

Ron Balls

Born and educated in England, Ron started to play lacrosse at the age of 20 being introduced to the game by a school friend. He played for the Buckhurst Hill (Essex) club and at County and South of England level.



He organised the competitive league structure in the South of England over the period 1969 -2004. He served on the English Lacrosse Association board since its inception in 1997 until 2016. Prior to that he was on the board of the Men's organisation in England (English Lacrosse Union) and was a prime mover of the amalgamation of the Men's and Women's organisation into a single National Governing Body.

During his time as a senior officer of firstly the English Lacrosse Union and then the English Lacrosse Association he served on a team of volunteers and professional staff which had overseen significant increases in lacrosse participation in England particularly in the university and college area.

Over his career English Lacrosse had successfully hosted the 1978,1994 and 2010 Men's World Championships, the 2001 Women's World Cup and the 1999 Men's and Women's European Championships.

In the pre-FIL days he was the Secretary / Treasurer on the International Lacrosse Federation (ILF) over the periods 1975-78 and 1990-94. In those days the role rotated around the ILF members depending on who was hosting the next Championship. Following a change in the structure of the ILF he took on the Competitions role.

In 2006 he was asked to join the International Federation of Women's Lacrosse Associations (IFWLA) / ILF Unification Board which later became the Transition Board leading to the formation of the Federation of International Lacrosse (FIL). In 2008 he was elected as the FIL Board member responsible for Finance and continued with the Men's Competition role until 2008. He has been the lead for 14 World Events and has also supported a number of ELF events.

Since taking on the role of Secretary General Ron has been the lead in providing the application, supporting documentation and follow up meetings with the IOC Sports Department leading on to IOC Provisional Recognition and also with the International World Games Association with regard to the World Games.

In his professional life he spent 40 years in the telecommunications corporate sector with the last role, prior to retirement, being a responsibility for the planning of and financial investment in the UK telecommunications network.

During the latter part of his career he sat on Government and NATO committees to assist in the planning of civil communications networks.

In 1998 he was seconded to the International Telecommunications Union (ITU – the telecommunications part of the United Nations, based in Geneva) to lead the Y2K telecommunications task force which necessitated considerable world- wide travel.

On a personal note Ron is married, his wife is a trained teacher and has recently retired from a second career as Wardrobe Mistress to the Royal Ballet School in London. He has two daughters, the eldest a Dance teacher and the younger one currently living in Australia is in marketing in the student travel industry.