LV News Bulletin 2011

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Summary

1. *"If" by Rudyard Kipling.*
2. *Fiona Clarke, ALA President, addresses forum.*
3. *Steady as she goes at the LV office. Kristen Stone introduced.*
4. *Bendigo becomes part of the posse.*
5. *Vic lax programme for u11 girls.*
6. *Big money up for grabs.*
7. *Outgoing President castigates Clubs.*
8. *Club Forum. Yin and Yang!*
9. *LV handbook will go to PDF.*
10. *LV Board hanging on – for now.*
11. *Air crash Investigation on Channel 7.*
12. *BIG BIG BIG NEWS – new website and logo.*

Tip of the month. It helps if you still like "people" – at the core - we are about people and relationships. Get back to basics; talk, help, care, cook, clean, drive kids, be decent. Being nice wholesome Clubs is what will bring people to Lacrosse, not how many State League premierships have been won; don't confuse tradition with the needs of the now.

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LV has NCAA and Sofcrosse Balls at Club prices – contact office. (gratuitous product placement?)

If by Rudyard Kipling

If you can keep your head when all about you
  Are loosing theirs and blaming it on you;
If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you,
  But make allowance for their doubting too:
If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,
  Or being lied about, don't deal in lies,
Or being hated don't give way to hating,
  And yet don't look too good, nor talk too wise;

If you can dream -- and not make dreams your master;
  If you can think -- and not make thoughts your aim,
If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster
  And treat those two impostors just the same:
If you can bear to hear the truth you've spoken
  Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools,
Or watch the things you gave your life to, broken
  And stoop and build 'em up with warn-out tools;

If you can make one heap of all your winnings
  And risk it on one turn of pitch-and-toss,
And lose, and start again at your beginnings,
  And never breathe a word about your loss:
If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew
  To serve your turn long after they are gone,
And so hold on when there is nothing in you
  Except the Will which says to them: "Hold on!"

If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue,
  Or walk with kings -- nor lose the common touch,
If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you,
  If all men count with you, but none too much:
If you can fill the unforgiving minute
  With sixty seconds' worth of distance run,
Yours is the earth and everything that's in it,
  And -- which is more -- you'll be a Man, my son!

2. The President of the ALA, Fiona Clark was this year's guest speaker. She is in town for a meeting with the ALA Board later in the week. She spoke for about forty minutes and provided an informative insight into the workings, motivations and mindset of the ALA. It would seem that the ALA is not that different from any other volunteer organisation reliant on less than secure government funding. Much time is spent on "statutory compliance". Sometimes the question has to be asked, does the compliance negate the benefit of the funding? I suppose funding bodies calculate the cheapest possible level of funding whilst still being able to impose their will. It was not until thirty minutes into the speech that the 'J' word was first mentioned- juniors – and it was re-assuring to see that the ALA is working on a Junior Development Programme. Of interest, is the widespread level of lax take up around the world, and particularly in Europe. I see that there is now a competition in Greece. Might be time to rediscover my roots; I can watch the Bombers on cable tv in the morning and head down for an ouzo and a lax game in the arvo – utopia.

Why is lacrosse growing around the world yet going backwards in Australia?

ALA was further represented by Jan Jackson, newly elected Michael Slattery and Shelley Maher (retired).

3. Paul Clough and Maureen Austin displayed their grip on the day-to-day administration of all matters Lacrosse. Paul's sincerity and love for the game shone through as he spoke of the 2700 children who were taught Lax at school last year and the 31 after school programmes. Paul has spent considerable time on compliance - Working with Children and Code of Conduct.

Clubs must arrange to have their volunteers passed through the Working with Children background checks. **A list of all those qualified to Work with Children must be sent to Paul by 30 April.** Remember, compliance is LV's first step to securing on-going funding so don't make a hard job harder by getting us to chase you up. Furthermore, many of us are unaware that LV has had to sign up with a Code of Conduct as handed down by the ASC. It was sign or lose $10k of funding (do not quote me on that figure). By now, the government's carrot and stick approach should be clear.

Maureen discussed Insurance issues and scoresheets. Maureen has a gift fir crossing the “t”s and dotting the “I”’s. Maureen emphasised the need to fill out scoresheets and insurance forms correctly. **Do not forget to fill out the Referee’s and Umpire’s name and accreditation number.** Gathering these little bits of information and spreading it across the competition cost hours of essentially unnecessary office staff time, so in keeping with better two-way communication (mutual responsibility), Clubs should insist that these forms are filled out correctly – please let’s not see the introduction of another fine!

Kristen Stone played the role of sassy debutante. Meagan James’s stilettos were always going to be difficult to fill, but we all feel that luck has come our way in the form of Kristen. Kristen will be taking a more “hands on” approach. **She will be holding Junior coaching training camps on March 5th and March 6th at 10.00am – contact office for further details and bookings**. Seems like a good idea to train some interested parents and in conjunction with the immutable Duncan McKenzie’s u12 referee parent’s training at the Establishment Rounds. Might be a good idea to run a C.B.O. type of training for prospective bench officials at the same time too. Can anybody take responsibility for CBO training?

Club’s will have received this information in triplicate; Forum, office email and Bulletin. Whilst it may have been different in the past, it is getting more unlikely that you did not receive the information from our end. **Don’t waste the opportunity to train people or for government funded after school training**.

4. It almost went unnoticed but Bendigo Lacrosse Club became a voting member of LV on Saturday 17 Feb 2011. I believe that the day will come when Bendigo will be a powerhouse of the competition. Congratulations to all those who made Bendigo happen and we are really glad to have you on board.

5. Colleen Hunter, with the help of others, has organised the Vic Lax Programme. It is a training programme for u11 girls loosely based around the Auskick programme. Vic Lax will run for an eight week period – commencing March 27 – and will be run on Sunday mornings for 1.5 hours. Contact the office for me details. Some up to date information from those involved will be welcomed.

6. Vic Health, through the **State Sporting Association Participation Program 2011 – 14?** Is providing Grants for State Sporting bodies who will "increase the participation of priority populations in community sport and active recreation – people with ..... and women and girls." That's us! We fall into the Category 2 which equates to 70k to 120k over the three year term.

This is the equivalent to being paid for doing what we want to achieve. We would be bonkers not to go for this one. First, is there any one out there who could take control of this issue? You would have the support of what's left of LV. Are we willing as an organisation to quickly adapt to a new way of doing things. For example, modifying the U12 rule to read one male and one female team, or make it compulsory for every Club to have at least two female teams? Funding is becoming harder to source and a couple of organisations in the building we share will cease to operate due to a lack of it. This grant is equivalent to having one full-time staff member out there constantly recruiting.

Closing date for the Grant is March the 23rd. This means we need a decision at least one week before then. Perhaps we can have our first Club / LV meeting on Thursday 3rd March which gives us another week or so to refine our position. We cannot afford to muck around on this one as there is little or no income stream other than Grants. <www.vichealth.vic.gov.au/SSAPP>

7. John Harris did not seek re-election for President or as yet, for an ordinary position on the Board. His deep breathing and pointing finger a clear and palpable expression of his frustration and exasperation. "You clubs are a rabble", caught most of us off guard, but rather than take it personally most of us stopped to consider why such a dedicated and hard-working person had reached his limits. Nearly all lax Presidents suffer the same fate: spend 30 to 50 hours per week on lax stuff; family and work suffers; often tipping in

thousands of their own dollars; gaining little or no respect, health suffers and the *coup de gras,* it was all their fault!

Is it any wonder we cannot even find candidates to fill Board positions, let alone find some one brave enough to take on the leadership role? My understanding is that JH has been filling in this role until someone else came along.

To the best of my recollection, JH was the only person in yesterdays meeting to countenance alternative income streams. Whilst cost cutting is always an option (suggestions from the floor) it is a some-what one-dimensional response to what is really a bigger issue. (We can start cost cutting by cancelling the catering at the AGM. Spewing, I only ever used to go for the sandwiches).

We need money to pay for more staff, as volunteers are thin on the ground. Relying on Grants is a two edged sword as we then have to adopt Government agendas and the availability and the amounts of these Grants are essentially controlled by governments as a means of social control.

An independent income stream gives you the freedom to do it the way you want to do it. Has anyone asked the question about what will happen if Warrnambool fails? And what would happen if the tournament actually began to turn a profit?

I support John Harris and I joined the Board to specifically help him out. I am equivocal of whether I will continue with LV should JH depart, but I am unequivocal in my belief that I do not wish to give my limited time to an organisation which treats its own with such contempt.

Yes, and I note that some of the rabble were still arguing about “odds and evens” several hours later. The truth is that a better part of this meeting was hijacked by a small self-interested group who could not take “no” for an answer. Congratulations, you just wasted 50 hours of collective time. And it is this type of self- obsessed and selfish attitude, which is grinding the sport into the ground.

8. The LV Board left the room and Shelley Maher convened a meeting amongst the Clubs. The upshot of the eighty or so minutes was this:

~ the Clubs require better communications from LV,

~ they require more clarity about how and why certain decisions are made,
~ they require a more thorough explanation about which decisions can be made at a sub-committee level and what decisions will be reserved for the Board,
~ they require a better understanding of the sub-committee system,
~ a quicker decision making process,
~ greater consultation with clubs about the desired decision.
~ a clearer understanding of the NLL initiative
~ a creditors list from the NLL series.
~ more attention to process and protocol.

Briefly, successful communication is by nature a two-way exchange. LV has a new website and along with The LV Bulletin it is hoped that the communications rift will be narrowed. But good communications also means that the simple score sheet is filled out correctly and returned in a timely manner. ***It is a mutual responsibility.***

In the days before computers, humans used to communicate face to face and the other value of sub-committees and committees was as a means of personally disseminating information back to the Clubs. Being involved in the process is about good communications. Being involved in the process also ensures that process and protocol can be implemented. The overwhelming reason that mistakes and misunderstandings occur is due to a lack of hands on people to do the work. It is not incompetence. Clubs say do more of this, that and some more of this but no one is stepping up to the plate! How do you expect us to deliver?

A comment on the issue of consultation with Clubs and the decision making process. The Board may choose to seek opinion from the Clubs and or interested parties but it is not bound to make popular decisions. The democratic process begins when Board members are voted onto the Board. It is unrealistic and not practical to expect Board members to seek instruction from Clubs. Your member of parliament does not seek your opinion on legislation and it is up to you to either vote someone in to represent your interests or lobby existing Board members. That's how it works and truth be known some of you expect LV to do all of it for you –you have become mind numbingly lazy. There would be few in a lax administrative position that is not sick of hearing "you should do this or do that".

We are trying, but we need more people to help or more money to pay someone to do it.

With NLL P/L, lets get past Warrnambool and examine the books to see if there is any prospect of recouping monies.

9. The Board welcomes Cliff Jennings. He joins Graham Sharpe, John Barlow and Con Loulatzis as Board members. As discussed, the future of LV is uncertain, as the current numbers do not form a quorum. We will wait to see what the next few weeks bring.

10. Hang onto your Handbooks as the overwhelming sentiment was to provide the Handbook as a pdf on the website.

11. If you want to know where LV currently stands, it may be worthwhile catching an episode of Aircrash Investigation. Each week there is invariably a scene in which lights and buzzers are going off in the cockpit and as we head to an ad break we are not sure if this plane is going to crash and burn or not. Well, the lights and buzzers are going off and this cabin is beginning to slowly fill with smoke.

12. Lacrosse Victoria will have a fully operable new website within the next month. We also have a new logo. Whilst the old Sporting Pulse site served us well, the new site enables much greater flexibility and has the latest Google diagnostics. It is also equipped with the latest social media features like facebook and twitter. Tim Fry, the (outgoing) Director of Communications, will keep you informed. In the meantime, if anybody is in a position to print up some posters that can be hung in Club and Change rooms to advertise the website can you please contact the office. We may be able to do a contra with some advertising on the website.

The Lacrosse community thanks Shelley Maher for an extraordinary level of commitment and service. Shelley is moving her life overseas and we wish her every bit of goodness that life can offer. Good luck and *bon voyage*.

We are always grateful for feedback. News, which you may feel needs to be shared may be sent via the monthly bulletin.

Remember: the answer to most of our Lax problems is recruiting!

Coming up: . Knox Lax Club
"George Larkin" by Rob Petitt
Latest news on Warrnambool Lax Classic.
Interview with U12 recruit.
Fergus Stewart on the Lacrosse foundation.

Re-scheduled Golf Day on April 15.

Con Loulatzis
Secretary
Lacrosse Victoria