE CEREMONIAL FACE OFF, THE ANNOUNCER RECITES LIFETIME GOAL AND ASSISTS RECORDS TOGETHER WITH CHAMPIONSHIPS ATTENDED AND WON. IT IS QUITE IMPRESSIVE. OUR PLAYERS ARE WRITING THEIR OWN HISTORY RIGHT

NOW AND IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE ESTABLISH AND PRESERVE OUR OWN LEGACY IN ALBERTA. TERRY DOKKEN HAS TAKEN AN IMPORTANT STEP IN THAT REGARD BY WORKING ON AN RMLL RECORD BOOK FOR WHICH WE THANK HIM.

WHICH RAISES THE TOPIC OF THE WEB SITE, AN ACKNOWLEDGED PROBLEM ALL SEASON. I HAD FIRST HAND KNOWLEDGE OF THE STATS PROBLEM THIS SEASON. IT IS TOO MUCH FOR ONE PERSON, PARTICULARLY WITH THE ANTIQUATED WEB SITE DESIGN AND SYSTEM OF DATA ENTRY. TO DO THE STATS FOR ONE GAME WAS A MINIMUM OF TEN TO FIFTEEN MINUTES FOR A STRAIGHTFORWARD READABLE GAME SHEET. IF THE GAME SHEET WAS ACTUALLY RECEIVED AND READABLE. WE WILL BE UPGRADING THE SITE AND THE STATS SYSTEM. WE WILL BE SPLITTING THE RESPONSIBILITY AMONG THE DIVISIONS AND DESIGNING SPECIFIC WEB SITES FOR THE DIVISIONS WITH STATS AND GAME RESULTS.

WE WERE ALSO HAMPERED BY RHONDA'S ILLNESS AND WERE MADE AWARE OF THE PROBLEMS OF RELIANCE ON ONE PERSON. HOWEVER, THIS IS NOT UNCOMMON IN MINOR SPORTS ORGANIZATIONS AND I SUSPECT THAT IF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF ONTARIO OR B.C. HAD TO LEAVE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE SEASON, THERE WOULD BE SIMILAR PROBLEMS. THANKFULLY RHONDA HAS RETURNED AND NEXT SEASON SHOULD BE RELATIVELY EASIER.

I AM ALSO VERY CONCERNED WITH SENIOR REFEREE RETENTION. WE LOST A NUMBER OF SENIOR REFEREES LAST SEASON AND WILL LOSE MORE NEXT SEASON. WE DO NOT KNOW WHO IS GOING TO REFEREE THESE GAMES IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS. THEY USUALLY QUIT BECAUSE OF REFEREE ABUSE. THE LEVEL OF IT IS ACTUALLY QUITE ALARMING. I WILL BE TELLING OUR REFEREES TO TOLERATE NONE OF IT THIS SEASON. ZERO. THEY DID IT AT THE MINTO AND IT WORKED WELL. THERE IS NO REASON FOR IT AND THIS HAS BEEN RECOGNIZED AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL.

FINALLY, I BELIEVE IT IS TIME TO NEGOTIATE AND CONFIRM THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE ALA AND THE RMLL. THIS HAS BEEN A SOURCE OF SOME DIFFICULTY OVER THE PAST SEASON AND NEEDS TO BE CLARIFIED.

I WANT TO THANK THE OTHER EXECUTIVE MEMBERS FOR THEIR EFFORTS THIS PAST SEASON. A LOT OF GOOD PEOPLE HAVE COME FORWARD TO SUPPORT THE PROGRAM AND THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS ARE VERY VALUABLE.

GREG LINTZ