

LAWSL AGM 2022

December 18, 2022 AT 2PM EST



Roll Call

- Meeting began at 2:10 (38 participants)

Executive Present:

- Nelson Rodrigues - President
- Traci Cummings - Vice President
- David Pallett - Treasurer
- Jessica Ellyatt - Secretary
- Abbi Lezizidis - Director
- Dora Rzeszutek - Director

Moment of silence for those that left us in 2022

- We would like to take a moment to recognize Ada Edwards (LAWSLs Cofounder) & Rock Bosoco (Coached in the league). And to everyone else who has been involved in our community we would like to recognize them.

2021 AGM Minutes

President's Welcome and Address

Thank you all for being here today, it's really nice to be able to see so many of you in person. As anticipated this year was much more of normal soccer experience since the pandemic. Although our registration numbers were a bit lower than Prior to Covid, but not much lower 4-5 teams, so it was great to have most teams back as well as some new teams. This is just another indication of how eager everyone was to get back to normal and back to playing the beautiful game.

What was also great to see was a lot of new faces running and managing teams, which can be challenging at times for both the newcomers and league alike, but it was great to see a lot of veteran Team/club organizers are working on passing on the torch to these newcomers. Overall it was a remarkably successful season, lots of great competition, again thank you for being here, and welcome to the LAWSL AGM.

I now have a serious discussion to have with you all- I would appreciate it if you could all hold your questions until the end so I can give you all the details and paint a proper picture of this serious situation that we have on our hands. I now have a serious discussion to have with you all- I would appreciate it if you could all hold your questions until the end so I can give you all the details and paint a proper picture of the situation of the last year.

- Prior to the AGM last year- Rob had communicated to the board he had family members with health issues and was not available to attend regular meetings leading up to the AGM.
- Early 2022 we lost all communication with Rob- We had no idea if he would be able to attend and received the financials 12 hours before the meeting.

- The board made several attempts to connect with Rob following the AGM including but not limited to phone calls, email, & going to his address to get LAWSL financial information to no avail.
- We did receive an email from Rob mid January that he now had personal health issues (where he expressed his concerns for his health long term) and wouldn't be able to provide us with any help as the Treasurer and "to leave him alone" at this point the board tried to gain access to the banking information and found out we had no access as Rob was the only name on the account.
- At this point we decided to host a special meeting about our financial situation with all of our member to share the very limited details known at that time as we had no facts on anything.
- Once we realized we were in a bad situation we reached out to the district and with the support of the district they loaned us the funds to pay the retainer to hire a lawyer as it was our only chance at gaining access to our leagues bank account.
- The lawyer successfully petitioned the courts and a judge granted access to our transactional and historical records of the league bank account. Once we obtained the records it was found that the accounts had be drained to a nil balance and at that point members of the board reviewed in detail the history and it was determined that unauthorized withdrawals and other transactions had occurred at which point a discussion was held where we agreed to reach out to the Police to file a report.
- An active investigation is our current situation- At this moment we have no funds from prior years and the police are looking into this now. We have no further information beyond this.
- I would now like to introduce David who graciously stepped in as our treasurer in February once we realized we needed help with this position and offered his services- He will talk to you about the credit for the 2022 year and what the plan will be for the coming year. DAVID GO

Treasurer Report

[2022 LAWSL Financial Statement](#)

Secretary Report

Hi Everyone & Thanks for being here! I thought since this was my first in person LAWSL AGM I would quickly introduce myself. I am the Secretary for LAWSL and have done this role for a year, I might look familiar because I also play for the German Canadian Fusion Div 1 Team and have played soccer my entire life. Soccer has been a massive part of my life from playing with some incredible athletes to meeting some incredible people, soccer has always been my happy place and I am thrilled to be on this board with everyone day. This year has been great and as the secretary Ive learned a lot. We as a board worked through some wild weather, some fun times and some tough times but overall the season was successful. I appreciate everyones communication and patients while I navigated this new role- I look forward to watching this league grow and again I thank everyone for their time and continued collaboration.

Hall of Fame Inductees

- **Katherine Esche-** Katherine has played soccer with LAWSL for 40 years. She began playing soccer in Lucan at the age of 12 and through the years has played with many other teams including Windsor Nationals, German Canadians, Strathroy Portuguese , Nairn Cardinals and

Exeter. She has also coached teen age summer teams for both London United and Byron for 20 years. She has coached coed rec league for 8 years and a boys competitive team for 4 years. She now plays indoor soccer at the old Canadian Club, and the old and new BMO centers. When asked what her greatest achievement was she told us it was when she played for White Eagles Masters team, at the age of 42, and they went to the Nationals in BC. She scored 3 goals, one in each game, as a center midfielder and they ended up winning the bronze medal. Soccer has been one of the best parts of my life.

- **Mike Cinicolo-** After arriving in Canada from Italy in 1968, it didn't take Mike long to get involved in soccer in London. He spent several years playing and coaching men's soccer, but he found true calling – women's soccer – when he was approached by some high school aged players who had seen him around the Marconi Club and asked if he would coach their team. This was almost 30 years ago. Since then, Mike's commitment to women's soccer has remained steadfast. Not a year has gone by when Mike has NOT coached a women's soccer team. His teams have played in LAWSL's Premier, First and Second divisions. Mike has also coached women's Master's teams, along with numerous indoor teams. Mike's love for the sport and commitment to his players has always been clear. Some highlights of Mike's coaching career include having LAWSL division winning teams, winning three Ontario Cups with his Master's team - earning them a place at the National Championships in different Canadian provinces, and in 2013 travelling to Italy for the World Master's Games. Yet perhaps the biggest proof of Mike's success as a coach is the fact that so many of the young women he coached in those early years at Marconi continue to play soccer today. These countless women, many of them now mothers with soccer playing children, not only see Mike as a coach, but as a father figure who has lovingly dedicated countless hours of his time (away from his own family) to nurture in them a love of the sport. It is with this understanding that several players - both past and current - met up at BMO earlier in the week to tell Mike about his nomination. They wanted to see the look on his face and honour him in person. Mike, thank you for your continued support of women's soccer and congratulations on your well-deserved inclusion in the LAWSL Hall of Fame!

Unfinished Business and Correspondence

- Rules, Regulations and Constitution Amendments - These are waiting for approval by the district. We will send out an email regarding any updates once we know official.

Election of Officers (Acclaimed Positions)

- **Vice President:** Traci Cummings
- **Secretary:** Jessica Ellyatt

Final Roll Call:

New Business:

- Ontario Soccer recently updated us on referee pricing changes - Matt the District Referee coordinator explained the changes.

Motion to adjourn the meeting