



London Senior Hockey, Western Fair Sports Centre, 865 Florence St. London ON N5S 3V9

Annual General Meeting, 2024-25

Minutes

April 15, 2025, 10:00 am @ The Grove, WFD

Brian Laporte called the meeting to order at 10:03. Approximately 135 League members were in attendance.

In Memoriam

- We honoured the memories of former and present players who we lost this year.
- John Hayton led us in celebrating the lives of Lou Brennan, Bob Kendall, Brad Twiddy, and Brian Tustin. They will be missed.

Secretary's Report

- Gerry LaRocque presented the minutes from the September 17, 2024 pre-season meeting. A motion was sought to approve these minutes. John Molica moved to accept the minutes, this was seconded by Phil Hicks. The motion carried.
- Election and Approval of Officers / League Executive: Since only one person put their name forward for each of the positions on the Board by the required date as outlined in our constitution, all positions were filled by acclamation. The League Executive for the 2025-2026 season is:

President – Brian Laporte
Vice-President – Al Fowler
Secretary – Gerry LaRocque
Treasurer – Rick Scrimgeour
Junior Division Convener – Neil Free
Intermediate Division Convener – Bob Douglas
Senior Division Convener – Vern Eldridge

- Mark Clemens moved to approve the appointment of these Executive members; this was seconded by Dave Budge. The motion carried.

Financial Statements & Treasurer's Report

- Rick Scrimgeour presented a budget summary for the 2024-2025 season. There is a projected loss at year-end (June 30, 2025) of \$424. This gives us a carry-over surplus of \$25,272. This surplus puts us closely in the middle of the desired range for our League.

LSH Ken Phillipson Christmas Drive Report

- Don Clayton presented the final tally of our annual Christmas drive. \$9665 was collected this year and given to the London Food Bank and the Salvation Army.
- The total collected since its inception in 2015 is \$67,568. Congratulations and thanks to all who contributed.
- Don announced that he will be stepping down from his role as coordinator for this food drive. Dave Budge is stepping into this role. We thank Don for his many years of service.

President's Report

- Brian Laporte began by recognizing and thanking all who volunteered their time and efforts to help make the League run as well as it does: coordinators, convenors, captains, referees, and goaltenders.
- Brian read a letter from Senior Referee Coordinator, Tina Lycett, expressing her thanks to the many people who stepped up to help referee games in this division.
- Jim Stephenson presented a short report on the goaltender situation this season. There were 43 goalies that played this season. Some could only play once a week; others were able to contribute all three days of the week, sometimes playing two per day. The League can always use more goaltenders, so please help in the recruitment of new ones. Jim thanked the goalies for their commitment and reminded the other players in the League to remain considerate of the goalies' safety in the net and crease.
- Brian then presented the report from the Mosaic Medical team regarding this year's statistics. The report was sent by Mosaic and received by LSH at the last second and came with many errors and omissions; the data is therefore flawed. Brian will follow up with Mosaic Medical and will hopefully receive accurate data from them soon.
- Brian gave us a report regarding the concussion presentation by Luke Cruickshank. Approximately 30 members attended, where there was sharing of experiences along with the presentation. Luke gave LSH a copy of his book on the topic, to be displayed in the LSH library to be shared with any member who wishes to read it.

2025-2026 Schedule

- Brian presented next season's schedule request, to be given to the WFD.
- The following are important dates to remember for next season. These are all tentative only and more specific dates will be announced once the League schedule is finalized.

2025-26 pre-season general meeting (Tuesday, Sept 16, 2025 @ 10:00 am; site TBD)

2025-26 AGM (Tuesday, March 31, 2026 @ 10:00 am; site TBD)

Christmas Luncheon Thursday, Dec 19, 2025 – Ukrainian Centre

New Business

- **Restriction of Player Movement in the Senior Division:** There was a motion submitted prior to this meeting that wanted player movement to be restricted to the time before the Christmas Break.
- Brian presented this motion to the Executive for study. The Executive asked Brian to get clarification from the sponsors of the motion, since it was felt that the motion was itself too restrictive; player movement may be necessary throughout the season due to travel, injuries, and illness of players.

- The sponsors of the motion withdrew their motion following their meeting with Brian.
- Vern Eldridge, the Senior Division convener, outlined the number of moves made (43 in total) in the Seniors and Masters divisions, and gave the reasons for the player moves made in this division.
- ***Intermediate Division Realignment:*** Brian spoke to the question posed to Intermediate division players regarding a possible realignment of the Intermediate division, in which the 8-team division would be split into two 4-team groups. This was widely rejected by the players.
- ***LSH Summit:*** Dick Packowski was invited to speak to a number of suggestions that would address the changing landscape of our League. He described a main issue being an aging group of players: fewer players are retiring from the League, so there are fewer newer members (the waiting list continues to grow), and players' desires to move to another division cannot always be met. While it is a good thing that more and more of our members continue to play into their 80s (a source of pride in that hockey is keeping us active and in better health), it does prevent or delay many aspiring seniors from joining our group. What to do??
- Brian Laporte announced that it would be very timely to put together a group of players, along with Executive members, to determine where we want to go as a league. This could include, but is not limited to, expansion from the current 24 teams, realignment of the divisions, scheduling, timing and logistics of these possible changes. Decisions made by this group, pending approval by the League members, could be ready to implement by the 2026-27 season. Brian has collected the names of League members who have volunteered to be a part of this. Anyone else who is interested should contact him.

Adjournment

- Mike Wittich moved to adjourn the meeting; this was seconded by Robin Hunter. Motion was carried.