



As we come towards the close of the 'traditional' lacrosse season in the UK, some involved in the game will no doubt be taking a short break. However:

- there are still a number of club finals to be played;
- some school sides will be practicing for the National Pop finals in June;
- a few clubs continue to run practice & social sessions into the summer months;
- And club volunteers will have begun their planning for next season.

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Below are a few status updates, in their own words, from clubs and initiatives that TLF (The Lacrosse Foundation) has funded recently:

#### **Celebrating 5 years of Border City**

It's not easy to establish a new club in a new (non-lacrosse) area, set up a junior programme, get into schools, develop a club home for those wanting to play, and travel to play matches. Whilst we (TLF) have been able to provide funds to help get it off the ground, any club like this is so dependent upon the commitment, hard work, dedication & enthusiasm of players, volunteers, helpers, parents, & other friends of the club. Congratulations Border City Lacrosse on where you are now, and as you continue on your lacrosse journey.

#### ***from Border City LC:***

"With one game to go the Reivers know we are headed for relegation. What can we say, we've held our own against so many good teams, not complained about any opposition team selection in order to get games on and played our hearts out with 50% of our team being relatively new to the game (or in the twilight of a lacrosse career). Yesterday was a good game against genuinely good opposition, unfortunately I think with so many road trips in 2024, we ran out of steam. One fixture left and we've played every game we committed to. Proud of all our lads, it's been a tough two seasons and at times we didn't always get the rub of the green. Next year we begin afresh with a view to working our way up. Some of our juniors will be a step closer to senior lacrosse and then people will start to understand what is growing up here. This week the Club is five years old! Five years since a few lads got together for a throw around.

Since that day we've...

1. Played in 2 leagues (Scotland and England) with three seasons in NLL now.
2. Reached 2 finals (lost one to covid)
3. Survived a pandemic where other clubs didn't
4. Created a junior programme
5. Created a ladies programme
6. Created a schools programme
7. Joined teams with our friends at Newcastle Knights
8. Built a pitch
9. Renovated a Clubhouse
10. Installed changing
11. Held 3 Border 8's comps (4th this year)
12. Introduced 100's to the game (maybe our biggest success)

13. played our lacrosse in good spirits and for enjoyment (also up there) We aren't downhearted today, we are buoyed by what the future holds! Thanks to everyone who has supported and played for us. That includes some notable institutions like IVCC, the Lacrosse Foundation, the north referees, the league, EL, our friends at Brampton Excelsior's, our friends in the US, all our friends at other Clubs (tons of you who are always welcome). Thanks to Rochdale LC for lending us and CHLC their pitch yesterday and for reffing. Another Club who has always shown us great friendship".

### **Planning for a Centenary**

Mellor is a small village (popn <3000) in Cheshire, close to the border with Derbyshire - with a lacrosse club which was founded in 1925, and which celebrates its Centenary next year. The club runs juniors, ladies & mens teams, and last year TLF approved funding for equipment for the youngest boys and girls teams (U8's & 10s) - who have traditionally had to rely upon over-sized and old handed-down kit.

#### ***from Mellor LC***

"A few March highlights incoming:

- Boys U16s beat Heaton Mersey 10-5 after losing by one goal the week before - this was the last junior game for a number of players on the team.
- Girls U11 had a Mother's Day win 9-1 against Boardman and Eccles, then later lost out to a strong Heaton Mersey side in the cup semi-finals.
- Senior Women came back from 7-2 down to beat Timperley 13-9 under the floodlights in their penultimate league fixture.
- Boys U12 showed huge determination to come back from four goals down and beat Stockport 12-9, meaning they progress to the cup finals!
- Girls U18 (MC Lax) lost out in the plate semi final to Stockport, with that game marking the end of junior fixtures for Milly and Leia.
- Boys U14 beat Heaton Mersey in their cup semi-final 12-9 and are also off to Flags finals!

A massive good luck to all our players who have played their final junior games for Mellor. We wish you the best of luck and hope to see plenty of you in our senior teams next year".

### **Phoenix LC**

Phoenix LC (based in Newbury) was set-up in January 2022, following a decision by the local St Bartholomew's School to stop competitive school lacrosse. It was created, and is run, by an enthusiastic group of parents, volunteers, and former pupils of St Bart's school, and TLF provided funding to support the establishment of the club, which has since continued to grow. It has a number of girls age-group teams, and is looking to raise the profile of lacrosse in West Berkshire & the surrounding counties.

#### ***from Phoenix LC***

"In January 2024 and continuing through the school term, Phoenix ran an outreach programme to local junior schools, supported by [Get Berkshire Active](#). If any West Berkshire *Junior* Schools are interested in introducing lacrosse please contact us on: [outreach@phoenixlax.co.uk](mailto:outreach@phoenixlax.co.uk) and we will provide further details.

In April: We are kicking off our Outreach Programme in West Berkshire after Easter, with support from [@GetBerkshireActive](#). Sessions are for one hour after the school day at local *primary* and secondary schools. If any coaches in the vicinity of Newbury would like to support us, please email [outreach@phoenixlax.co.uk](mailto:outreach@phoenixlax.co.uk). You must be EL qualified & DBS cleared, and we can pay a fee. Thanks.

### **British Lacrosse Sixes**

With the announcement in late 2023, which confirmed the inclusion of Sixes Lacrosse in the 2028 Olympic Games in Los Angeles, different initiatives have begun to be considered by the National Governing Bodies of lacrosse. As well as looking ahead i.e. to prepare for a spike in popular interest after seeing lacrosse at the Olympics on TV; there is also an opportunity to use the 'Olympic status' to generate interest now.

British Lacrosse coaches approached TLF for funding to support the running of some junior development camps, which would be hosted by the GB Sixes Squad. This would provide a chance for juniors & beginners to receive coaching from GB players, and then to watch a GB Seniors Practice session

#### *from GB Lacrosse:*

An initial camp was run in Macclesfield in March 2024, with 23 beginners and a further number of U12s players who had taken up the game in the last few months. Four GB players coached the beginners throughout the camp, and then all the players joined for the final hour for the senior training session, as well as being available afterwards for autographs and photos.



Feedback from both players and parents was very positive, and a second camp - this time in the London area - will be run during the October school half-term holiday.



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