

p : PO Box 359 Subiaco WA 6008

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**Suburban Lions Hockey Club Inc**  
**Annual General Meeting held on 21st November 2022 6.30pm**  
**Max Brown Pavilion, Verdun Street, Nedlands**

**Meeting opened 6:30pm**

**President's Welcome** by Megan Bye

**Acceptance of Previous AGM Minutes**

Minutes of the previous AGM accepted as true and correct, moved Rox Dawson, seconded by Mark Barwood. Carried.

**Present**

Megan Bye, Helen Shalders, Cris Farrar, Ben Sutherland, Ciera Coveney, Paul Stobie, Rox Dawson, Natasha Del Borrello, Mark Barwood, Gill Fairweather, Kerry Osling, Kellie Prosser, Peter Fairweather, Don O'Brien, Gita Luiten

**Proxy**

Liam Sullivan, Rod White, Pat McKenzie, Charlotte Owens, Bill McKenzie, Vicki McAllister

**Apologies**

Pat McKenzie, Liam Sullivan, Bevan Lawrence, Bill McKenzie

**President's Report** – Megan Bye

On behalf of the Committee of the Suburban Lions Hockey Club, please find below President's Report for the 2022 year.

This year was particularly special as the Club celebrated 100 years! The celebrations started with a dinner at Optus Stadium where 260 past and present members celebrated a club steeped in history and ended with a Reunion Day at the club rooms which allowed old friends, teammates, officials, and supporters to connect. What made this 100-year mark so special is seeing the multi-generational participation from families and forming of lifelong friendships. The club's 100 years was promoted through the newspaper – West Australian, local papers, Hockey WA, and Channel 10. Thank you to the Centenary Sub-committee led by Rox Dawson and his team for their tireless efforts in ensuring the milestone was celebrated in style.

COVID however made the playing season challenging from ensuring teams on the field from minkey to our premier 1 team and finding players at the last minute to fill it. A task that required commitment from all our players, team managers, coaches, officials, volunteers, and the committee to guarantee a successful 2022 season. Thank you.

This year the Club fielded 32 teams across boys, girls, juniors, seniors, and veterans' grades, with roughly 650 members.

- We had x teams in finals this year
- Drop in veterans' teams due to HWA changes in the competition which led to 2 teams either dismantling or moving to another club.
- The premier 1 ladies' team had a good season and finished in 6th place.

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- This year has been disappointing for the men's premier side with possible relegation. Strategies are being worked on to ensure we gain a prominent position for an elite men's side.
- Minkey grew this year to 100 players and 200 juniors.

Building on the club survey from last year, there were several areas highlighted which needed work. The Club has slowly been working through the list and has in some areas made progress. This includes a busy bee held to improve the facilities at Tregonning and establishing better relationships with the Council to assist with management of the grounds. A strategy for the future of the Club has been drafted and will be sent to members for consultation.

Building the minkey and juniors programme has had endless hours and commitment from a team of people from the Club who are passionate on strengthening the programme. Thank you to Bevan Lawrence, Gill Fairweather, Kerry Osling and Lindsey Wright who led this body of work.

Shenton turf has been under new management this year and we have been working with Jason de Wind to maximise the benefits to the Club. Sterling efforts from Bevan Lawrence with his continuous support in this area.

On behalf of the Club, I would like to thank Rod White from Cranecorp, our Club's major sponsor.

Cranecorp also made a special donation to support the centenary celebrations, and this has allowed the Club to undertake significant work in preserving our history. I would also like to acknowledge and thank our other sponsors Nexus Life, Fini Developments and W Fairweather & Sons. We also have numerous community sponsors and would like to thank Movewell Physio, Hampden Hotel and The Ink Circle.

I would like to express a sincere thank you to all the volunteers who have made invaluable contributions throughout the year. Without your contributions the Club would not be able to operate and run a thriving club. Thank you.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the work of the Committee. Their tireless efforts and passion through the year is commendable. I look forward to working with you all in 2023 where we continue to build a vibrant and positive community for players, friends, and families to enjoy hockey, regardless of their aspirations.

**Treasurer's Report** – Ben Sutherland electronically provided the financial statements for the year:

As an overall, the club recorded a net loss of \$62,000. Net revenue increased \$25,000 from last year and total expenses were \$72,000 higher on 2021 figures.

As at 31 October we had \$21,000 in the bank. This is \$13,000 below the budgeted closing bank balance.

A few key takeaways from the financials:

1. Registration fees show a reduction of \$26,000 from last year. However, once you take out the new minkey registrations which are offset by the fees we pay to Wolves, the net decrease in registrations is approximately \$38,000.
2. Received a number of government grants totaling \$8,500.
3. The club broke even on a successful Optus centenary ball.

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4. Incurred import player costs of \$21,000 on two female imports. These are the net costs after being subsidised by a number of members in the club.
5. Uniform stock and equipment purchase of approximately \$30,000 in relation to the centenary branding. We still hold approximately \$22,000 of stock in the shop which will be available for sale next year.
6. The club incurred other once off costs – shipping container behind Tregonning, new sponsorship signage.

Financial reported accepted as a true and correct record by Don O'Brien, seconded by Rox Dawson.

## **Men's Report** - VP Men, Pat McKenzie

The 2022 Season was a challenging season for our senior turf teams.

Early in the season we welcomed some new faces - our new goalkeeping extraordinaire Will Stapleton, the spine of the fours team (who returned just as their junior careers were beginning to become distant memories, and Kelly and Kristin Duthie making a welcome return. In particular, the off-field team saw significant movement, with new 1s coach Fraser Jilley being assisted by Peter Hudson and Paul Armitage.

Although the season saw some memorable performances (such as the 1's miracle draw at Melville, James Salter's hatrick in the 3s, the 2s 5-1 win with Sam Grayling scoring his first senior goal, or Lachy Wharton and Jack Antill's goals on the end of overheads that had to be seen to be believed), the results did not reflect the quality of the team, and the collective growth under new management. Ultimately, the weight of injuries and COVID disruptions really took a toll on the team. At our best, we were able to take it to the top teams. However, at least across the top teams, there were too many games in which the team got caught napping and having to come from behind to sneak points from opposition. This was reflected by the 1s team having a remarkable, and frustrating, result of 9 draws across the season.

While we look to rebuild for 2023 and bring in some international talent, we have all learned and matured as players in 2022. It was great to be able to give opportunities to a range of players in our top team, especially the likes of Ali Phillips, Dan Baltis and Cam Lee.

Hopefully we can build toward a more successful campaign in 2023 and make a return to finals.

It would be remiss to write this report and not acknowledge several people. A big thank you to Mark Barwood, who has put his hand up to be Men's VP for 2023. Change is always hard, and some fresh vision and perspective will hopefully refresh the group. Thanks also to Ben Sutherland and Paul Stobie for their work on the Committee. Thank you to senior players, Jack Antill and Keaton Spencer-Wright for their leadership and being so willing to help out with the juniors and support across the off-field teams. Jake Luscombe also deserves a shout out for coaching junior teams and always being there. Will Stapleton was a lifesaver with his enthusiasm for goal-keeping this year, regularly playing two games in goals. Thanks, are also due to the work of the tireless Don O'Brien for his help managing the off-field side of things and making sure we don't do an Aquinas or a Vic Park and play ineligible players. Finally, thank you to all the players who helped out and filled in for games at the last minute this year, or who agreed to play in higher grades with minimal notice. Your assistance was greatly appreciated and made all of our lives much easier.

Here's to 2023.

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## **Women's Report** - VP Women, Tash del Borrello

The impact of COVID was certainly felt this season and I would like to thank all the players, coaches, managers, and other off-field staff for their assistance with rescheduling games and managing the weekly challenge of player attendance uncertainty.

Lions are proud to have our players excel in high performance programs and this year we had three senior players including Charlotte Owens, Georgina Dowd and Jolie Sertorio, compete in the U21s with Lindsey Wright as assistant coach winning a silver medal. Congratulations to Georgina and Jolie for being named in the Jillaroo squad. The Premier 1 Women's GK Caitlin Cooper was also awarded Hockey WA's Best & Fairest GK.

Final standings of our 5 women's turf teams are as follows:

Premier 1 Women: 6th \*thank you to our sponsor Movewell Physio for their ongoing support throughout the season

Premier 2 Women: 6th

Division 4 Women: 7th

Division 5 Women: 8th

Division 6 Women: 10th

Juniors Report - VP Juniors, Gill Fairweather

## **Masters Report** - VP Masters, Vicki McAllister

The Master report covers teams in the Mid-week Masters, and men's and women's grass teams.

At the beginning of the season, we were unable to find suitable competitions for two teams (Metropolitan 1 Women and 050 Division 2 Men), gained a new Metropolitan 2 men's team which resulted in only nine (9) teams in the masters/ grass competitions for 2022. These teams and their managers were:

- Division 2 - Mid-week masters Women (Zanda Cameron)
- 050 Mid-week masters Women (Peta Berry)
- 040 Men Division 2 (Steven Andrews)
- 040 Men Division 3 (Rick Hopkins)
- 050 Men Division 4 (Stephen Hewitt Dutton)
- 050 Men Division 4 (Vaughan Cockerill)
- Metropolitan 2 Men (Charles Porter)
- Metropolitan 2 Women (Monica Lee)
- Metropolitan 3 Women (Jenny Phillips)

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Many managers struggled to get teams on the field with numbers impacted by players or families contracting COVID, travel for work or pleasure, wet weather, and injuries. The managers struggled through this year by calling on players from other club teams, grappled with finding quality and reasonably priced umpires and fixtures that changed from week to week.

Thank you to all our managers who did an outstanding job this year holding it together.

Congratulations to our Metropolitan 2 Men who won the flag in their first year, commiserations to 050 Mid-week masters Women and 040 Men Division 2 who made it through the finals series but were unable to bring home the pennant.

## **Champagne Cup and Colts Classic**

This year we built on the already successful Colt Classic (men's) and started the Champagne Cup (women's). Conducted a week before the season commenced, the afternoon of grass hockey held at Tregonning was an opportunity for players to prepare for the first game.

After a hot summer many players were looking forward to a gentle run around to get the joints, game ready. Many Men's and Women's teams were able to get their swing back in a social fun game.

After a few quarters playing against each other in the hot and very humid weather, the real fun began with a few social ales or bottles of bubbles to talk about how sore we all would be tomorrow.

This is a great social way for the grass and master players to come together at the beginning of the year and the success of the event in 2022 should be built on in future years. It may be worth extending an invite to the juniors' parents from 2022 to attend and get involved in the club.

## **Champagne Ladies**

The Metropolitan 1 management team established the Champagne Social Masters Competition to keep women playing hockey. The approach was a casual informal game of hockey on a fortnightly basis at Tregonning. It was proposed to start as a 7 a-side, which we would build over time into an O40's Saturday competition. Many women playing at our and other Clubs have stopped playing hockey and are looking for something that allows them to get back into the game or continue playing in a social setting. The weather proved to be a challenge, but a few successful catch ups were held during the year before many players were drawn into teams looking for players. Thank you to Jenny Johnson, Carolyn Coombes and Linda Dawson to name a few of the leaders who championed the initiative.

## **Fund Raising**

This year the Master teams were involved in the Quiz night. Unfortunately, there was limited buy in from teams and the scheduling of Friday night games made this a difficult event for many to attend. The night was still profitable for the club and there is opportunity to plan ahead for next year to build on the lessons learned.

Players expressed they were reluctant participants in the quiz night as they have a perception that the fees are expensive for what they get. It would assist players to have a greater understanding of where their fees are used by the club to clarify the perception.

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## State Representatives

Congratulations to Linda Hart, Beki Yates, Jean-Maree Rudd and Vicki McAllister for representing WA at the National Masters Competition in Cairns. A special mention to Jean-Maree Rudd who was selected as a shadow for the Australian 055 team.

## Masters' Coordinator

A masters coordinator is required for the 2023 season as I was unable to complete the season. The role assists managers to

- negotiate the division for their team in the competitions,
- assist with getting players and umpires,
- communicate with Hockey WA on rescheduling of games,
- communicate club messages to teams,
- assist with running events such as Colts Classic and Champagne Cup, and
- develop and implement club strategy.

## Thank you

Thank you to our new president Megan Bye who has done an outstanding job leading and supporting the committee this year. Great to have Megan in the role and bringing in a strategic direction for the club to follow.

## Things for the future

- Further work is required with Hockey WA to resolve how teams are allocated into grades. Negotiate with HWA to get more flexibility into the grading by recommending competitions that are reflective of the team capability not where they were placed in the previous years.
- Building our umpiring within the club to support our teams
- Continuing the Champagne Cup and Colts Classic as preseason club days
- Encouraging the champagne ladies to welcome new players to try hockey
- Quality coaching for masters and grass players
- 

## Junior Coordinator Report – Gill Fairweather

Minkey almost took on a life of its own this year, due to the very hard work of Bevan Lawrence, Kerry Osling and several others in approaching and encouraging influential parents at key schools. The aim was to enter “a few” teams in the College Park competition as we did last season, however numbers grew exponentially, and we ended up with over 100 young players. So many, in fact, that we could have run our own stand-alone competition, and this is a very prospect for next season should we be able to duplicate this feat of attracting so many new players to our club. We must pay close attention to continually attracting players at this very early stage as it is the only way to ensure the long-term replenishment of our junior programme.

We had 3 Junior teams in Grand Finals, all girls' teams, with one win by the 7/8 Division 1 girls. Well done to coach Charlotte Owens, Team Manager Eileen McCaffrey and the entire team who blitzed the opposition in what was a challenging season.

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## Final Standings:

G11/12 Div 1	Last
G9/10 Di1	Last
B9/10 Div 3	5th - big jump up from last year, just missed out on finals on goal diff.
G9/10 Div 4	minor premiers, lost GF
G7/8 Div 1	Premiers - 4 wins ahead - won GF
B7/8 Div 2	7th in field of 8
G7/8 Div 2	4th in field of 6
G7/8 Div 3	6th in field of 9
B7/8 Div 4	5th in field of 6
G5/6 Div 1	Last
B5/6 Div 1	7th in field of 8
G5/6 Div 2	4th in field of 6
B5/6 Div 3	2nd in field of 6

Special shoutout to our 9/10 Boys who did so well despite a difficult season for a variety of reasons.

Junior Wind-up went well and was well received by parents. Heartfelt thanks to those in the Committee and our wider club who helped out on the day. The idea of staging our postponed Super6s comp was a good one and enjoyed by all those who participated. Thank you to Lindsey and Tash, Mark, Charlotte, Pat and Ben from the committee and others who did a great job corralling the kids and making it super fun.

It was fortunate that we had mostly large teams, as player availability was a massive problem throughout the season. A combination of Covid, illness, school camps and general apathy. There was some discussion that parents need to be reminded that it is important that if they and their children sign up for hockey that they endeavour to stay committed to their team. There were quite a few players who attended only a handful of games all season, for no good reason other than they stated they were "unavailable". This is quite unusual in Juniors.

Hockey WA has for Juniors been quite helpful - Rebekah Yeow has been excellent at communication. Am still perplexed as to why it now takes so long for initial fixtures to be released at the start of the season. Ordinarily they have come out about a week beforehand, but this season it was the day before, which caused some teams a great deal of concern. Other than that, I have no complaints with HWA as far as juniors go, and I did have more than the usual number of queries/problems to solve this year. Other clubs seem to have plenty to say...there appears to be a groundswell of grievances regarding HWA from them.

Our Team Managers this year were generally excellent and goes to show that these people need to be carefully selected as this is a huge help during the season.

We did not have enough coaches, and some teams had a revolving door of coaches this season, which wasn't fair on them. Lindsey had to step in a lot to help these teams out, which I don't think was fair on her. It should be a priority of ours to source enough coaches at the end of the year, so we are well prepared for the beginning of the season.

Manager/Coach shirts sizes were far too small, on the whole, as were the training shirts for players. The larger sizes were snapped up straight away, the remaining small ones weren't even wanted. If



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we are to do this again, we need to err on the side of larger, even just go for men's M or L for the manager/coach shirts as they are generally worn over another shirt in the winter, or people just like wearing them bigger. Training shirts need to be bigger overall to fit growing bodies and last longer. These are popular, but far too many went unused due to sizing issues.

Umpiring was a challenge this season, with 95% of last year's umpires leaving us, along with the Umpire Coordinator. We managed to round up a few siblings, parents etc to align themselves with a specific team to umpire week in week out, but on the whole, I found myself allocating "random" umpires to most of our games each week, found via a Masters player who gave me some names, also on a Junior Umpire Coordinator WhatsApp group (which was extremely helpful) and Whistlers (as a last resort). This process needs to be more streamlined, and can be, if we can establish a longer list at the beginning of the season.

Peter Wright's umpiring education session held in June was excellent and was followed up by a second one later in the season. This is how we should be running things.... if only we had the foot soldiers to follow it up. Ideally, we have experienced umpires and novice umpires who can be mentored to take over in subsequent seasons.

The preference is for us to identify a separate umpire coordinator early, well before next season starts, and assist them in setting up a system that will make the job easier. There is also discussion on a ranking system for our umpires so that the pay scale can be more clear and there is incentive for our umpires to learn and gain more experience.

In the future, it is envisaged, and plans are well underway for Juniors to be run by a standalone committee. This division of labour will ensure that we can better serve our junior members in terms of their player development, arrange social events, better coordinate outside events such as YM Carnival and Bunbury Carnival and so on. Roles within the Junior Committee are currently being filled, and we invite any other interested parents to contact us in the hope that we can involve them in the running and growing of our club.

## Election of Office Holders

Election of office holders to take place at this meeting according to Division 3 of the Club's Rules of Association – a separate election must be held for each position of ordinary committee member. As such, the following members were elected:

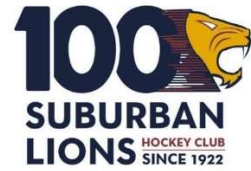
President:	Megan Bye nominated by Don O'Brien, seconded Rox Dawson. All in favour, duly elected.
Vice President:	
Secretary:	Helen Shalders and this was noted as an appointed role
Treasurer:	Ben Sutherland nominated by Mark Barwood, seconded by Paul Stobie
VP Operations:	Liam Sutherland nominated by Kerry Osling, seconded Gill Fairweather
VP Men:	Mark Barwood nominated by Ben Sutherland, seconded by Don O'Brien
VP Women:	Tash del Borello nominated by Megan Bye, seconded by Mark Barwood
VP Juniors:	Ciera Coveney nominated by Gill Fairweather, seconded by Megan Bye
VP Masters Men:	No nominations
VP Masters Women:	No nominations

## Election of Ordinary Committee Members

Bevan Lawrence nominated by Peter Fairweather, seconded by Don O'Brien  
Bill McKenzie nominated by Rox Dawson, seconded by Gill Fairweather



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Cris Farrar nominated by Kerry Osling, seconded by Peter Fairweather  
Pat McKenzie nominated by Ben Sutherland, seconded by Gita Luiten

**Meeting closed 7:20pm**