

**ALBERTA LACROSSE ASSOCIATION and ROCKY MOUNTAIN LACROSSE
LEAGUE (R.M.L.L.) PRESIDENTS REPORT**

1. The season came and went quickly but not without its share of controversy and ups and downs.
2. One of the major concerns that Christine has raised is the fact that the number of midgets graduating to play Junior in the R.M.L.L. is becoming less and less each year (this year is no exception seeing a decrease from last year). If the pattern does not reverse we will, in my opinion, see an ongoing decrease in both the number of teams in the R.M.L.L. and the quality of play.

This was evident in the Jr. A Division this past season. My perception is that players are choosing to play down rather than play Jr. A. The Jr. B division was vibrant whereas the Jr. A league was in turmoil.

There are various reasons for this in my opinion:

- a. There is a significant degree of animosity between various franchises in the Jr. A Division which prevents the Division from working together and making the Jr. A Division a more fulfilling experience;
- b. There are fewer teams to play against in the Jr. A Division decreasing variety and the excitement of playing different opponents. Saskatchewan has approached me and advised that they are in danger of losing lacrosse at the major level entirely if they are unable to put a Jr. A team in place for this season (players will leave the Province to play "A" elsewhere). I would propose that the R.M.L.L. look seriously at their request.
- c. The Jr. B Division competes with the Jr. A Division for players. The extra variety of opponents and chance to play with guys they grew up with are attractive. The commitment is often less rigorous.
- d. There is more travel commitment at the "A" level.

On a positive note the Jr. A Mountaineers showed extremely well in the play-off against BC's Coquitlam Adanacs. The Mountaineers won one of the games and competed well in the other remaining games.

3. The Jr. B Tier I Division was fairly competitive and often exciting to watch. There was a certain degree of parity in most of the teams involved.

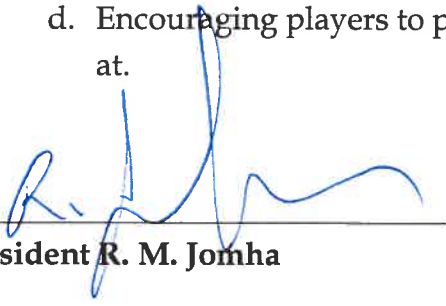
The choice to go to the playoff format style used in the Memorial Cup was very successful. It drew good crowds and the competition was fierce and exciting.

The one drawback however is that the semi-final (2 v 3) game and final game were scheduled back to back on the final day. This created a significant disadvantage to the winner of the 2 v 3 game as they had to play twice in the same day against a rested team. In future the final should be held on the day following the 2 v 3 game.

It was however disappointing to see the Alberta Junior B representative finish sixth out of seven teams at the Founders Cup tournament. Based on the talent that travelled (including three significant pickups) I found it difficult to comprehend how Alberta finished behind Nova Scotia, Manitoba and Saskatchewan ultimately placing 6th out of seven teams.

4. I did not have much interaction with Tier II or Tier III lacrosse. I did, however, note that there were a few franchises that had trouble fielding teams or finishing the season. As many of these franchises are in smaller outlets I'm not sure what can be done to entice players to stay on post midget. It may be prudent to vet franchises before the season starts as teams having to discontinue playing during the season sheds a negative light on the R.M.L.L.
5. I was able to attend the President's Cup and watched the Alberta Champions (Miners) win their way to a Bronze. They were committed throughout the season and during the tournament. One bounce their way and they would have played for Gold. There were some very strong and decorated teams participating. The goal is now to continue to improve the overall quality of all six teams currently in the league by entering graduated juniors to continue playing.
6. I commend the Commissioners for each of the divisions. There was a lot to deal with and each one you gave your time and effort to keep your division on the rails.
7. My impression of the caliber of refereeing I watched this past season was for the most part very well done and effective. Obviously those responsible for same are doing a great job.
8. Things we need to work on:
 - a. The minor system. Attracting players and keeping them interested;
 - b. Cohesion of the Jr. A Division;

- c. Determining which franchises are viable and which are not;
- d. Encouraging players to play at the highest level they are capable of playing at.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'R. M. Jomha', written over a horizontal line.

President R. M. Jomha