



BEDFORD & DISTRICT MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

2013/14 ANNUAL REPORT

May 2014

NOTICE

BEDFORD & DISTRICT MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

2013/ 2014 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

CP Allen – Auditorium

May, 24th, 2014

10:30am -1200noon

Meeting Agenda:

- 1. Call to order by President**
- 2. Roll call of members**
- 3. Reading and approval of previous minutes**
- 4. Executive Reports**
- 5. Presentation of Jordan Boyd Memorial Scholarship**
- 6. Presentation of BDMHA Awards**
- 7. Election or Acclamation of New Officers**
- 8. New Business**
- 9. Adjournment**

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Note:

Vice President Finance, Henri Michaud, will present his final year end report and financials during the Annual General Meeting.



Bedford & District's Minor Hockey

President Chris Bewsher

Year End Letter

May 2014

At the time of writing this report springtime finally looks like it is within sight. While the recent temperatures have not supported outdoor activities, our employees and volunteers have been using their free time to plan and prepare for the start of next year's hockey season.

Within Bedford we are lucky to have the backing of great sponsors as well as our local Councillor. Thank you Councillor Tim Outhit as well as Scott MacKenzie of Subway for the support you've provided to this association throughout this past season.

With the help of many other talented individuals we have accomplished a lot this year. Congratulations to each of our Bedford Minor Hockey teams on a great season. Thank you to our coaches, managers and- volunteers for your countless hours and dedication to our young hockey players. Your efforts and time have contributed to making memories in which these children will carry with them for the rest of their lives.

I also wish to acknowledge the valued contributions provided to us by Shawn Mackenzie. Particularly for his leadership and guidance he has provided this executive within a number of areas. Shawn's commitment to enhancing the minor hockey experience for our players comes before anything else. We're equally appreciative of the efforts of Matt Oxford as our BDMHA Administrator. Matt continues to demonstrate his commitment to his job as well as a desire to elevate this association to new levels in a number of areas. Thank you both for your work and all that you do for Bedford's Hockey families.

As an executive team we're proud of the progress we've made this past season. Whether it's the establishment of an Introductory Novice Hockey Group, improvements to our tryout processes, or bringing efficiencies into the management of our ice time, your executive members are committed to making the right decisions for the right reasons. As President I am particularly appreciative of their efforts to communicate and share as much information as they can with the members of this association. It is very important to each of us that our members are informed and they have a voice.

Over recent months we have engaged in planning strategically for the future. In line with this process we've established a number of goals and initiatives in support of our hockey association. As a group we are trying to set the stage for our players towards experiencing success while building B&DMHA into a proud community based partner. Over the long term we would like to ensure B&DMHA remains viewed as a model hockey association. One comprised of proud lifelong members whose success, in part, can be attributed to their experiences and lessons learned within the sport of organized hockey.

Some of the active initiatives which have come out of this process relate to the addition of a Spring ID camps at the Atom and Peewee levels, position specific and tiered development sessions as well as various enhancements within the process of managing our finances. Over the next year we will introduce our new Core Skills Sessions in addition to a calendar year of User Pay Hockey Development Programs. We are very excited with the opportunity to implement these new initiatives.

One of the recent topics which have come up relates to Hockey Nova Scotia's Structural Review Committee. A committee which has recently unveiled its recommendations for the 2014-15 hockey season and which will be discussed at Hockey Nova Scotia's Annual General Meeting on Sunday May 11th, 2014.

I encourage interested member to take the time to look at their report which we posted on our website via the following link.

<http://www.hockeynovascotia.ca/user/File/Structural%20Review%20Report%20April%202014-1.pdf>

B&DMHA will post additional information on this topic as and when it becomes available to us. We've extended an invitation to have a representative from Hockey Nova Scotia attend our AGM on May 24th, to answer questions our members may have on this topic.

As many can appreciate the President role is a role which demands a high level of commitment and many hours of personal time. My enjoyment over this past hockey season can be attributed to the many volunteers and employees within this association. It's a pleasure to work closely with such a dedicated group of people. I thank you for your time, commitment and support. I also acknowledge the back drop of support I've received behind the scenes from my family, Petrina, Sydney and Cameron over the last season. Having a supportive family has made it very easy for me to contribute to this association, give back and contribute positively to the hockey journey.

Sincerely,

Chris Bewsher, President

Bedford & District Minor Hockey Association



Vice President Operations Report

Blair Parker

Bedford Minor Hockey enjoyed another successful 2013 – 2014 hockey season!!! We had full participation in the Central Minor Hockey Federation (CMHF) in the Atom, PeeWee, Bantam levels (AA, A, B and C) and at the AAA, AA and A level for Midget. This year we had two PeeWee A teams and we continued to ice a second B team at the Atom and PeeWee Levels.

Bedford iced competitive teams for Females in Novice, Atom, PeeWee. We continued our involvement in the Metro Minor Hockey League (MMHL) at all levels - Atom, PeeWee, Bantam, Midget and Minor Junior.

Coach certification is again a very high priority. We had 300+ coaches and team official volunteers in the 2013 – 2014 season that all require the proper certifications. In an organization as large and diverse as ours, there are many challenges to providing the on-ice experience. We reduced our unused ice hours significantly from the 2012-13 season and if it wasn't for the "winter Wednesdays" we would have seen even further reduction.

I would like to thank everybody for their support in the 2013-14 season. BDMHA is an excellent organization with wonderful people. As we continue to grow as an organization, we will continue to face challenges. The volunteers in our Association should be thanked for their time and work. We are a volunteer based organization – and it is the countless number of hours donated by our volunteers that makes each season successful.

I would like to thank all of our coach/manager volunteers for the job they do. I would also like to take this opportunity to recognize the contributions of our young coaches. Many of our young coaches have played their minor hockey in Bedford and are now giving back to the sport they love. We are extremely fortunate to have such individuals who have been part of our program and want to continue to be part of this organization.

Sincerely,

Blair Parker



Report from the Vice President Female

John Weatherbie

This season Bedford Minor Hockey Association has four female teams: Atom A, Pee Wee A, Pee Wee AA, and Midget AA. Within the Hockey Nova Scotia Female program, the Atom level is not tiered – there is only one level, A. Within Bedford, Female programs above Novice have traditionally all been considered competitive programs. Competitive teams practice twice a week and play once or twice a week. The guideline for team creation is a minimum of 39 players are required to provide enough players to create two balanced A teams and one AA team. The goal for Bedford and Female Council (the female hockey division of Hockey Nova Scotia) is to be able to offer each female player the opportunity to play where their skill level, commitment and desire are the best fit. Unfortunately, due to low numbers this is not always possible.

This year the AA levels were part of a provincial league meaning that for Bedford the league is not South Conference based, it consists of all teams, province wide. Teams in the AA leagues are located from Cape Breton to Kentville. South Conference maintained the statistics for these teams and provides scheduling.

Female Council's goal is to have all female teams regionalized but they do not feel this can be accomplished for 16 months. Currently there are regional teams in Pictou and Valley/Kentville and these teams are very competitive and amongst the strongest in their respective leagues be it A or AA. In HRM, Dartmouth and Cole Harbour have merged their female programs for a number of years with reasonable on ice results but a high level of predictability for the players and parents in knowing that there will be enough players for a team. This year in HRM the VP's from the various Halifax "side of the bridge" associations got together with predictions on enrollment numbers based on last year and decided which associations would work together to ice teams based on relatively equal numbers for each pairing. In regards to the B&DMHA, our membership in female this year consists of:

In Atom A we have players from Chebucto

In Pee Wee A and AA we have players from Halifax and Sackville (the association we are partnered with at this level).

In Bantam we did not have enough players to ice a team, our players are in TASA (our partner) on the AA team as well as the Sackville and Halifax A teams.

In Midget AA, we have players from Sackville (our partner) and Bedford players are in Sackville and East Hants.

This model creates significant organizational effort and is difficult to implement due to the fact that some players are not playing where they would like to play and if they do not make the team they wanted to make, they decide to play CMHF, recreation or withdraw from hockey. The Female representatives for the Halifax based MHA's (Bedford, Halifax, TASA, Chebucto, Sackville) have met and put together a framework for regionalized Halifax teams from Atom to Midget that we feel will improve the hockey environment for the female players and enable players to participate at the level where they will can achieve the most development. More information will be released in the coming weeks. This is also the model proposed by Female Council at the Hockey Nova Scotia AGM.

The Bedford Novice program has been very successful at attracting female players to the game and this year they have two teams of female players from Bedford, TASA and Chebucto. This is key to providing a strong feeder system to Atom and levels above.

There were a number of successes this season that were noteworthy:

This year Bedford hosted a Welcome to Hockey night for female players at no cost to participants. The event was a success and there were more than 25 players on the ice ranging from Novice to Pee Wee ages. This event added between 5 and 10 players to the female hockey programs in Bedford, Sackville and TASA and was considered successful. The female program will be asking for funds in the upcoming year to do this again and maintain momentum with new registrants.

We hosted joint tryouts at the Pee Wee and Midget levels and participated in tryouts in TASA in Bantam. Bedford has hosted tryouts for female players in the past and this year we attempted to improve the process in a couple of areas by making the process much closer to the Competitive process. In Pee Wee and Midget we had evaluators from Bedford and Sackville since we were partnering with Sackville association. In Bantam we provided evaluators to TASA to support the tryout process.

In Pee Wee A, AA and Midget AA we have teams with full or close to full rosters. In Atom we did not play with a full roster and this created a continuous struggle for the team.

The Midget AA and PeeWee AA participated in Provincials and competed hard but did not medal.

The TASA/Bedford Bantam AA team won Provincials as well as Atlantics in PEI.

We had female coaches at two levels and must continue to develop female coaches in the program.

Notable challenges that we faced this season include:

We need to increase enrollment in order to grow the sport and improve the quality of competition for all participants by having more players. We will be reaching out to our membership for additional ideas on approaches we can follow.

The move to non-checking at levels of Pee Wee, Bantam and Midget will draw players away from the female game. In order to counteract this our approach will be to accentuate the benefits of the female game.

We need to develop goalies for female teams as it is a constant battle we face to have enough goalies for all teams. Having two goalies on a female team is almost an unheard of luxury.

We need to develop additional female coaches with good hockey experience as well as good coaching skills and a competitive drive to push the players to continuously increase their compete level.

Regionalization needs to move forward in a more formal structure that is the same each year and create more certainty for the parents and players in the program.

We'd like to thank all coaches, managers and players who participated in the female program this year.

Sincerely,

John Weatherbie, VP Female



2013-2014 Annual Report: Recreation

Compiled by: Meghan Milloy (VP Rec) May 2014

We established 20 recreation teams within Bedford and District Minor Hockey Association (BDMHA) within the 2013-2014 season: 5 Atom; 6 Pee Wee; 4 Bantam; 4 Midget; and 1 Minor Junior team. We were extremely fortunate to have experienced and committed Division Coordinators in place for each division, and a full roster of exceptional coaches and team managers. The Coordinators were as follows:

- Atom – Jeff Smith
- Pee Wee – Justin Gray
- Bantam – Neil Wortman
- Midget – Mike Milloy

Thank you to each coordinator for working tirelessly to plan, organize and run their respective divisions within BDMHA over the course of the 2013-2014 season. Without each of you, the recreational program would not be the success that it is! Thank you Neil, Justin, Jeff and Mike!

All of the teams played in the Metro Minor Hockey League (MMHL). There were 23 teams in the Atom division, 22 teams in the Pee Wee division, 16 teams in the Bantam division, 16 teams in the Midget division, and 9 teams in the Minor Junior division. MMHL offers a tremendous opportunity for the kids to play against other associations across all divisions. We would like to acknowledge David Greenfield who has worked tirelessly on our behalf as our MMHL representative. Thanks David!

Similar to recent seasons, we completed a formalized process for balancing the Bedford teams in each division. We held two on ice sessions (for each level) in September/October, where multiple evaluators (coaches/volunteers) rated the kids on their skating, puck handling and overall hockey knowledge. Shawn Mackenzie and his team of coaches led the on-ice evaluation sessions this year across all divisions. This was a new initiative within the recreational program and feedback indicated it was a great addition to the evaluation process. We would like to thank Shawn Mackenzie and his staff for running all the on-ice evaluation sessions and providing additional evaluators for each division as well.

The results of the balancing process were compiled and each player was given a ranking from 1 to 10. The players were then placed into groups based on their relative rankings. We posted an open letter on our website explaining the process and we held instruction sessions with each division coordinator in advance of the evaluations. Feedback from coordinators and coaches across the divisions indicate that the teams were well balanced within all divisions across BDMHA.

Highlights from the 2013-2014 Season

Bedford hosted the annual B&DMHA Christmas Tournament from December 27-30, 2013. We had a total of 46 teams involved in the tournament at the BMO Centre. The players had a tremendous amount of fun and there were a lot of great hockey games played over the four days. I would like to thank all of the volunteers who made this tournament a great success. This is a huge undertaking and involves hundreds of hours of volunteer time behind the scene both before and during the Christmas break. Many of the core group of volunteers spent 3-4 days at the rink starting at 7am in the morning and going to 11pm at night, giving up their Christmas holidays. They deserve a very special recognition. The tournament was organized and run by Erica Tromanhauser. Thank you Erica for taking on this huge job on behalf of all the players who were involved in the tournament and the BDMHA as a whole.

Near Christmas 2013, Jeff Smith, Atom Coordinator and the five Atom Rec teams initiated a food drive in support of Feed Nova Scotia. Given the time of year, they had a pretty good turnout from each team. Together they raised almost 600 pounds of food and \$1165.00 in donations to support Feed Nova Scotia. More importantly, the children embraced an effort to support their community. They were polite, inspired and often courageous, stepping out of their comfort zones to ask strangers to contribute to a worthy cause. They were exceptional representatives of Bedford and District Minor Hockey. Our recreation teams played in the Metro Minor Hockey League (MMHL) this season. The MMHL is a volunteer group that organizes and manages recreational hockey on the Halifax side of HRM that consists of five minor hockey associations; Bedford, TASA, Halifax, Sackville and Chebucto. While there were some scheduling and communication issues within each division, overall, we had a very successful MMHL season. Our Atom teams were extremely competitive, three making it to the divisional championship games and two of the three winning gold. In Peewee, one team was part of the gold division and five teams participated in the green division where one team made it to the final game of championship weekend. BDMHA Bantam and Midget teams were also well represented in playoffs and Championship weekend. Congratulations to all players across all four divisions on a very successful season. We are proud of you and you represented BDMHA very well.

Extra development sessions were offered at the Atom and Peewee level to athletes who were interested in participating based on an available extra ½ hour per week of extra ice time allocated to these levels. A rotational invitation was circulated to teams and athletes and these sessions were very well attended and lead by Shawn and his team of coaches. Players, coaches and parents felt these sessions were extremely beneficial, and would like to see more of these sessions in the future.

At the conclusion of the Atom championship weekend, Jeff Smith had the opportunity to speak with the president of MMHL. She indicated the league was in a transitional state and had a shortfall of

volunteers, thus contributing to the issues we experienced throughout the season. While MMHL had its frustrations, think of what it provided, what its potential could be and what rec hockey would be like without it. MMHL is still in a state of flux. We encourage you, if you have some free time and want to make a difference to the hockey experience our children receive, to consider volunteering with MMHL.

Summary

Minor hockey could not exist without the full participation of hundreds of coaches, managers, volunteers and parents who put in long hours of commitment to see their kids compete and have fun. We would like to extend our sincere appreciation to all of you who have volunteered your time to make this happen within Bedford and District Minor Hockey Association throughout the 2013-2014 season.

As a group, Neil, Mike, Justin, Jeff and I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank the coaches and managers, who gave so much of their time and energy to ensure all the athletes had a great experience this season. Your dedication and commitment was exceptional. Parents, please take a minute to thank your coaches/managers when you can. They have taught, guided, supported and cared for your children and have watched them grow for the last six months. They have been through victory and defeat, happiness and anguish, have been friends and at times surrogate parents. Without their tireless efforts, we cannot offer the programs we have.

I would also like to extend my appreciation to my fellow Executive members for their support and encouragement. These people put in significant time on our behalf and they make hockey work for all of us at BDMHA.

Meghan Milloy

VP Recreation

Report from Vice President Development

Bryan Maclean

Hockey development at Bedford Minor relates to the on and off ice activities offered to players and coaches outside their club team ice time. Primarily development is the extra ice time offered to all players focusing on power skating, puck and goalie skills and non-structured hockey programs like 4 on 4 and small area 3 on 3 games.

Bedford Minor's hockey development professional, Shawn MacKenzie, provides the strategic direction and implementation of this program. Jack Hartigan spearheads the goalie development and offers supplementary goalie programs through FinnGoalie. Matt Oxford is the administrator of the programs and provides valuable input to program development. Bryan MacLean works with Shawn & Matt to help deliver the program and provide a voice in the BDMHA executive. Key to the program as are the handpicked instructors of Shawn and Jack who are critical to the on ice execution of the programs. We shoot to have development programs available year round so players always have an opportunity to get on the ice and improve their skills. Cost of these programs work out to approximately \$20-25 per player per hour to cover the ice & instructors costs. Some programs run with profit, some with loss, overall the goal for the program to be self-sufficient. The development programs are year round and focused on all players of all skill levels.

This year, the fall & winter programs supplemented the regular hockey season with combined power skating, puck and goalie skills offered once a week for players from IP2 to midget, for both recreational and competitive players. Later in the fall, we started a non-committal pay per session program on Sun afternoon for defence skills that continued throughout the 2014 winter. This defence skills camp was expanded to include forwards skills. Feedback was very encouraging for this program.

The spring program this year was tiered small area 3 on 3 games offered once a week which is a change from last years 4 on 4 full ice program. For the first time we tiered this program into two divisions to keep the skill discrepancy low and the fun high. The format was two concurrent games running in a half ice, cross ice fashion. All players touch the puck much more, goalies get way more shots and the pace is fast.

The summer program will be four one-week long camps in July for defence, forwards, combined skills and goaltending. Each one week camp will be mornings Monday - Thursday with an on ice session followed by an ice activity. Parents will drop kids off in the am and pick up at lunch time. The second phase of the summer program starting the first week of August will be a three week program for Novice-Midget players on the ice twice a week, one session for skills, the other a 4 on 4 game/scrimmage session. The last phase of the summer sessions will conclude with a pre-tryout conditioning camp offering competitive players game and skills sessions starting at the end of August into early Sep.

In addition to seasonal programs, Bedford Minor development provides a weekend of fun activities & information sessions for hockey development weekend and school PD day shinny sessions throughout the school terms. This year's development weekend will most likely be another 3 on 3 events; all feedback to date has been very good for 3 on 3 from kids and parents.

This year we pushed out a survey to the membership to provide feedback on the development programs. The feedback was analyzed and the results provided on the web site. Overall everyone is very satisfied with the development programs and we received constructive feedback that will be incorporated into the programs coming this year.

Work for next year's programs is starting now and we hope to have the programs on the web site much earlier to help with planning. The development programs will take into account an exciting new initiative being implanted by Shawn MacKenzie called "Core Skills". As well, we hope to be providing more resources for coaches and on helping parents understand the "hockey journey" in an effort to improve the overall Bedford Minor Hockey experience.

Bryan Maclean

Vice President, Development



Report from Vice President IP & Novice

Abigail Cook

This report continues from the semi- annual report.

INITIATION

The initiation program ran very smoothly this year. We were lucky to have 5 strong head coaches to lead each group. Our biggest challenge to the initiation program was the winter weather on Wednesdays. We had to cancel many of those sessions which resulted in the cancelation of our power skating coach. This was unfortunate but uncontrollable. This year all of our initiation teams participated in a few different jamborees and our IP 2 teams mixed it up and played half ice 3 on 3 games against each other for some season ending fun.

Moosehead Games – This year we were able to have all the second year players have the chance to participate in The Moosehead game intermission. At the beginning of the season we are only allotted 4 games = 40 kids. Due to cooperation and some quick organization, our club was able to participate in 2 playoff games. This allowed us to put a total of 60 kids on the ice this season during the Moosehead game. I would like to thank Joanne Hall and Joanne Lenihan for their work in organizing the parents and kids on short notice.

With support from the executive, we were able to give three of the IP teams their own goalie equipment. The goalie equipment is provided to help inspire future goaltenders. Having enough kids who want to play in the net is an important part of a successful association, and needs to begin at an early age.

NOVICE

All novice teams enjoyed successful years on the ice from a development point of view. We are lucky to have so many volunteers step up to make hockey an enjoyable and fun experience for kids at this level.

It was nice to see the novice program finish up with 11 of the teams participating in the SEDHMA jamboree. This is always a fun way for the kids to end the season.

This season we introduced an Introduction to Hockey program at the Novice level. Overall it was a very successful program with the kids developing and enjoying the game of hockey in an environment that was positive and secure for their skill level. As with any new program we learned along the way and hope to make even more improvements for next year.

The novice girls program was another huge success. They participated in a girl's exhibition series around the city and were able to play some exhibition games with female teams from Acadia and Pictou. They also participated in a few jamborees against development co-od teams.

At the novice level this year we were able to have more goalie development by providing goalie equipment to each team and having goalie coaching each Monday night with Jack Hartigan. We will continue to support the efforts of increasing player interest and development in the goaltending position.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Simon Wilkin and Doug MacKinnon and to the many coaches and managers that make our program run. If it wasn't for the volunteers and parents stepping up, there would be no minor hockey.

I hope everyone has a great summer and we will see you at the rink in September. Lastly I want to let you know that HNS is not making any changes to the novice program.

Abigail Cook

VP Novice/ IP

BDMHA

Report from Shawn MacKenzie

BDMHA Hockey Development Professional

My annual reports in past years have for the most part contained evaluations of each level of BDMHA, reviews of Development programs, future development plans and our overall on ice direction. For this year I will refer our members to VP Development Bryan McLean's report that contains much of that information.

For this report I thought I would change gears a bit and briefly touch on the minor hockey journey. The trip that can start as early as 4 and continue until age 18 gives much and can take us to places that even a child's mind never fathomed. It provides challenges, reveals truths and can change perspectives of what matters most at any given point along the way. It can be a ride of passion, emotion, success, disappointment, sadness and family memories. In my role with BDMHA, I am fortunate that I get to share a small part of each player's seasonal journey.

I thought I would share just a few of the many memories this year has given me:

..... A player that could barely skate in Atom now playing at the provincial level

..... Three former players being given leadership roles on QMJHL teams

.....The painful inexplicable loss of Jordan Boyd

.....How the hockey community came together in support of each other in sorrow

.....The new batch of IP players discovering our game and going from crying to flying in just a few weeks.

.....The little girl that made me a blue and gold bracelet

.....The female player that moved from a non-hockey part of the world, took up our game at a late age and quickly climbed to the major midget level

..... .The player that was forced to leave the game for a second time so he could resume his battle with cancer

.....Seeing the recreation player score his first goal that took place late in the season after months of hard work and dedication

.....Being a part of a strong Bantam major program and seeing the players I have known since their Atom days rewarded with future opportunities

.....The Bantam AA players organizing a late season game between the two Atom B teams as a way of giving back

.....The uncontained excitement of the PW AAA team heading to a big tournament in Quebec

.....Witnessing higher standards of leadership from a passionate executive

.....Seeing the continued success of the high school and midget programs and the meaningful handshakes of the graduating players

.....Sitting with a group of Atoms and discussing what it was like when I played in BDMHA or played/coached in other places

.....Having former players volunteer to coach or help with development programs

.....A national magazine doing an article on the dark side of minor hockey, spending several days quietly immersed in our association, but leaving empty handed

.....Being a part of the caring dedication and sacrifice of our coaches and managers

My role with the organization is to help each child pursue their hockey related goals and to try and enrich the overall minor hockey experience. The truth is I am not sure who really influences who..... For that I am grateful.

Bedford and District Minor Hockey Association is very proud of our members contribution to our great game. We will continue to strive for improvement while making the quality of each individuals journey our top priority.

See you at the rink,

Shawn

Contracts and Risk Management Coordinator

Phil Gruchy

It has been my pleasure to continue to serve as an Executive Committee member in this role.

The Contracts and Risk management Coordinator is responsible for:

- 1) Managing BDMHA's relationships with, suppliers, vendors and any related contracts;
- 2) Ensuring the association is properly insured; and,
- 3) Advice to the Executive on actions required to mitigate the Associations' risk.

Particulars with respect to B&DMHA's insurance are available through Hockey Canada. The following link is to the HNS website, with the FAQ's provided by Hockey Canada:

<http://www.hockeynovascotia.ca/files/hockeycanadainsurancefaqs.pdf>

Coverage includes:

- Comprehensive General Liability
- Accidental Death and Dismemberment
- Major Medical/ Dental Coverage
- Sexual Misconduct Liability Insurance
- Directors and Officers Liability Insurance

I am not aware of any potential liability claims against B&DMHA.

Phil Gruchy



Vice President Competitive Hockey

Jamie Stone

The 2013-14 season was another successful year for Bedford Minor's competitive programs. We iced 18 competitive teams from Atom-Midget this season, in addition to a Separate Bantam Major program made up primarily of Bedford Minor players, and we had many on-ice successes, including:

- Two provincial champions at the Midget level, with two more strong showings at other Provincial
- Tournaments
- Multiple CMHF Tournament of Champions winners over different levels
- Two thirds of our teams with winning regular season records
- Dozens of Tournament Championships throughout the year
- Our Bantam Major Team won the Regular Season Champion Award, but came up short of the gold

medal with an overtime loss in the Provincial final.

However on-ice success is only is not our only focus. Year-over-year player development sees the Bedford programs excel at the higher levels. This can be directly attributed, in no small part, to the efforts of our Hockey Development Professional Shawn MacKenzie. Shawn has worked the longest with these players (Bantam and Midget) and shows the long term impact that Shawn has on our players is extremely positive, the longer players are in our program and growing in our program with Shawn, the better our results on the ice. I would like to personally thank Shawn for his leadership and counsel this past season in my first year as VP Competitive.

My role as VP Competitive started last spring in developing an updated and more informative tryout process. The key was to share as much information as possible in order to ease the stress of the unknown, when it comes to tryouts. I believe we were successful in that area. 2013-14 was a season that also brought some change to Minor hockey that affected how we ran our programs this year. The removal of checking while seen as generally a positive at the Peewee level was viewed upon as a negative at the Midget B level. Players who had played at competitive contact levels for the past four years were forced to play a year without contact. While the team itself excelled and had success in winning a Provincial Championship, it remains to be seen how those players will fare as they re-enter the contact stream next season. Fortunately Hockey Nova Scotia has recognized the issue and will be making changes for next season.

The removal of Checking at the Peewee level also saw a positive growth in the number of players interested in playing at a competitive level. That, coupled with organic growth of numbers in our association, gave us a large bubble of players trying out for competitive Peewee teams. As we worked our way through the tryout process, it was evident that a large number of these players deserved a chance to play competitive hockey, and it was also clear that we had enough players to actually form an additional team at the PW A level. This was the first time that any Association in the province had iced 6 competitive teams at one level. The result was a positive one at the 'A' level where both teams enjoyed tournament success and finished in the top third of the league standings. However the bigger positive that will be taken from the experience is that we have begun to develop an additional 17 players who will improve and feed our already strong Bantam and Midget levels in the years to come.

As we look forward for 2014-15 we are once again positioned for success. There are constant tweaks and improvements to our tryout process including a Spring ID Camp at the Atom and Peewee AAA

levels, as well as the introduction of a new evaluation scoring system used at the Elite levels within Hockey Nova Scotia. These changes and improvements are all intended to show BDMHA as the most progressive MHA in the province, while fueling the success of our competitive teams as we move along.

In closing, I would like to thank all of the coaches, managers, parents and players for their efforts in delivering a great experience for our players and for all of their time and hard work. I would also like to thank the other volunteers behind the scenes in helping with organization and communications throughout tryouts and through the rest of the year. The names are too numerous to mention, but they know who they are and their efforts are greatly appreciated! Great volunteers make for great Associations! Thank You!

Respectfully submitted,

Jamie Stone, VP Competitive