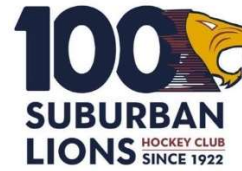


SUBURBAN LIONS HOCKEY CLUB INC.



p : PO Box 359 Subiaco WA 6008

w : www.suburbanlions.org

e : secretary@suburbanlions.org

Suburban Lions Hockey Club Inc
Annual General Meeting held on 22nd November 2023 6.30pm
Max Brown Pavilion, Verdun Street, Nedlands

Meeting opened 6:38pm

President's Welcome by Megan Bye

Acceptance of Previous AGM Minutes

Minutes of the previous AGM accepted as true and correct, moved Pat Mackenzie, seconded by Mark Barwood, carried.

Present

Mark Barwood, Max Briff, Megan Bye, Anna Clarke, Gill Fairweather, Peter Fairweather, Cris Farrar, Shireen Gill, Pat McKenzie, Natasha Del Borrello, Bevan Lawrence (Life Member), Pat McKenzie, Don O'Brien, Kerry Osling, Charlotte Owens, Liam Sullivan, Tim Summers

Proxy

Lindsay Wright

Apologies

Bridget Beesley, Rox Dawson, Tania Lerch, Vicki McAllister, Bill McKenzie, Naomi Wallace, Lindsay Wright,

President Report – Megan Bye

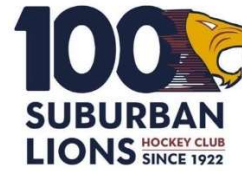
On behalf of the committee of the Suburban Lions Hockey Club, please find below the report for 2023.

Our club is a tight-knit community, dedicated to nurturing the spirit of the game, inspiring the next generation of hockey players and fostering a lifelong passion for the sport.

This year the club fielded 39 compared to 42 teams last year across minkey, juniors, seniors and veteran grades, with roughly 600 members. Some of the achievements throughout the session include;

- 8 teams in finals this year, with two winning their competition
- The premier 1 women's secured their maiden premiership – a historic achievement for our Club and a culmination of years of hard work showcasing the squad's remarkable character and dedication. A massive achievement and should act as a real drawcard for our Club for aspiring high-performance juniors and current high-performance seniors at other clubs.
- Prem 3 men's finished mid-table but were extremely competitive all year despite the loss of some key players
- Metro ladies 4 won their division and was great to see the metro ladies all support each other this year.
- Juniors had a great season despite us seeing a slight downturn in overall numbers per team.

SUBURBAN LIONS HOCKEY CLUB INC.



p : PO Box 359 Subiaco WA 6008

w : www.suburbanlions.org

e : secretary@suburbanlions.org

- Our Minkey program has maintained registrations this year, which is absolutely essential to feed into a strong junior program and grow our membership base.
- The coaching arm of the club is starting to gain momentum with the dedication from Lindsey Wright, Naomi Wallace and Kerry Osling.
- A number of members have represented WA in various competitions through the year – under 13's, under 15's, under 16's, under 21's and masters
- Held a number of events this year which were well supported by members.

We hosted a club strategy engagement session in June which was a resounding success, thanks to the active participation and insightful contributions from our dedicated members and life members. The primary objective of the session was to brainstorm and define our club's path forward, taking into account the aspirations and needs of our diverse membership. Some key takeaways from the session was the importance of connectivity and understanding our club's identity both in the context of hockey and as a community.

Hockey as a sport is facing many challenges,

- Hockey participation in WA, in general, is lower, with all clubs experiencing a downturn in membership numbers due to pressure from other sports such as netball, basketball and AFL, coupled with pressures associated with the cost of living;
- Lions membership is similarly down, and therefore membership fees are below budget, with most teams having lower numbers than in previous years;
- Turf, grounds hire, and Hockey WA charges have not seen a corresponding decrease, since these charges are levied per team, not per player.
- Reduced rental income from club room hire.

So, consequently we have struggled this year financially due to the pressures. With this in mind we would like to make the club more resilient and better service our members, so we are looking at strategic opportunities for future sustainability.

On behalf of the Club, we would like to thank all our sponsors for their support and generosity in 2023: our major sponsor Cranecorp, W Fairweather & Sons, Duet, Movewell Physio and newest sponsors, Obesity Surgery WA and Dr Duncan Taylor, Plastics and reconstructive surgeon.

I would like to express a sincere thank you to all the volunteers who have made invaluable contributions throughout the year. Without your contributions we would not be able to operate and run a thriving club. We have seen more members step up this year to assist in and around the club and are ever grateful to those who are helping to build our community.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the work of the Committee and the juniors committee. Their tireless efforts and passion through the year is commendable. No task too difficult to execute, and always with a smile! I look forward to working with you all in 2024 (my last year as president) where we continue to create a warm and welcoming environment where players of all ages and skill levels come together as one passionate team – Suburban Lions!

p : PO Box 359 Subiaco WA 6008

w : www.suburbanlions.org

e : secretary@suburbanlions.org

Finance Report – Anna Clarke (and attached)

Net Profit approx. \$8000. 2022 net loss approx. \$62, 000. So, \$70,000 better off. Cash in bank approx. \$23,000.

Registrations were lower than expected, but perhaps we unrealistically over estimated. That was our main revenue shortfall in 2023.

Expenses were lower than budget (approx. \$60, 000).

Committee reports

Vice President - Operations (Liam Sullivan)

We all know that community sport survives or thrives based on the level of volunteer involvement. It has been a pleasure to work with many volunteers in different areas of the club this year. Before the season got underway, we had a working bee at Tregonning. This might seem insignificant, but I was so thankful for the path to the shipping container, as well as the massive tidying of the bar and kitchen areas. There was also tree trimming and leaf blowing and other jobs too. I'm looking forward to another 'spring' clean and some painting at the next one. The bar and canteen also rely heavily on volunteers. Again, I am immensely grateful to those who lent their time on Saturday mornings (canteen) and/or afternoons (bar), and the occasional evening function, especially those who came repeatedly and those who came on very short notice.

What I love about the canteen and bar is the social connection this adds to the club. They say 'many hands make light work'. I'm confident we'll continue to build the pool of volunteers so we can continue to improve the canteen and bar and the culture and 'feel' of the Club and connections to more of our community.

As I've taken on the role of club Secretary for 2024, we're actively looking for one or two people to take over managing the canteen and another person to (or two) to manage the bar. If anyone is interested in volunteering in any capacity, please email secretary@suburbanlions.org.au with your interest and availability.

Vice President - Juniors (Gill Fairweather)

2023 was a really great season despite us seeing a slight downturn in overall numbers of Juniors, with a total of 8 Minkey teams and 12 Juniors teams across all age groups from 5/6 through to 11/12.

However we had a wonderful season, not just on the field measured by success on competition ladders, but in terms of team harmony, team organisation, learning opportunities for players, umpires and coaches and so on. This is due in no small part to the (very) small army of volunteers who each do their bit to make Juniors run as smoothly as it does.

Tania Lerch, Kerry Osling, Larissa Carpenter, Naomi Wallace, Eugene Tan, Bridget Beasley...thank you.

p : PO Box 359 Subiaco WA 6008

w : www.suburbanlions.org

e : secretary@suburbanlions.org

Can I just make mention of our 2 11/12 girls teams, which consist largely of girls who have played together since Minkey days and we hope many of those who have left school this year will go on to play in any one of our women's teams at some point, if not straight away. This is what constitutes the essence of what we are trying to achieve at Suburban Lions...that hockey can be a game for life where you can make amazing friends, stay fit and healthy and be involved in a community that gives back as much as you give it.

We in the Juniors Committee and the whole Suburban Lions Committee do more than our fair share of soul searching looking for ways to improve the Juniors experience and encourage our young players to enjoy their hockey and want to stay playing for the duration that they are at school. We would love to welcome new parent faces to our group, especially those with younger children who might have fresh ideas on how to bring hockey to more children than ever before. We hope that the recent success of our Women's Premier 1s team has acted as a source of inspiration for many of our young players.

Lindsey Wright's truly excellent Academy Program will run during Term 4 and for those wanting to get a head start before grading commences in March, there will be ample time to attend sessions as school starts. Registrations for Academy and also for the 2024 season will be up on our website in early January.

Catch you bright and early next year...we can't wait to see you!

Vice President – Women's Hockey (Tash Del Borrello)

After reviewing the 2022 season, it was becoming challenging to fill 5 turf teams so it was decided that we would reduce to 4 teams in the 2023 season. Bevan and I met with a group of the Divisional players to discuss the grades and we settled on retaining the Div 4 grade and bumping the fourth team up into Div 5. It was always going to be a challenging year for the Div 5 team playing in the higher grade and Wendy and Becky did an amazing job organising and managing the team with assistance from Will and Max coaching their training. The team will play in Div 6 next year where they will be more competitive.

The Div 4 team missed out on the top 4 and finished 5th overall. Thank you to Claire for her continued support in managing the team as well as Bevan and Lindsey for assisting with player management between the teams when numbers were down.

The numbers and player depth of our Premier squad was a concern at the start of the 2023 season – one of the constant challenges of being a smaller club. As the season grew closer, we were fortunate to welcome new domestic players as well as the international expertise of our imports and Hockeyroo Amy Lawton. We also welcomed a new assistant coach, Kevin Knapp who would coach alongside Lindsey.

We were starting to see good results across both Prem teams and continued to build on not only our playing style on the field but also our club culture off the field. This became a key factor in our success as we faced numerous challenges including three season ending knee injuries and a loss of points.

Our 2s finished mid table and our 1s finished 3rd, and the rest is now history securing the club's first ever Premiership title.

Mark and I have been conscious of rebuilding a social, fun, and supportive culture between the men and the women turf teams and this year was one of the most engaged we've seen. We look forward to building on this into next year with the assistance of the men's and women's leadership group.

p : PO Box 359 Subiaco WA 6008

w : www.suburbanlions.org

e : secretary@suburbanlions.org

Vice President - Men's hockey (Mark Barwood)

Results-wise, 2023 was a bit of a middling season for us. Our 1s, Prem 3, finished mid-table but were extremely competitive all year despite the loss of some key players. Highlights included a stirring come-from-behind win against and pushing ladder leaders Curtin and Melville at later stages in the season. In patches, we played hockey that would place us amongst the best teams in the league. As the season progressed, we have finally found a game style and identity which we can build on moving forward. If we can find consistency we should be able to build towards the top 4 of this grade and get back into Prem 2 which remains a long-term goal of the men's program.

Our 2s endured a tough season but this young group showed some encouraging development towards the end of the year. It was a similar story in our 3s and 4s, with struggles for numbers meaning some of the teams played short. Developing and maintaining our depth in these grades is key to the success of our top sides moving forwards. Despite these challenges, it was great to see our group stay positive throughout the whole season. A huge thanks must also go to the 4s boys for being consistent supporters of all other grades.

This would not have been possible without the support of our off-field team. A huge thanks must go to Matt Edgar for coaching, and to Pat Mackenzie for stepping in and filling this role when Matt was unavailable for significant chunks of the season. Matt really emphasised the need for us to learn to play better cohesive hockey, leading for each other and working harder off the ball. Furthermore, we were able to have some invaluable mid-season sessions run by TJ Whickham. It was also great to hear feedback from TJ that he really admired the attitude and friendships within the group. A massive thanks must go to Bevan Lawrence, as without him this wouldn't have been possible. Hockey is a very demanding sport in terms of off-field admin and we are very grateful to have the assistance of people like Don O'Brien and Eddie Singe with coordinating a group of somewhat unreliable young men.

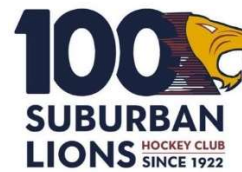
I'd also like to pass on congratulations to the Prem 1 women on their well-deserved maiden premiership. Growing the connections between the male and female turf teams has been a goal of ours over the past few years and it was awesome to see so many of the boys down and supporting the girls throughout this year. A special shout-out to those who came down to the women's trainings to fill-in even after our season had ended. I was especially proud to see us supporting in the right way on grand final day, as a positive presence to support our club.

Vice President - Metropolitan and Masters Women

Season wrap up

Suburban Lions were represented by five (5) teams in the Metropolitan (Metro) and Masters women's competitions in 2023. Three metro teams in Division 2,3 and 4 and two Mid-week masters in Division 2 and Division 3. Whilst all team had good numbers at the beginning of the season, throughout the year, many teams regularly needed to draw on players from other competitions to fill all 11 field positions and play without substitutes. Players were missing games due to holidays, work travel and there appeared to be quite a few injured players who missed either the season or a few games.

SUBURBAN LIONS HOCKEY CLUB INC.



p : PO Box 359 Subiaco WA 6008

w : www.suburbanlions.org

e : secretary@suburbanlions.org

All teams performed well with the success captured in Table 1. Metro 4 team won their grade and may be unable to be promoted. No teams are at risk of relegation.

Table 1 Metropolitan and Masters Women's teams and finishing positions in 2023

Team	Finishing position
Metro 2	8 – improved results with a coach
Metro 3	2nd on ladder and lost grand final
Metro 4	Minor Premiers and Premiers
Masters Div 2	8 on ladder
Masters Div 3	6 on ladder

For next season the current managers have suggested that the following numbers of players are returning in Table 2.

Table 2 Metropolitan and Masters Women's teams and numbers of full fee-paying players for 2024

Team	2024 numbers
Metro 2	Same as 2023 – 16 fulltime (3-4 part-time)
Metro 3	Same as 2023
Metro 4	Same as 2023
Masters Div 2	11 core players and many fill-ins
Masters Div 3	Same as 2023 – 16 fulltime (3-4 part-time)

Season length

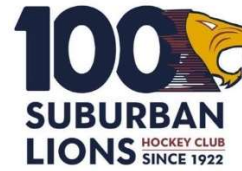
One metropolitan team manager has made a request that will be supported by many, if we could ask Hockey WA about shortening the season for metropolitan competitions and start after April school holidays so managers aren't scrambling to find teams in the Easter holidays and the weather has cooled. This year, teams struggled to find players for the first few games and this was made more difficult due to hot weather.

Fees

Most players paid full fees for their team or took advantage of the six (6) games casual arrangement. Whilst some players signed up for the six (6) game arrangement, they were required for more games due to the low numbers, and uncertain how this was managed by the club for these players. Some players who had paid for one team were asked to fill-in for teams when numbers were low and were reluctant to commit to more than a game or two as they didn't want to have to pay for a second team. Possibly the club can look at the fee structure so we are encouraging players who are keen to commit to two teams and fees aren't a barrier, we would then be getting a willingness to fill-in and some extra dollars.

We have the opportunity to attract new players through working closely with Wolves who don't have any mid-week masters' teams. Wolves have 6 players willing to commit fulltime and 7 part time. Our metro team has players keen to play mid-week masters. This team could be Metro 4 or Over 50's. Wolves have a

SUBURBAN LIONS HOCKEY CLUB INC.



p : PO Box 359 Subiaco WA 6008

w : www.suburbanlions.org

e : secretary@suburbanlions.org

fee structure that helps players from other clubs join without paying a full membership or to play two teams at a reduced rate for the second team (~\$200). The new VP could work with the Wolves contact and Metro players to form a team. Uniforms may be an issue for two clubs coming together so this may need some clever thinking to overcome.

Uniforms

Masters Div 2 that play in the evening are moving to a yellow playing singlet to improve visibility as many of the turf don't have full lights for the games. A design was selected (different to Premier League) and the team will progress for 2024.

Facilities

The bar being open and well stocked on a regular basis (thanks Liam) was appreciated and assisted with opposition teams staying and spending money. Another benefit was that Sub Lions teams enjoyed being supported by our other teams in the bar. Many of the clubs for the metropolitan women's competitions offered the visiting teams a complimentary platter of food and this may be something our club could consider.

The field marking was always completed for each week and very much appreciated. It was unclear which field teams were playing on at Tregonning so permanent signs are proposed to be donated for next season to assist resolve this issue. Players were happy with the grass on the fields at Tregonning and appeared to survive the season. There were a number of complaints from every team about the grass at Melvista with players disappointed at how spongy and difficult a surface it was to play.

Players also commented that Tregonning clubrooms are very dated and have a few safety issues that need some attention. Players are keen to work with the Committee to have the facilities updated. Safety issues include:

- The small track that runs along the bottom of the bifold doors at the front of the clubrooms was a constant tripping hazard for young and old patrons. There were a number of trips each week and one or two were particularly nasty.
- A gentleman from an opposition team who arrived in a wheelchair had difficulty gaining entry to the grounds to watch his partner play. On this day there was a sun shower and there was no ability to get him out of the rain or allow access to toilets. This was a very distressing situation for the team members who tried to provide assistance. City of Nedlands were contacted about potential for improvements to facilities and failed to respond.

Fundraising

Managers spent the year struggling to get players to games, and had a similar response when attempting to get people along for fundraising events. Approaches by managers and VP were often met with a need to defend the fees charged by the club and how much is invested into the Premier League teams for turf (training and use), import players, and coaching. It was a constant battle trying to reframe the costs for the club into a positive note. Please note that players are generally supportive of the club but this concern about fees was a common occurrence (see feedback from survey as an example).

p : PO Box 359 Subiaco WA 6008

w : www.suburbanlions.org

e : secretary@suburbanlions.org

The cost of the quiz night per ticket (\$40) was difficult for many players. Many identified that they were unable to afford the ticket and managers were reluctant to commit to a table and have players withdraw and be held with unsold tickets.

Started to see more interest in holding masters and metro specific events by the end of the 2023 season. The focus for events was about having fun and this included holding events at Tregonning and having dress ups. The club days were successful at getting teams interacting, if we are able to request a Club Day on the final game of the season, we can celebrate the end of the season into the afternoon/night. Learning from 2022 is to avoid boarders weekends and school holidays for events.

A number of players have indicated an interest in forming a fundraising committee and planning events for the club so there is a calendar that all players can see in advance. They would like fundraising used for updating Tregonning facilities.

Survey Results

A survey was conducted using Survey Monkey (free) across masters and metro men's and women's and too many results (50) were received so we are unable to access all results without paying \$23 per month. Only 40 responses are free and the following was identified:

- 85 per cent players rated it as a pretty good or great season – lots of good comments about players enjoying their team. Few comments below on other opinions.
- Improved a lot once we got a coach
- Fees are way too high. Subsidising top grades and paid coaches for others too much. No support for vets
- Numerous opposition forfeits in 0/50 Div 2 MEN meant we played only 11 games plus finals. A lot to pay for this output
- 85 per cent of players have indicated an intent to return in 2024.
- Most players will return to similar teams next year and play with the same teams.
- Only 40 per cent of players indicated they would like a coach, however over 70 percent saying they are keen for training.
- There was little to no interest from players to coach minkey, juniors or seniors (97.5 per cent) or umpire (85 per cent). 😞

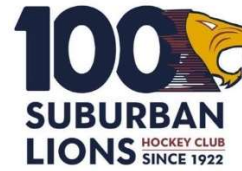
Vice President role

The VP role was more manageable in 2023 with men's and women's appointments. I am stepping down and have asked a number of people to consider taking on the role. The managers for the master and metro teams are amazing and do an outstanding job looking after their players.

2024 – Recommendations

- Club day on the final game of the season for metro and masters teams so we can celebrate the end of the season as a club afternoon/night
- Play at Tregonning as much as possible as the Melvista surface needs some work.

SUBURBAN LIONS HOCKEY CLUB INC.



p : PO Box 359 Subiaco WA 6008

w : www.suburbanlions.org

e : secretary@suburbanlions.org

- Fees – consider reviewing the fees for a second team so that players sign up for two teams
- Fees - consider looking at a price for players who play with two clubs – Wolves charge \$200 but make the player commit to umpiring.
- Many of the clubs for the metropolitan women's competitions offered the visiting teams a complimentary platter of food and this may be something our club could consider.
- Meet with a representative from masters and metro teams to discuss updates to the Tregonning facilities and how these can be funded and undertaken.
- Teams may be looking for coaches for their teams, the club could confirm with all teams if they need help to find one, or if they need help making it attractive for a player to take on the role through a fee reduction or some other incentive.
- Masters are interested in regular training at Tregonning with both a fitness and skills coach for preseason and during the season.
- In the same way that there is an academy for juniors there may be an opportunity for master's turf academy. Masters' turf players are interested in skill development. Trid Woodhouse has previously offered these and would charge \$20 per player for an hour session at UWA, there were regularly 12 players. There was no charge for Trid to use the turf and this may be the limiting factor. The focus could be on building capability and enjoyment in the club rather than a money maker. If the drivers are wrong the players may be unwilling to commit.
- Ask Hockey WA about shortening the season for metropolitan competitions and start after April school holidays.

AOB

Don O'Brien – suggest we look at restructuring fee structure, especially those who don't pay for a full season. Part-time players are paying less per game than those who commit, but still need to make it viable for those who can only play a handful (or less) games in a season to aid player retention. Possibly offering new player discount for new players and anyone who brings in a new player. Don committed to providing ideas around fees in writing to the 2024 committee.

General concern over Hockey WA registration fee to play a single game, in advance of playing. Deters people from last minute filling in, which can lead to people playing more often.

Pat McKenzie offered the WACA way.

Committee will follow with ideas in 2024.

p : PO Box 359 Subiaco WA 6008

w : www.suburbanlions.org

e : secretary@suburbanlions.org

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 Liam Sullivan, seconded Don O'Brien. Unanimous.
Deputy President:	Vacant
Secretary:	Liam Sullivan - nominated by Megan Bye, seconded by Mark Barwood. U.
Treasurer:	Rick Hopkins - nominated by Liam Sullivan, seconded by Megan Bye. Carried.
VP Operations:	Max Briff - nominated by Mark Barwood, seconded Kerry Osling. U.
VP Men:	Mark Barwood - nominated by Megan Bye, seconded by Pat McKenzie. U.
VP Women:	Tash del Borello - nominated by Max Briff, seconded by Bevan Lawrence. U.
VP Juniors:	Gill Fairweather - nominated by Bevan Lawrence, seconded by Pat McKenzie. U.
VP Metro & Masters Men:	Tim Summers - nominated by Liam Sullivan, seconded by Pat McKenzie. U.
VP Metro & Masters Women:	Monica Lee – nominated by Cris Farr, seconded by Megan Bye. U.

All Office Holders were duly elected

Election of Ordinary Committee Members

Bill McKenzie - nominated by Megan Bye, seconded by Mark Barwood
Pat McKenzie – nominated by Mark Barwood, seconded by Kerry Osling
Cris Farrar - nominated by Megan Bye, seconded by Liam Sullivan
Charlotte Owens - nominated by Liam Sullivan, seconded by Kerry Osling
Naomi Wallace – nominated by Kerry Osling, seconded by Liam Sullivan

All Ordinary Committee Members were duly elected.

Bevan Lawrence nominated as Club Patron for 2024 by Pat McKenzie, seconded by Kerry Osling

Meeting closed 7:15pm