



ENGLISH LACROSSE ASSOCIATION Ltd.

2007 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Reports

Finance
Executive
Men's Playing Committee
Women's Playing Committee
Marketing
Technical
Response to Stockport LC Motion
AGM Location

HON. TREASURER'S REPORT - Lynne Potts ON THE ENGLISH LACROSSE ASSOCIATION LIMITED'S FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2007

Introduction

This report sets out the main issues arising from the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2007.

Summary

The financial statements show that the Association has consolidated its position during the last twelve month period. In my report to Members on last year's accounts, I stated that the Association was unlikely to benefit from the same level of non recurrent grant income in 2006/07 from Sport England. It would therefore be important to continue to exercise tight financial control in order to generate a further operating surplus and progress towards the target level for reserves.

It is pleasing to report that the Association has continued to show good financial management. Although it did not reach its budgeted income and expenditure surplus for the year, it did succeed in generating an operating surplus.

As a consequence the Association's financial standing position remains "healthy" and prospects look good for the forthcoming year due to the further increase in Sport England Funding. Accumulated members' funds stood at £95,495 at 31 March 2007 and there were cash balances of £181,620.

The financial statements have been subject to external audit and an unqualified report has been given. Thanks go to all those staff and members who have contributed to making this another successful financial year.

Income and Expenditure Position

The surplus recorded for the year in the financial statements is £3,484 but as in previous years performance during the year needs to be viewed in the context of the decisions which have been taken by the MPC and WPC with respect to their allocated budgets and brought forward reserves.

The MPC brought forward a reserve of £34,975 and were given a budget of £13,000. Expenditure was planned to exceed the budget due to the 2006 World Championships. MPC achieved an adverse variance against budget of £11,934. This will be funded from their brought forward reserve which will mean that the MPC will carry forward a reserve of £23,041 into 2007/08.

The WPC brought forward a reserve of £6,009 and were given a budget of £13,000. The WPC ended the year with a favourable variance against budget of £10,843 which means they will carry forward a reserve of £16,852 into 2007/08.

Taking the above into account the balance on the general reserve as at 31 March 2007 stood at £55,603 having risen by £4,575 during the year. The Association had budgeted for a surplus of £20,250 so the actual performance achieved was £15,675 worse than budget.

The main reason for this shortfall against budget can be explained by variable variances on grant income being offset by overspending within the development and coaching area. These issues are discussed in greater detail later in this report.

Total Income Generated

The Association generated total income of £682,347 compared with £632,104 last year. The performance of the WPC is significant, with their game generating revenue of £119,000. This is primarily due to the fund raising activities and player contributions which are coordinated by the team prep committee.

Grant Aid and Sponsorship

Income under this category earned during the year was £337,195 and as in previous years the major source of funding came from Sport England. Although the Association did not receive the same level of non recurrent funding as in 2005/06, there was still a favourable variance in this area of £23,195 relating to a one off grant.

Subscriptions

It is disappointing to report that subscriptions fell marginally to £56,302 from £56,488 and were below the budgeted target of £58,000. However, the Association has been exceptionally prudent in the financial statements with respect to the recording of subscription income which had not been collected at 31 March 2007. It is hoped that the efforts which are currently being taken by Head Office staff will result in money being collected which will create a favourable variance in 2007/08.

Development and Coaching

When compared with budget, income in this area showed a shortfall of £16,527 and expenditure an excess of £23,916. This gave a total adverse variance of £40,443.

The main shortfall in income was in the areas of development courses and the youth programme and this accounts for some £15,000. Although income generated from camps was slightly below the target level of £88,000, it rose by 9.6% to £86,836 compared with £79,251 in the previous year. Income earned from development officers also rose by 9.5% to £34,691 compared with £31,682 last year but this fell short of the budgeted figure of £38,000.

Camp expenditure only rose by 6.4% to £59,966, from £56,369. However expenditure on development officers rose by 34% to £35,566 from £26,472. This was the main area of overspending with an adverse variance against budget of £9,566.

Publicity

Advertising from Lacrosse Talk was £17,688 compared with cost of production £40,725 which gives a net cost of £23,037. This compares with a cost of production of £23,699 in 2006/07.

Salaries and Expenses

Salaries and expenses were £245,323 compared with £223,696 in 2006. This expenditure was in line with budget.

Prospects for 2007/08

The new grant funding arrangements for 2007/08 means that the Association can look forward to the new financial year with optimism. However, due to the Olympic Games in 2012 and the budgetary pressures this will inevitably create on the public sector, a prudent approach to financial planning over the forthcoming years will be required.

Preparations for the Men's World Cup in 2010 will start in earnest in 2007/08 which will require separate accounts to be maintained within the Associations financial statements.

Executive Report – Ron Balls

President, Chairman,
Ladies and Gentleman,

Over the past reporting period the Executive has met on 3 occasions, these being

11th June 2006
3rd December 2006
and
5th February 2006

additionally there have been audio conferences on 2nd August 2006, 26th March 2007 and 26th April 2007.

Much of the business will be covered within the Hon. Treasurers report and in the Committee Reports or that of the Chief Executive Officer and I will refer here to a number of the more general matters considered through the year.

People

I reported last year on the departure of Liz Martin and that her role would be taken over by Cath Parfitt. Cath has now returned to the USA to complete her graduate studies and we have appointed Erin Acone to take on the Administration Officer position.

Ashley Tarran- Jones is carrying out the IT & Communications role and has made significant improvements with the LacrosseTalk magazine.

An increased level of funding and some other moves of people are now leading on to proposals for both a restructuring and an increase in our workforce. This is under ongoing consideration by the Executive with the post of Regional Officer already advertised and the Inner London position being filled.

The proposed changes will give a greater emphasis to Coaching, Club Development (including the Volunteer Programme, Club Accreditation, Club- School links), Equity and Child Protection, Development Programme HR matters, Membership Support and Events and Competitions as we build up to the 2010 Men's World Championships.

Policy Matters

Continued attention has been given to Child Protection and our Equity matters and both of these areas are taking up more and more staff time. We have partnered with other National Governing Bodies (through the CCPR), in employing professional expertise in the area of Child Protection and also to try and relieve some of the effort we have to put into this area.

International

The Men's Field National Squad is to be congratulated for the very creditable performance in the 2006 World Championships held in London, Ontario, Canada in July 2006. This was the biggest World Championships held so far with 21 teams competing and also Festival Events taking place. England improved on their position from last time and finished in 5th position.

The World Indoor Lacrosse Championships were held in Halifax, Nova Scotia last month and England, entering for the first time, finished in 4th place out of 8 teams competing. England player Lewis Ratcliffe was also named in the All World Team (6 players) and General Manager / player picked up the Spirit of Lacrosse Award.

The England Women's Under 19 team is competing in the IFWLA U19 World Cup in Ontario in August and we wish them success.

The ELA bid to the ILF bid to host the Senior Men's Championships in 2010 was successful and a Steering Committee has been set up to manage the event which may well exceed 30 teams in the Championship. In addition to this a Festival, sanctioned by the ILF, is being planned for both Junior and Veteran teams.

ILF /IFWLA Unification

Members of the Executive have played an active role on the joint IFWLA /ILF Committee working to achieve unification of the two International Federations. It is hoped that this will be achieved with effect from January 2009, with final meetings of the existing Federations / inaugural meeting of the new body taking place at the European Championships in Finland next year. A Transition Board would operate during 2008.

Database

The database is up and running with on-line registrations now the order of the day. This is the single definitive source of information related to membership and will also be capable of being used to assist clubs with their own requirements. Some issues regarding duplicate entries and specific groups not registered are being addressed.

Strategy / Organisation

The results from the Strategy Review are still being evaluated and will lead on to actions being considered by both MPC and WPC. The resultant action is likely to differ between these two committees reflecting where the volunteer strength lies and where the greatest needs for action are.

Whole Sport Plan (WSP)

The CEO and D of Development & Coaching have kept the Committee advised on the progress in meeting the Key Performance Indicators of the WSP. In general we are on or exceeding target for most items. The main area of concern through the year has been that we are behind on the "Accreditation" measure of achieving 80% by 2009. Additional staff time is being allocated to this area and further web site based support. Consideration is also being given to the action taken in other sports of considering a premium (20%) on subscriptions of defaulters. This would, if progressed, be effective from 2009 onwards.

Finance

Bank mandates have been updated to correct some historic anomalies.

Subscriptions continue to contribute approximately 8-10% of the total revenue but there is a trend of the Women's subscriptions as a proportion of the total reducing indicating lower numbers of players at club level. This matter is being considered by the WPC.

Grant Aid continues to be the largest single income stream in recent years being in the range 45- 50% of the total. The accounts however do not fully reflect the impact of the Development Programme (LDOs / SCOs) etc. the value of which is estimated at £1.2m. Giving consideration to this the Grant Aid impact is nearer to 17 – 20% of the total income. This aspect of financial consideration has been advised to Sport England and UK Sport.

Office Accommodation

We have been given notice in respect of the current office, to allow development work to take place. Alternate arrangements have been made with support of the Manchester local authority and the move to the new "Sports Office" location will take place shortly.

Men's Playing Committee – Alan Holdsworth

Over the year the MPC has met formally on five occasions these being :

16th May 2006 12th September 2006 21st November 2006
23rd January 2007 and 20th March 2007

In addition to the normal running of the game the MPC has debated and dealt with the following subjects :

MPC Composition

This has been clarified and the details have been copied out with the agenda for the AGM in that they will form part of the ELA Bye Laws.

The appointments as below were ratified :

Juniors & Schools	Brian Costello
National Squads	Greg Caplin
Referees & Rules	Peter McGinnety
Special Events	Ken Haves

National Squads Terms of Reference / Structure

These have been reviewed and again copied out with agenda in that they will form part of the ELA By Laws. Additionally two additional posts within the England Managerial / Coaching structure have been created to ensure continuity rather than being specific Event related appointments.

Recognising the need, but also noting that these positions had not been advertised and taking cognisance of legislation concerning voluntary appointments it was determined that appointments would be made as follows :

Overall Manager - Greg Caplin
Overall Coach - Dave Elwood

The appointments to be with immediate effect and last until the May 2008 MPC AGM. At that time, noting that these are overview positions, rather than event related, the appointments would be reviewed.

Appointees to both positions to be members of the National Squads Committee.

England Managerial / Coaching Positions 2007- 2010

Advertisement for appointments to posts covering the major events up until 2010 had been e-mailed to clubs, placed on the ELA web site and appeared in the January edition of LacrosseTalk. Following positive responses applications have been reviewed and appointments made.

International Championships

World Championships 2006

In preparation for the Championships beneficial tours had taken place to Philadelphia and Italy (to play Johns Hopkins) as well as residential weekends. The results have been well publicized on the ELA website and LacrosseTalk and the players together with Coaching and Managerial staff are to be congratulated on the performances and the creditable 5th place

The MPC determined that the ***U19 2008 World Championship***, to be held in British Columbia, Canada, would be a priority event and that teams would also be entered in the ***2008 European Championships*** to be played in Lahti, Finland and the ***2007 World Indoor Lacrosse Championships***.

The 2007 World Indoor Championship takes place over the period May 14 – 21st and the England team has been organized by Jamie Tasko. Best wishes are extended to Jamie, Head Coach Chris Halls and players and staff for a successful event.

Note: The England team on its first appearance in an Indoor Championship is to be congratulated on achieving 4th place (Event took place last week). Credit must be given to Jamie Tasko General Manager (and player) of the team and Head Coach Chris Hall. Lewis Ratcliffe is also to be congratulated on being named in the All World Team.

World Championship 2010

The ELA were successful in the bid to host the 2010 ILF World Lacrosse Championship. Initial communications have been sent to clubs and placed on the web site. A Steering Committee has been formed comprising David Marsden, Clive Perrin, Ron Balls, Adam Sherlock, Alan Holdsworth and David Shuttleworth.

The date of the event has been agreed as being 10th – 24th July 2010 and the Championships and associated Festival (Juniors / Veterans) will be centered on the Firs / Armitage Centre complex. Ian Ashcroft will head up the group looking at Sponsorship / Funding activities and Peter McGinney has been recommended to the ILF as Referee in Chief. Event logo has been agreed and initial overseas publicity launch at the 2007 US Lacrosse Convention.

British National Championships

Following queries raised by both the Bermuda and Irish Lacrosse organizations the eligibility considerations related to the British National Championships have been agreed by the MPC in consultation with the BNC Organisers.

Iroquois Cup / Wilkinson Sword

Noting the difficulties in teams agreeing dates it was agreed that both the Iroquois Cup and Wilkinson Sword games for 2006 would be cancelled.

For 2007 it was agreed that the published dates would be complied with and a defaulting team would forfeit the game.

Equity Considerations

This has caused some lengthy debate with the position remaining unchanged in that Under 14 girls may play in Under 14 boy's competitions subject to parental and approval of the club that a girl plays for.

Age Dispensation

The age limit for Senior lacrosse is 16 and again there has been considerable time spent on this matter with two specific dispensations agreed these being for the League North Under 19 competition and for general competition in League South for specific players.

Relevant League matters

Both Mellor and Sheffield Steelers had sent letters of appeal to the MPC following points deductions by League North. Summaries of the position were presented to the MPC to allow the chronology of events to be understood.

After discussion it had been concluded that NEMLA had acted within the remit of their Constitution, however the Mellor penalty was considered as being particularly harsh given the circumstances. The appeals process was not adequate to suit the circumstances and that currently the only recourse for both clubs would be to call an NEMLA SGM or arrange for a suitable resolution to be on the agenda for the NEMLA AGM.

The issue also highlighted the need to consider the performance / ability of Officials under the assessment process and this is an ongoing matter.

Derogatory comments on the LaxForum site had caused some concern and it had been agreed that this should be treated, in respect of disciplinary consideration, in the same manner as verbal abuse at a game.

On request from NEMLA dispensation from the Take Out provisions of Rule 41 was granted in respect of NEMLA Division 3 and below.

ELA Volunteer Awards Scheme

2006 – Stan Smith Award to go to Ray Harry.

2007 - John Buckland Award to go to Gary Wilson
David Walkden Award to go Gareth Hopkins

Whole Sport Plan – Accreditation

The Chief Executive Officer has advised that Accreditation is becoming a critical issue in terms of meeting the targets, agreed with Sport England, as part of the Whole Sport Plan with a need for actions to be taken. Confirmation of the position with clubs is being sought and additional guidance is being placed on the web site. An ELA consideration will be a 20% premium on subscriptions, effective from 2009, for those clubs not progressing accreditation.

Universities

The general position of the Universities has been of concern during the year. Actions and debate over the period include :

- Total of 41 Universities now playing lacrosse (out of 151 BUSA recognized institutions).
- EULA AGM (timing / location / election of President)
- BUSA Recognition and tournaments organized
- Financial support to Manchester Metropolitan University
- Courses held at London, Warwick, Birmingham, Gloucester, Hull, and Loughborough
- Lack of overall Co-ordination
- Offers to co-ordinate not being fulfilled.
- Audit of lacrosse activity in Universities instigated

Much of the discussion on Universities has been both circular and repetitive, I am hopeful that a proposed restructuring of the ELA staff responsibilities will allow a greater degree of focused support to be provided in this area.

Territorial Funding

Allocations were made on the same basis as in previous years that is to the Counties and South of England, this being in addition to basic administration costs for NEMLA / League North and SEMLA / League South

ILF and ELF

Relevant matters from the respective meetings have regularly been reported to the meetings and covered in the International Report to the MPC AGM.

It was agreed that delegates to the 2007 ILF meeting would be Ron Balls and David Shuttleworth (also attending to present on WC2010). It was also agreed that the following proposals at the meeting would be supported :

- Awards : Developing Nations Honourable Mentions
- Referees : Separation into 2 groups / Fitness & Knowledge testing
- Competition By Law proposals
- Use of Logo & Script
- Financial Impact of provision of Referees
- WC2006 : into Administration (for information)
- Awards Guidelines

In response to the request from the joint IFWLA / ILF Unification Committee on the proposed name for the new unified organization, the MPC supported "ILF".

Ex- Officio

David Shuttleworth and Paul Coups have attended MPC meetings on a regular basis and kept the Committee advised on wider matters including:

Whole Sport Plan
Child Protection Policy
Equity Policy
Development & Coaching matters
Registration issues

We have benefited considerably from this and express our thanks to David, Paul and all the ELA staff.

MPC AGM 22nd May

At the MPC AGM on 22nd May the Chairman Alan Holdsworth's opening remarks included the following very significant statements.

"Rather than report on individual meetings perhaps we should re-cap on the objectives of the MPC and how we can move forward on some points within the limited time available.

Over the course of the year we have discussed a wide range of issues and whilst important, tend to become bogged down in detail relating to what is happening rather than looking at the direction we wish to take.

The main purpose of the MPC is to lead on policy and endeavour to implement that policy within the Men's game.

Some of the important issues for next season would therefore seem to be:

- How to bridge the gap between ELA Development Strategy and WSP objectives essential to secure government funding (e.g. Club Accreditation; Player Registration and demographic information requirements etc) and successfully implement within the Men's game, which is essentially, Volunteer driven.
- Finding a way to move forward the ELA Coaching and Player development strategies that are regarded as forward thinking and achieve interaction within the Club / County structure.
- Continued debate on the substantial growth in University Lacrosse and how this can be best managed and developed in the future interests of the Club game within the resources available and continuing to assist/improve with Competition/ Coaching / Refereeing requirements.
- Move forward on suggested initiatives from the Counties to increase and improve the inter County competitive structure providing National talent identification and pathways through a structure of U16's, U19 's and Senior Competition.
- Further developing the link between National Squads and the current County / Club structure with the common aim of securing the best Coaching / Player identification system.

All these points require a clear focus at MPC meetings with less emphasis on parochial issues and better communication between the various sub-committees on a regular basis.

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Women's Playing Committee – Sallie Barker

Over the period since the last report WPC has met on two occasions, these being:

2 September 2006
6 February 2007
13 May 2007

In addition to the normal running of the game within the respective sub-committees and Territorial Associations, WPC addressed the following issues:

General

1. New Terms of Reference for the Elite Performance Sub-Committee, the Rules and Umpiring Sub-Committee and the National Events Sub-Committee were agreed. The roles and responsibilities of the WPC Representatives and Officers were consolidated and clarified.
2. A national Club Audit was carried out, which provided information about the current state of the women's club game. It was agreed that a strategy for development and support for the club game would be put in place over the summer, in conjunction with Mark Coups, the ELA's director of development, which would also take into account the ELA's obligations under the WSP.
3. It was agreed that a new "Code of Ethics", comprising disciplinary procedures and operations, would be put into place. These would be drafted by the Chair and Secretary and submitted for approval in September 2007.
4. The Chair is continuing in her role as one of the IFWLA representatives on the joint working party looking at establishing a joint international federation for men's and women's lacrosse.

National Events

5. A five-year fixture list, setting dates for national, territorial and regional events up to April 2012, was agreed.
6. A successful National Schools tournament was held at Sherbourne School after bad weather meant that the Beaufort Polo ground would no longer be available.
7. It was agreed that the WPC would hire an external project manager to organise the National Schools Tournament and that this arrangement would be reviewed annually.
8. A successful Clubs and Colleges tournament was held at Luton and the Committee look forward to expanding it further next year.

Elite

9. Jan Guilbride agreed to take up the role of Chair of the Elite Performance Committee. The Committee thanked Lois Richardson for her help as acting Chair.
10. The senior elite team had a successful tour in the USA at the beginning of the year.
11. Both the seniors and the U19s have been training very hard and the Committee wished the U19s all success at the World Championships in Toronto in June.

Finance

12. It was agreed that a new bursary scheme, enabling clubs to qualify volunteers as umpires and coaches, would be set up.
13. It was agreed that subscriptions for all clubs and teams would be raised.
14. It was agreed that payments to coaches, players and umpires should be reviewed and agreed annually.

The members of WPC would like to thank David Shuttleworth and the ELA staff for their support for the work of the WPC.

They would also like to thank Stephen Taylor, who stepped down as Chairman of the Rules and Umpiring Subcommittee for all this dedication and hard work.

The WPC would also like to thank Ron Balls for his assistance in standing in as Treasurer for the Committee.

Marketing – Adam Sherlock

Executive Summary

The Marketing Committee concerns itself with the promotion of the sport within the UK. Its objectives are:

1. To drive increased participation by building awareness of lacrosse amongst the widest possible community
2. To provide value-added services to the current membership by tactical support for events and activities

It is fair to say that a large part of the function of the committee has in the past year been focussed on tactical activities i.e. getting jobs done, rather than looking to the broader strategic planning for marketing of lacrosse in the mid to long term.

This tactical focus is driven by two things:

- Lack of head office personnel resource
- A significant demand for support from within the sport

Our success with both the “Lacrosse talk” magazine and the ELA website has set high levels of expectation amongst our members which in turn drives greater demand (and a need to consistently maintain or improve the current standard)!

Looking to the next twelve months (and beyond) it is necessary for us to make time to carefully develop a thorough, comprehensive **Marketing Plan** for the organisation. The marketing strategy driving the operational plan must be tied to the overall aims and objectives of the organisation, specifically giving consideration to how marketing can assist in achieving the Key Performance Indicator (KPI) objectives set by our funding body.

Implementing a robust planning cycle for the marketing function will be challenging given that the pressure exerted on the organisation by the two tactical drivers noted above has, if anything, increased. There is now also the significant additional demand for marketing services to support the 2010 Men’s World Championships.

The head office resource requirement in the short to mid term for marketing, both in personnel and funding should not be underestimated.

2006/7 Activity Summary

During the past year the head office has implemented an impressive range of marketing communications activities. The highlights are presented here.

1. Website

The ELA website has grown to become the most important tool of communication with our membership and the one that also requires the greatest amount of head office staff time to maintain.

Further significant expansion and improvement of the website is planned for 2007/8 to increase the number of users (both current members and wider audience) by providing additional content and services e.g. Child Protection section, Lacrossemark section, enhanced e-commerce.

Sitting behind the website and driving our proactive communication with the members is the membership database.

2. Membership Database

This is now the primary tool used by the organisation to drive reporting on our performance against KPI's to our funding body. Maintenance of the database, improvement of its functionality (to enhance reporting and other membership service capabilities) and communication with the members to increase registrations and member self-service are three priority activities for 2007/8. These require additional resource if they are to be achieved effectively.

3. Lacrosse talk

Lacrosse talk remains the primary membership "benefit" and one of the two mainstays of communication with our members (the other being the website). The magazine is also one of the main advertising and sponsorship vehicles we are able to offer potential corporate/commercial partners. As such it is a very important revenue generating product.

During the past twelve months the quality of the magazine under the editorship of Ashley Tarran-Jones has increased significantly. We now have a product that can confidently sit alongside and compete with the best in the market (the benchmark being Inside Lacrosse).

Lacrosse Talk Advertising

As a result of the increased quality of the magazine we have started to attract more advertisers including several who are not traditional lacrosse equipment manufacturers or suppliers e.g. Kukri Sports, Opro mouthguards, Canterbury, Running Sports. An objective for 2007/8 is to continue to increase the number of lifestyle and other non-lacrosse advertisers.

Whilst all the major (US-based) lacrosse equipment manufacturers advertise with us – and have indicated that they will continue to do so – obtaining copy and payment can prove difficult.

4. Corporate Literature

Media Pack

Designed as a general introduction and information piece to support our general media awareness campaign.

"Lacrosse talk" Rates & Dates card

Designed to advise current and potential advertisers about the copy dates and advertising rates.

Certificates

Corporate certificates for events and initiatives that require English Lacrosse Association approval e.g.

- Young Volunteer Award
- Pop Tournaments
- Lacrossemark
- Field Lacrosse Tournaments

Resource Packs

With content driven by development officers, these materials are produced to satisfy Sport England KPI's and initiatives.

- Skill Cards
- Volunteer Award
- DCA Manual

- Lacrossemark

Event Programmes

Head office supports event organisers by designing and printing programmes, posters, flyers etc.

- Senior Territorials x 2
- Junior Territorials
- Territorial Reserves
- Clubs and Colleges
- Flags Finals
- National Schools
- U21 Home Internationals
- National Pop Lacrosse

5. Annual Sponsorship Deals

An annual sponsorship deal has been agreed with Hattersley's. Other potential long-term sponsors are being pursued.

6. Promotional Materials

To support our attendance at a number of sports administration and sports marketing events – as well as to promote the sport – a number of promotional materials were produced during 2006/7 including lapel pins and branded carrier bags. A range of further items is planned for 2007/8.

7. Conference Attendance

In order to promote the sport more widely, to raise our profile amongst sports professionals and to promote opportunities for lacrosse to be taken up in new areas the organisation committed during 2006/7 to attend a handful of sports administration and sports marketing events e.g. Youth Sport Trust convention, US Lacrosse National Coaching Convention. A display booth was loaned to the organisation and a set of display panels were produced. Promotional materials were developed and used as “give aways” for event delegates. This activity will be continued and enhanced in 2007/8.

Technical – Romey Schofield / Mark Coups

The committee has held three meetings since the 2006 ELA AGM, all have been well attended including representatives from MPC, WPC, education, the commercial sector and central staff.

The committee wishes to especially thank Romey Schofield the Chair for all her hard work and to send its best wishes to Clare Stoot who is currently recovering from a serious illness.

English Lacrosse wishes to thank all the committee members, especially the volunteers who have given their time and expertise ensuring a vibrant and active agenda.

The committee has covered all of its wide ranging remit during each of its three whole day meetings which include schools and club development, Clubmark and LacrosseMark, English Lacrosse's Development Programme, Volunteering and English Lacrosse's Step into Sport programme, Minor Grant awards programme, Child Protection, Equity, Coach Education, Workforce Development and a number of specific events such as National Pop lacrosse tournament including local and regional qualification, National Under 12 boys tournament and Small schools tournament including regional qualification. Finally the committee also organises and runs 5 residential summer camps for girls and a number of one day boys camps on behalf of the association.

The range of the committee's work is extensive and this report will not detail all the activity. The report will centre on the main achievements and significant pieces of on going work. Committee minutes are available on the website if any member wishes to have more details.

Whole Sport Plan

The Technical committee was tasked with the directing, implementing and monitoring of significant areas of the Whole Sport Plan. The committee is now monitoring the Whole Sport Plan especially in the areas of Development of Participation, Club to School links, Club development, Workforce Development and Equity.

Development of Participation

The club and school development programme was the largest ever administered by English Lacrosse. The following list of staff were working on a full time basis coaching children and young adults in clubs and schools.

- 43 School Coaching Officers were employed in 38 programmes nationwide in the independent school sector.
- 31 Local Development Officers were employed in 19 programmes nationwide, with 5 SCO's also being employed to work in club to school link programmes.
- 10 Development Officers were employed into areas of the country to assist in the development of lacrosse
- 4 full time Regional Officers were employed to manage the process.

The development programme evaluation is available and can be accessible to members via the website. This monitors the number of schools involved, what type of school, number of participants, numbers attending after school clubs and the numbers attending coaching sessions in clubs.

Club Development and club school links

The committee issued £30,000 of minor grants to member clubs, member associations and partnerships wishing to start new affiliated Lacrosse Clubs. The grants supported 10 programmes from May 2006 through to April 2007.

In conjunction with the minor grants, the committee have now Clubmarked 9 clubs and seeking to ensure that all lacrosse clubs have LacrosseMark with 35% also gaining Clubmark (LacrosseMark level 2) by March 2009.

Workforce Development

Coach Education and Continuous Professional Development (CPD) for Teachers

The committee has dedicated more resources into this area during the last year. The education system has been re-structured and rewritten in line with new United Kingdom Coaching Certificate

- Re-accreditation programme for coaches organised and shelf life for coaching awards initiated 1st January 2007.
- Lacrosse in receipt of £20,000 grant aid as part of the coaching for teachers programme.
- Lacrosse accepted as a phase two sport in the implementation of the National Framework for coaching.

Volunteering, The Check it Out Volunteer Awards

The committee has organised

- Volunteer award for 2007.
- £5,000 extra funding for the lacrosse Step into Sport Programme

Child Protection

The committee has liaised with the Child protection in Sport Unit at the NSPCC to commit Lacrosse to a robust policy and implementation plan.

- Intermediate level of the standards in Safeguarding Children in Sport submitted in January 2007. Panel decision is expected in late May.

Equity

The committee has developed its agenda to include English Lacrosse's Equity Work.

- Foundation level of the Equity Standards for Sport to was achieved in October 2006.
- Preliminary level of the Equality Standards for Sport will be submitted during June 2007.

Income Generation

The committee were set challenging targets for income generation for 2006/7 at £131,000.00. The final income total was £ 131,591.96.

The income comprised of camps, courses and administration fees. The income did not comprise of any grant monies received by English Lacrosse.

Marketing

The committee wishes to acknowledge the work of the Marketing committee on the advances made in website and magazine design, navigation and content. Also, the contribution to the promotion and marketing of the camps and courses has enabled income generation targets to be met.

Other committees and outside agencies

The committee wishes to thank the work undertaken by the Men's and Women's Playing committee's, especially in the area of competitions.

The committee wishes to thank all the agencies which have worked with the development staff in making the last year so successful.

The chair wishes to thank this very hard working committee for another successful year, and especially the input of Mark Coups and David Shuttleworth.

Stockport LC Motion - Response

English Lacrosse Association – Practical application of Equity Policy / Whole Sport Plan

The English Lacrosse Association has published its Equity Policy and Whole Sport Plan (WSP) and details are available on the ELA web.

Stockport Lacrosse Club, in their letter dated 23 April 2007, with the proposed motion for the ELA 2007 AGM have requested a clear and definitive guideline related to the practical application of the policies and specifically related to gender and age.

The current position is as below :

1. The ELA with its respective Committees and related bodies provides the framework for the opportunity for all genders to play Lacrosse where practical in terms of geography and general support (numbers wishing to play that version of the game).

The variants of the game are :

Men's Lacrosse for boys and men

Women's Lacrosse for girls and women

Mixed Lacrosse for boys / girls or men/ women wishing to play together

Pop Lacrosse – a development game, generally played up to the age of 12 for the mixed school environment.

2. The rules of the respective games together with the interpretation of the ELA define the gender applicability and the instances where specific dispensation has been agreed by the membership.
3. Men's Lacrosse – the rules governing the play of Men's Lacrosse in England are the International Lacrosse Federation document "The Rules of Men's Field Lacrosse 2006" with specific variants (not related to age or gender) applicable to play in England as agreed by the membership (through the Men's Playing Committee [MPC] AGM.
4. "The Rules of Men's Field Lacrosse" is the official rules of men's field lacrosse. Whilst the specific rules says that "Lacrosse is played by two teams of ten players each", the ELA interpretation, and indeed that of the ILF, is that this shall be played by boys / men.
5. In a like manner the rules of Women's lacrosse are the IFWLA Official Rules Book 2007-2010. This refers to "players" on a team and the ELA interpretation, and that of the IFWLA, is that this shall be played by girls / women.
6. The only exception presented to and agreed by the ELA is that under defined conditions girls (aged Under 14) may play in boys Under 14 competitions.
The defined conditions are that any girl (Under 14) wishing to play in boys competition must have parental approval (written) and agreement of the club that the girl plays.
Note: it is not a requirement that the opponents agree to the girl(s) playing.

Ron Balls
1st June 2007

Conference Room 2 11.00am 10th June 2007

Hertfordshire Sports Village
de Havilland Campus
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Hatfield
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