



**BEDFORD AND DISTRICT MINOR HOCKEY
ASSOCIATION 2015/2016 SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT**

January 2016

[Abstract](#)

Reports from Executive VPs on the current state of the association

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NOTICE

BEDFORD & DISTRICT MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

2015/2016 SEMI-ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

BMO Centre – Multi Purpose Room

January 14, 2016

6 PM

Meeting Agenda:

- 1. Call to order by President**
- 2. Roll call of members**
- 3. Reading and approval of previous minutes**
- 4. Executive Reports**
- 5. New Business**
- 6. Adjournment**



President's Report

Abigail Cook

I first would like to wish you all a Happy New Year. Another hockey season is well underway and many people have been busy working to make the season a success.

As an executive we are always evolving and we have been working on finding volunteers to fill our executive as there are many different roles needed to help run the organization.

I would like to welcome new members this season.

- Eric Villeneuve, Atom Competitive Coordinator
- Karen Bowles, PW Recreation Coordinator
- Melanie McGrath, Risk Management Coordinator
- Bill Hunt, MMHL Rep and Bantam Competitive Coordinator
- Jason Hale, Controller
- Krista White, Atom Recreation Coordinator
- Joanne Lenihan, IP Coordinator
- Jodi Manning, Secretary
- Ron Jordan, IT Coordinator

Thank you to all those who volunteer to help make this association function. From the new and old executive, to the new and seasoned coaches, to the managers, treasurers and timekeepers.

This season has brought a few new changes and new programs. For the first time we began the tryout process at the Atom and Pee wee level in the spring. This allowed for the Fall session to be shorter. We had a lot of positive feedback on this process and plan to continue the same process for the following season.

Jump into Hockey is a new program and one the association is very proud of. It is a Program for 8 to 12 year olds who are new to the game of hockey. Our Core Skills staff coaches them once a week in an IP style program. The program ended in December but because it was such a success there will be another session starting in January. Thanks to Chris Davidson and Shawn MacKenzie for getting this program up and running.

We have successfully completed two major tournaments this season. In October the PW AAA team hosted The Jordan Boyd Memorial tournament. The tournament continues to grow in popularity and even attracted a team from Ontario this year. The second tournament hosted by Bedford this year is our Recreation tournament formally known as the Christmas tournament. This year the tournament was of great significance as we have now renamed and dedicated the tournament as the Noah Llewellyn Memorial tournament. I would like to thank Chris Davidson and Megan Milloy and the many volunteers who worked many hours to make this tournament a success and fun event for the kids. Also thank you to the Llewellyn family for the honour of naming this tournament after their son who was passionate for the game of hockey.

This season we also launched our Newsletter called Blues News. I hope that we will have at least one or two more editions of this newsletter this season. Please take the time to read the letter as it is a way of communicating the news that is happening in our association.

[1st Edition of Blues News](#)

Another change this season was we did not have our coaches' symposium for a variety of reasons but we replaced it with a coaches' information session hosted by Shawn MacKenzie and Bill Short. We encourage as many coaches to attend these sessions as possible and it is always good to get tips and insights from experienced coaches. We will be hosting another one in the second half of the season so please look for the date.

Lastly, as I mentioned in a letter at the beginning of the season, the most important thing to remember as we head in to the second half and into the playoff season is why we play hockey.

As coaches, volunteers and parents we need to keep the game positive and fun. Good luck to all in the second half of the season.





Report from VP Operations

Jeff Smith

Coach Selection

At the end of last season, one of the goals for the 2015-2016 season was to focus on the coach selection process, especially where our competitive teams are concerned. The objective was to use an enhanced application process to streamline coach selection and to thereby more effectively choose the best coaches for the positions available. The evolution of coach selection started with process improvements, adding an online component to facilitate submission. The application itself was also modified to gather more relevant information determined to be critical to selection. Finally, short listed candidates were offered interviews by the selection committee, before the final selections were made. While this process remains in somewhat of a dynamic state, it has had a strong impact on BDMHA's ability to identify current coaches but to also project potential coaching options for future seasons. Many thanks to David Greenfield, VP Competitive and Shawn MacKenzie, HDP, for spearheading the interview process and to Matt Oxford for implementing the online application process.

Coach Certification

As occurs yearly, Hockey Nova Scotia (HNS) audits the qualifications of volunteer coaches in each minor hockey association. BDMHA has made great strides to ensure our coaches meet the various requirements outlined by Hockey Nova Scotia however, however, each year various bottlenecks in the certification process impact the system. Over the past few seasons, the Criminal Record Check, (CRC) and the Child Abuse Registry (CAR) certification have been the predominant bottlenecks. To facilitate and improve the CRC requirement, BDMHA has implemented the online 'MyBackcheck' process. Managed by the Coach Certification Coordinator, Theda McKenna, MyBackcheck has improved BDMHA's efficiency in obtaining this requirement. The CAR on the other hand, remains a bottleneck with no way to improve the process from our perspective. BDMHA is mandated by HNS to remove coaches who have not met the basic requirements for their level. This year, the deadline for credentials was December 1st at which point coaches are suspended from participating with their teams. They then have until December 31 to finalize their credentials and if they have not, they are permanently removed from the team rosters.

Registration

Registration for the 2015/2016 season has been strong. We continue to attract players to our programs and are nearing full capacity both at the competitive and recreational levels. As such we have been able to enhance our hockey development offerings at the grassroots level, offering for the first time a 'Jump into Hockey' program, aimed at new players looking for a non-competitive, learning environment that could introduce them to the game. This program has been extremely successful in the first half of the season, to the point where BDMHA has had to wait list potential participants. This program could not gotten off the ground without the hard work of Chris Davison, VP Recreation, Shawn MacKenzie, HDP and Matt Oxford. Great work for a very worthy program.

League Performance 2015/2016

I would like to take the opportunity to thank all of our coach/manager volunteers for the job they do. While our overall performance as an association is strong this season, hockey is much more than a game. It cultivates friendships, work ethic, commitment, comradery, teamwork, responsibility and leadership to name but a few. While these traits are inherent in the game, they are reflected in and by our coaches and managers and for that, on behalf of the players and executive of Bedford Minor Hockey, I thank you.

Below is a brief recap of how our teams are competing in their respective leagues. As you can see, our teams are very competitive and showing great levels of progress.

Metro Minor Hockey League (MMHL)

Division	Season Recap
Atom	4/5 teams in top 5
Pewee	4/5 teams in top 7
Bantam	5/6 teams in top 8
Midget	3/5 teams in top 3

Central Minor Hockey Federation (CMHF)

Atom	Team(s)	Season Recap	Teams In League
	AA (Blue & White)	4 th & 6 th	13
	A	1 st	9
	B (Blue & White)	1 st and 2 nd	13
Pewee		Season Recap	
	AAA	4 th	8
	AA	3 rd	7
	A	5 th	9
	B (Blue & White)	2 nd & 11 th	12
Bantam		Season Recap	
	AA	2 nd	7
	A	5 th	9
	B (Blue & White)	5 th & 7 th	11
Midget		Season Recap	
	AA	2 nd	9
	A (Blue & White)	2 nd & 4 th	9

Hockey Development Professional (HDP)

Our Hockey Development Professional (HDP), Shawn MacKenzie, continues his diligent work providing development and growth opportunities for our players. He has taken much of the feedback from last season's Core Skills program to grow and improve this year's version. Core skills is designed to offer standardized coaching to our younger players to ensure they are getting the proper mix of drills that focus on the core skill elements of hockey. Also of note, Core Skills is also a great coaching resource, especially for new coaches who want to develop their drill repertoires and Shawn is always available for advice or feedback. Many thanks to Shawn for his relentless work and his commitment to Bedford Minor Hockey. We clearly see the impact he has had on program through the success of our teams and players.

BDMHA Administrator/Ice Coordinator

There is very little that goes on in Bedford Minor Hockey that isn't in some way positively influenced by Matt Oxford. He has taken over the administration of BDMHA, has streamlined and nurtured it and helped grow to become one of the flagship organizations in Nova Scotia minor hockey. Most of Matt's work is behind the scenes but his impact is broad. Registration, coaches/managers meetings, BDMHA Website, ice scheduling, league scheduling, Jordan Boyd & Noah Llewelyn tournaments...this list goes on. A truly great resource, always willing to lend a hand. We are fortunate to have him.

Apparel

During the summer of 2014, BDMHA went to RFP to select an apparel and uniform vendor. We are in the second year of an agreement with IIG/Nova Trophy. They continue to supply great products for our association and many of you have seen the new dye-sublimated style jerseys many of our teams are wearing. We will continue to cycle in new style jerseys until all Bedford teams will sport the same look.

Executive Volunteers

Finally, I would like to thank the current members of the executive for all of the work they do on behalf of the membership. Bedford Minor Hockey is comprised of roughly 1150 players. With a membership this large, it takes a strong group of dedicated volunteers to ensure day to day operations run smoothly. We are very fortunate in Bedford Minor Hockey to have individuals with a multitude of talents and tireless energy all working towards a common goal. It can be at times complicated, often thankless & occasionally stressful but our volunteers have answered the call and have led our organization to be one of the most respected in Nova Scotia. To that point, there are currently openings in the executive ranks and we welcome energetic and committed volunteers who would like to contribute to the success of our association.

Wishing all our members the best for 2016!

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeff Smith, VP Operations



Report from VP Finance

Keith Foster

Registration costs for all competitive and recreation players were maintained at the previous year levels for the current hockey season. In addition, the Association was able to reduce fees for our Fundamental, IP and Novice players.

For the 2015-16 season we budgeted \$796,900 in registration fees based on total registration of 1,050 players. Actual player registration fees is projected to be \$870,000. This increase is largely a result of the inclusion of female players in our registration numbers. The original budget presumed that the female players would be registered as part of a new female south conference association. At the last moment the new association was not able to begin for this hockey year and all female players continued to register with their respective minor hockey associations. This increase in revenue will be offset with a larger than budgeted ice bill, referee costs and insurance for these female players.

Net income from tryouts (both spring and fall) was budgeted at \$5,800 with the actual net income from tryouts expected to be \$4,500 to \$6,500 as the 2016 spring tryout income is not currently in the results. The Association continues to budget and adjust tryout fees and expenses as the tryout process continues to evolve. This year was the first year with a spring ID camp for Atom and PeeWee players which reduced the revenue from the fall tryouts.

Camps and development sessions had a net income budget of \$15,000. To-date net income for these sessions and camps totals \$14,000. There are some user-pay sessions that will continue over the winter season and net income is expected to meet budget.

Jerseys are budgeted based on a 4-5 year replacement schedule. The budget jersey expense for the current year was \$20,000. The Association outfitted 11 teams with new uniforms for a total cost of \$18,700. In addition, the Association replaced approximately 500 practice jerseys which are used for spring and fall tryouts for a total cost of \$10,200. These practice jerseys were not budgeted in the current year however they are only replaced on an irregular cycle and are expected to last for 5 or more years.

The 2015-16 budget was for a \$8,500 deficit as the previous year the Association had posted a large surplus of \$65,900. It is expected that the final fiscal year end results will result in a deficit largely in line with the budgeted amount.



Report from VP Female

John Weatherbie

This year Hockey Nova Scotia officially began the process of restructuring female hockey. To that end the province was divided into six regionalized female zones with an Executive Committee tasked with overseeing each zone and working with the host minor hockey associations. Our region, Metro West, consists of Bedford, Halifax, TASA, Sackville and Chebucto. This year I am acting as the Chair of the Halifax zone Executive Committee.

Joint tryouts were held with oversight from Female Council and evaluation support from the Dalhousie Tigers female hockey team and impartial representatives from all associations. The Executive Committee worked together to run the tryout process. The number of female players evaluated was approximately 350. At the conclusion of tryouts and evaluations, the following teams were formed:

- Four Atom A teams
- Three Atom AA teams
- Three PeeWee A teams
- Two PeeWee AA teams
- Three Bantam A teams
- Three Bantam AA teams
- Two Midget A teams
- Two Midget AA teams

Bedford is hosting the following teams:

- Atom AA
- PeeWee A
- PeeWee AA
- Bantam A
- Bantam AA

One important addition this year is the Atom AA level. At the request of our members we requested that Female Council add the level to Atom female this year and it was approved as a trial. Feedback will be solicited from Coaches and team participants after the season to determine if this should be recommended as a permanent addition. One concern that we currently have is that two teams in Cole Harbour and Valley that were expected to be part of the AA circuit pulled out before the season started and dropped to Atom A. These teams are currently dominating the A level.

This year we are also offering Community Hockey for the first time. Community Hockey is for players who are new to the game. This is still a growing program but we have a great group of young players that are developing quickly.

The coach selection process this year was executed by the Executive Committee. We had a strong group of candidates that were interviewed and subsequently selected.

Overall, the feedback has been positive on the regionalization initiative but there are always complaints and areas which can be improved. There are a few items which have caused the majority of complaints. They include:

- Players that previously made AA at their current level were assigned to A based on the tryout results. There is no grandfathering of level in the new model, each assignment was tryout performance based,
- Different fee structures, inclusions, policies and guidelines between different MHA's. This will only be resolved by a consistent female program for all female players within the zone,
- The initial psychological stress of playing for a different brand than the player (or in some cases, the parent) is accustomed to. This will change over time with rebranding,
- Too many AA teams. The number of AA teams is driven determined by the number of players trying out as per Hockey Nova Scotia rules; Metro West adhered to these rules. We are discussing changes to the tryout process for next year.

Team and player wise, the key challenges this year are:

- Goalies in PeeWee and Midget. We are a goalie short in PeeWee and were in Midget but a goalie who had decided not to play was persuaded to come back. We must develop more goalies.
- Female coaches – in Bedford we have female coaches in Bantam A. We need to continue to find and develop strong female hockey minds to step behind the bench.
- Ice time – there is an extreme ice crunch this year which has made it difficult to get two practices in per week and will potentially impact development in future years.

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

Sincerely,

John Weatherbie, VP Female



Report from VP Recreation

Chris Davison

This has been a very successful recreational hockey season thus far. We created 23 recreation teams within Bedford and District Minor Hockey Association this season: 6 Atom; 5 Pee wee; 6 Bantam; 5 Midget; and 1 Minor Junior team. I would like to thank our recreational coaches, team managers, and divisional coordinators for their dedication and tireless efforts on behalf of our players. This season our divisional coordinators are:

- Atom – Krista White
- Pee wee – Karen Bowes
- Bantam – James Mitchener
- Midget – Darrin Quigley

A special thanks goes to each of our coordinators who have been watching over our teams in of their respective divisions, and taking great care to make sure that things were running smoothly over the past few months. They have been a great help to me as they act as the first point contact for our rec membership. I would also like acknowledge Bill Hunt, our MMHL representative, who makes sure teams know about scheduling changes and ensures that our teams report their scores in a timely fashion.

Similar to recent seasons, we completed a formalized process for balancing the Bedford teams in each division. We held one on-ice session (for each division) in September, where multiple evaluators (coaches/volunteers) rated the players on their skating, puck handling and overall hockey ability. The results of the balancing process were compiled and each player was ranked. The players were then separated into groups based on their relative rankings at a player draft for each division. 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. Balancing was very successful this season, as we saw all our rec teams cluster near the top of the regular season standings.

Our recreational teams have done very well this season in the Metro Minor Hockey League, which is entering into their playoff season. At this time, the league divides into a top and bottom half, with the top teams competing for the Gold championship and the bottom half, going for the Green championship. This could very well be our most competitive season ever with 20 out of 23 teams finishing in the top half of the standings, and thus competing for the top prize in each of their respective divisions. As I write this message

- 5 of our 6 Atom teams are poised to compete for the Gold Division championship (out of 18 teams total)

- All 5 of Peewee teams are poised to compete for the Gold Division championship (out of 21 teams total)
- 5 of our 6 Bantam teams will compete for the Gold Division championship (out of 16 teams total)
- 4 of our 5 Midget teams will compete for the Gold Division championship (out of 19 teams total)
- Our Minor Junior team is currently first out of their 9 team division

Good luck to all of our teams in the MMHL playoffs. Championship weekend will see the top 4 teams of Gold and Green face off in semi-finals and championship finals. This year, Championship weekend is scheduled for Easter weekend, March 25-27, 2016 at the Sackville Arena, Lower Sackville.

Core Skills Sessions (CSS) continued this season for Atom and Peewee aged recreational teams, balanced with coach lead team practices. This approach has been very well received based on feedback received to date. We also introduced a weekly opt-in CSS at the Bantam level, which met with varying attendance levels--we are currently reviewing whether we will scale it back to once every two weeks.

We hosted the annual BDMHA Christmas Tournament from December 26th-28th at the BMO Centre. This year we renamed the Christmas tournament in honour of a dedicated Bedford Blue, Noah Llewellyn, who lost his brave fight against Ewing Sarcoma in late 2014, at the young age of 14. A dedication ceremony was hosted on the evening of Dec 26th, and a banner was raised to hang in BMO rink D in Noah's honour. We had a total of 36 teams involved in the tournament, which saw lots of great hockey, and most importantly, the players thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Congratulations to all Bedford teams who participated, and congrats to: *Division semi-finalists--Atom Jets, PW Nordiques & Bantam Canucks; Silver medal winners--Atom Aces, Bantam Oilers & Midget Raiders; Gold medal winners--Bantam Leafs & Midget Leafs. Again, this was a very strong showing by Bedford teams, with 8 of the 12 Bedford teams participating, reaching the playoffs on Dec 28th.* 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 scenes both before and during the Christmas break. I would like to extend a special thanks to my tournament committee co-chair, Meghan Milloy, for all her energy and leadership.

Another great story this season was the introduction of the Jump Into Hockey program. This weekly skills course aimed at beginners aged 8-12, was an overwhelming success in its first 10 week fall session. Most participants have opted to continue into the second 10 week session starting January, and we already have a long waiting list to join. Parents and players alike are very enthusiastic about the program that is coached by Shawn MacKenzie that is designed to help prepare players for the recreational program in coming seasons. These boys and girls are like little sponges, with a love of hockey that only grows with each session. We have offered a second ice time in conjunction with Female Community hockey and are looking at other options for expansion of the program next season.

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. I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to all of you who have volunteered their time to make this happen within BDMHA so far through 2015-2016. I would also like to extend my appreciation to my fellow Executive members for their support and encouragement. They put in significant time on our behalf and make hockey work for all of us. We are looking forward to a successful completion of the 2015-2016 season. Good luck to all of our teams.

Chris Davison, VP Recreation



Report from VP Development

Chris Bewsher

I would start by wishing every one of our players, volunteers, and their families a Happy New Year. Overall 2015 was a great year. Going forward I believe we are truly fortunate to belong to such a great organization.

As a not for profit the cost associated with Bedford's Hockey Development Programs are run as close to breakeven as possible. Any residual profits are reinvested back into the development of Bedford Minor Hockey Players and its programing. Our development programs help support initiatives like in season Core Skills Development, the hiring of skilled instructors, and/or the purchase of needed hockey training equipment.

Our program is principally designed by our Hockey Development Professional, [Shawn Mackenzie](#). In addition to his extensive knowledge and experience, Shawn is well connected within the hockey community. His closest connections are routinely leveraged on the ice to train Bedford Minor Hockey players. Shawn works with all levels and has personally trained the likes of Sydney Crosby, Brad Marchand, Nathan Mackinnon, and many other notable pro's.

Matt Oxford is the association's administrator and provides the administrative planning, logistical support and overall management required to run our programs year after year. Since being hired over 3 years ago Matt has progressively captured lessons learned and helped our development programs evolve into what they are today.

My role as the Vice President of Development is to support both Matt and Shawn, contribute to the development of new programs and initiatives brought forward through the executive committee. So far this season we've offered a Coach Development Session just before Christmas with speakers Bill Short from Hockey Nova Scotia, and Shawn Mackenzie. While attendance was low the general feeling is these sessions are worthy of continuing. In addition, I can report that we have intentions of purchasing another set of rink dividers. [Rink Dividers](#) have proved valuable in support of teams during our shared practises as well as our IP, Novice, and 3v3 program.

Summer Development Offerings:

Over this past summer we offered a summer defense camp, goalie camp, and battle camp. Just prior to starting our season we offered preseason conditioning camp which this year included a dryland component. We're pleased with the interest shown within our programs which have for the most part shown consistent growth over recent years.

We will continue to explore ways and means to add value to our programs with a view to ensure our players have the opportunity to develop and are sufficiently prepared for the start of their minor hockey seasons. Bedford Minor Hockey development programs can be accessed by visiting the [BDMHA Development Page](#) on our website.

In-season Development Offerings:

Offering in-season programming has in the past been challenging as we've struggled to find ice time. However over the last few years we've captured some efficiencies and have progressively been able to increase the number of hours we can dedicate towards in season development.

This year we've offered power skating at the Novice Development, Intermediate, and Advancing Levels. We've seen significant improvement within our players at the Intermediate and Advancing Levels. We've struggled with attendance at the Novice Development level much to do with the 3:45 pm time slot and its impact on attendance numbers.

We've also offered development for players at the Bantam level on Sundays and Mondays on a pay as you go basis. These offerings have struggled somewhat due to numerous conflicts which existed within the teams. We are in the process of exploring options to offset any losses associated with this program.

One of the challenges we've had to react to this season were changes made relating to the cancellation policy relating to our ice contracts with the BMO. The net impact of the revised terms means that we have to plan earlier and be prepared to cancel and refund registrations within any programs for which sufficient numbers have not been achieved. On this note, planning is already under way when it comes to spring and summer development. Our [Spring 3v3 registration](#) is currently up on our website with a Feb. 1st deadline to register. Members are encouraged to subscribe to our website to be alerted of any upcoming offerings and be prepared to commit early in support of our programs going ahead.

Your feedback on development offerings and opportunities being offered within our association is important to us. If you have some thoughts you would like to share we would encourage you to do so by contacting myself or any one of our executive members listed on the [executive page](#) of our website.

Yours truly,

Chris Bewsher, Vice President



Report from VP Novice/Initiation

Simon Wilkin

We continue to see success at our beginning levels of hockey with increased participation at the Initiation and Novice levels. While this does not come without new challenges, we must acknowledge that a large part of the success is due to the great commitment from our players, parents, coaches and all our other volunteers.

Below is a brief summary and overview of the various programs at the Initiation and Novice levels.

Initiation / FUNdamentals Programs

The 2015-2016 hockey season has seen continued growth of the Initiation Program level. We have 200 players in the Initiation Program (IP) level divided into two (2) IP 1 teams, two (2) IP 2 teams and one (1) one FUNdamentals group.

The FUNdamentals group includes close to 40 players and continues to be targeted towards 4 year olds or first year beginning players. We continue to partner with the Bedford Skate Club and the program consists of one (1) session of CanSkate and one (1) hockey session per week. The program filled up very quickly and continues to be very successful.

We are able to continue to have our two (2) IP 1 groups structured towards 5 years old players and the two (2) IP 2 groups structured towards 6 years old players. These groups are also still operating at maximum capacity.

Our IP groups have participated in Halifax Mooseheads intermission games and various jamborees. The Tim Hortons jamboree was unfortunately postponed in November and has been rescheduled for Sunday, February 7 at the Scotiabank Centre.

Joanne Lenihan is new to the role of Initiation Coordinator this year and has been a great addition and asset to the Bedford and District Minor Hockey Association (BDMHA). Thank you to Joanne for all her hard work.

Novice Program

The 2015-2016 hockey season has also seen continued growth of the Novice Program level. We have 208 players at the Novice level divided into twelve (12) teams: four (4) Development teams, two (2) Female teams, three (3) Intermediate teams and three (3) Advancing teams. All Novice teams compete in an HRM novice exhibition series.

Due to the numbers this season, we were again not able to offer our Introduction to Hockey group, but are still examining the logistics in hope of being able to offer it again next year.

The Novice Female program continues to develop and grow. This year the two (2) female teams, which comprise of female players solely from within the Bedford boundaries, were tiered for the first time with one (1) of the teams participating in the co-ed intermediate exhibition series and the other team participating in the female exhibition series.

Although the goalie training started later than anticipated, the novice goalies will again be offered training with Jack Hartigan of Finn Goalie on Wednesday evenings for specialized goalie sessions. There is no cost to the players as we continue to place an emphasis on developing our goalies starting at the early stages of hockey development. I would like to thank Jack and the Executive of the BDMHA for continued commitment to making this arrangement possible.

Doug MacKinnon is also new to the role of Novice Coordinator this year having been the Initiation Program Coordinator for the past two (2) seasons. Doug continues to demonstrate his commitment to the BDMHA and I would like to thank him for the countless hours he continues to volunteer and the great job he has done at the Novice level.

While a meeting of Novice coaches and managers was not scheduled in the first portion of the season, we are looking at getting this group together early in the second portion of the season.

Thank you to everyone for the support and assistance at the IP and Novice levels and we look forward to continuing to work with you.

Respectfully

Simon Wilkin, VP IP/Novice



Report from Hockey Development Professional

Shawn MacKenzie

Level Specific Mid Season Report

Fundamentals: This season we again partner with Skate Canada for our fundamental programs. The majority of players are 4 year olds. This introductory program has been well received and has benefited these starters by laying a solid foundation giving the next year IP1 coach a group with more consistent and advanced basics.

IP 1 and 2: Good numbers with good progression. Most sessions are station type formats with skating skills being prioritized. Enthusiasm is high with coaches doing a great job of not only growing skill but also keeping fun factor on the forefront. Weekly growth is evident in most participants.

Novice: Like all of our early age programs we are facing increasingly strong enrolment. This is encouraging as that is not the case everywhere in our province or in Canada as a whole. Growth does create some challenges with ice availability likely being the biggest.

The number of teams that we have at the top level of novice (advancing) is dictated solely on enrolment numbers and does not consider skills, capabilities, or the contribution of those players that may have difficulty meeting the standards of novice advancing. There is of course an argument that these weaker players will fast track by being with so called better players. This theory is not supported by all in player and team development but for time being it is the direction and it is up to the association and coaches at the advancing levels to meet the challenge.

Jump into hockey: 8 to 12 year old introduction program. I really enjoyed this program as it was pure with fun and lots of falls. Great progress was made and we feel most participants will chose to stay in some form of hockey. One of our players did in fact join our atom recreation. I happened to be at the game when he scored his first goal.....I may have pumped my fist for that one.

Atom: Many say that this is where real hockey starts (maybe because we actually keep score LOL). Our atom group is doing quite well at both rep and recreation. There are some groups that I would say have a greater capability and we will be looking for all teams to strive for improvements during the second half and into play downs and play offs.

Pee Wee: Some teams in pw are doing very well. We also have a couple that are struggling with consistency and big game elevation. The process of targeting the groups that are in the latter category has been taking place and efforts will continue into the second half. We of course also need to see that those with good first halves don't get complacent or forget that the second half presents much more "gloves off" type competition. I would say a general challenge exists at pw to make the second half the better of the two.

Bantam: Last season this was our most challenging level, particularly for the groups playing full contact hockey. The adjustment from pw to bantam is possibly the toughest a player will be faced with during his minor hockey days. Many things factor in: exposure to contact is certainly one of them. Also physical maturity is another, with some players having growth in both height and mass and others not yet reaching that point in their own personal development. This can see new players emerging with more impact while other former achievers struggle to maintain their contributions. The good news is that by the time the second half arrives players usually are much more comfortable and confident in the bantam environment. Any stalled growth is usually overcome.

This year our bantam teams have shown good capabilities and have tasted team success. If honest I would say that some have also underachieved at times and that is reflected in the standings. Not bad but not quite at the top. From here on in, perhaps bantam should keep their own standings just considering the second half schedule and results. This may be a good incentive for moving forward at the most important time.

Midget: At times during the season we can see players and teams struggle to find the progressive way. When I have these periods I will try and spend time with the midget groups. There I see players that I have known since their beginner days and I have witnessed and shared their personal challenges and the ups and downs. For some reason at midget I see things really coming together. Those that maybe lacked confidence or struggled to contribute blossom or maybe the player that struggled with physical play is now fully engaged without hesitation. It serves to restore my confidence in the journey and the belief that although each player must run his own race at his own pace, most will eventually get to a point of best play. The fact that our midget program is viewed as the top in the province is something our leaders and players need be very proud of.

Minor Junior: Great program for 17 to 23 yr olds. We have a great group that really enjoy their time together. My own son is one of the 23 year olds. I still go watch him play whenever I can. It is his last year in Bedford Minor. I wish that wasn't the case. It went by too quick.

Thanks,

Shawn MacKenzie, HDP

Report from VP Competitive

David Greenfield

The 2015/16 Season is now past the half-way point and the Bedford Blues are performing and competing at all divisions meeting our expectations. We have iced 17 competitive teams and statistically speaking we would like our divisions to run minimally at 50% win / loss ratio. While we can drive the same expectation down to a team level, with 17 teams it is inevitable that some teams will be much stronger and weaker in any division in any given year. If we review the division results to-date the Atom teams are extremely competitive having earned almost 76% of possible points to date, with PeeWee gathering 52%, Bantam at 57% and Midget also very strong at 70%. Overall the Bedford Minor competitive teams have earned over 63.5% potential points. This is based on Central Minor games played to-date, not tournaments or exhibition games. We all know it is not the scoreboard to ultimately determine success in Minor Hockey, but it is an indicator we can use to determine if we are struggling competitively in any of our divisions, a factor in competitive hockey. As in any year, we do have a few teams requiring attention for various reasons and we have been working with these teams to ensure they have the best possible outcome and resources available to have a successful year.

Our season actually started in April / May of 2015 with the continuation of a concept of an ID Camp / Spring Tryouts for Atom and PeeWee with the goal to make the Competitive tryout process a little more efficient and to cut-back on the stress of the fall tryout process. The overall feedback from the membership and the Executive has been positive and we intend to continue this process for the 2016/17 season. My intention is to look for a way to introduce a similar process for the Bantam division, being mindful of the timing and overlap with the Major Bantam Spring ID Camp. The overall Spring ID camp for Atom thru Bantam will be a focus in January. Even with the Atom and PeeWee removing some of the time and pressure of fall tryouts, the process continues to be a long and tension filled time for players, parents and volunteers alike with over 70 hrs of tryout ice over a 3 ½ week period that doesn't take into the account the many off-ice hours required to prepare, setup and cleanup after games, scoring tabulation etc. It currently takes over 1,000 hrs of total effort for Bedford to run the fall tryouts (not including spring).

With an association this size we will have issues and this year was no exception. The biggest concerns came from decisions that deviated from last year where we iced:

- 1) Two PeeWee B teams compared to three PeeWee B's last year
- 2) Two Bantam B's teams compared to two Bantam A's and one Bantam B last year
- 3) One Midget A and one Midget B team compared to two Midget A's and one 1 Midget B last year.

Discussions were held with our HDP and input from our Executive team as it was noted last year the team combinations we had in place did struggle to compete within an expected level of our program. The exception was Midget who did perform extremely well as a division. In order to "right size" this did create a ripple effect and brought forward a situation that has never occurred in Bedford where a high number of players either remained at the same level or were placed at a lower level than they played last year. This ultimately led to disappointment for players and families but allowed the overall competitive program to be aligned with our capabilities. In Midget, we didn't have enough players registered / interested to ice four teams therefore we went with three teams, AA, A and B. We must appreciate the associations submit

number of teams, ice slots for scheduling before tryouts complete and therefore fully understanding the calibre of players against other associations. But with registration numbers in hand, we knew we didn't have enough registration for four teams. After tryouts completed, we ran a couple of Midget B exhibition games and decided the team was capable of playing as a Midget A team, therefore we requested HNS and Central Minor to have our team changed and we thank the Central Minor Executive to allow for this change as they had to reschedule all Midget B and Midget A games at our request. This turned out to be a good decision as both of our Midget A teams are competing.

Bedford Minor Hockey continues to have a large pool of players that are interested in trying out for competitive teams each year and it is continually growing. We saw once again record number of players trying out. Atom had the largest growth of players wanting to play on a competitive team. Pee-Wee and Bantam had slight increases over last year while Midget did **decrease** this season and is mostly an effect of the 2000 birth year being a smaller pool of registered players compared to other years. We expect Midget competitive level numbers to increase again next year with the introduction of the 2001 birth year into the Midget program and from early indications we have a large number of players interested in playing non-contact therefore we will look to ice at least one Midget B team next year even though we don't have one this year. The increases in Midget numbers are welcomed and show that Bedford Minor is providing a fun environment for players to continue to enjoy the game.

The challenged faced with the increasing numbers of players trying out for a competitive level is trying to make room for them all. Many players have the interest, commitment, and capability to play at competitive levels, but there is only so much room. While in theory offering more spots and opportunity for players to play at a competitive level sounds like a positive, in reality it proved some unforeseen challenges as experienced in 2014/15. We continue to believe Bedford has the depth to offer two teams at the "B" level, but are not ready to do the same at other levels. This change has increased the competitiveness of both our Competitive and Recreational level teams. This also created increased competition amongst our own players vying for a spot on one of our Competitive level teams, which ultimately provides an individual drive for growth.

I look forward to a strong second half for all of our Competitive level teams as they enter into Provincial and City Level play downs. Good luck to all!

David Greenfield, VP Competitive



Report from Ice/Administrative Coordinator

Matt Oxford

Entering my third year as the association's ice coordinator and administrator it is a pleasure to be part of such a great association. Our volunteers and executive have supported me from day one and I am proud of the membership within Bedford Minor Hockey.

Player registration has increased from 1132 to 1151. This includes the 5 female teams that Bedford is hosting for the 2015-16 season on behalf of the Metro West Female Association. As previously mentioned, female hockey will soon have their own minor hockey association and our association numbers may drop once this becomes permanent. However, starter programs like Fundamentals and Jump Into Hockey are gaining momentum and could see an increase in program size moving forward.

The registration process was not adjusted for the 2015-16 season. Online registration continued to accept credit card as the only payment method and walk-in registration was open throughout July and August. There were a significant number of existing members who attended walk-in registration only to provide credit card as a payment method. Moving forward, walk in registration should only be for new members, or existing members who are going to pay by cheque or cash.

Bedford transferred between 40-50 players from outside associations. There was not a regional pattern of transfers coming into the association.

Roster management in the HCR has gone very smooth. No major issues other than the standard transfer or creation of coaches/managers creating profiles. There have been minimal player withdraws this season.

As mentioned in prior reports, the association's ability to accept all registrations is limited by available ice time. Unfortunately, we cannot forecast an increase in registration to HRM in hopes of receiving more ice time and ultimately accept more players. HRM Ice Allocation is determined by the previous season's registration numbers. The association normally maintains registration numbers and has yet to see a spike in an upward or downward direction. This makes the planning process easier from year to year to determine how many teams/groups we can accommodate. With the continued development of Bedford West, it will be interesting to see how registration evolves over the next 3-5 years.

The current use of ice has been effective to a certain degree. There have been 51 hours of ice left vacant from October 1 to December 31. By comparison, total ice vacant from October to December 2014 was 32.5, which raises a number of questions that need to be answered. The increase in this number can be attributed to a number of factors but the biggest is the unused MMHL game ice during the first 2 weeks

of the season. Although unfortunate, this will be addressed for next season to not happen again. The big picture is that the association has used roughly 1300 hours of ice time in the first half of the season, 51 vacant hours is about 4%

Vacant Ice by Month

- October: 33.5 hours
- November: 5 hours
- December: 12.5 hours

One area of ice management that was adjusted for the 2015-16 season was the removal of 6 AM practices from the ice contract. Over the years, BDMHA has booked a 6 AM practice for our competitive teams only to see a large portion of those left vacant or shuffled to alternate dates by the BMO Ice Scheduler. The removal of these practice slots was done to provide teams with greater flexibility in their practice schedule and determine if an early morning was worth exploring. The association did not feel that forcing a team to practice at 6 AM was the correct approach. BMO still has plenty of 6 AM slot available for teams if they are actively searching for ice time.

BMO Centre continues to hosts 5 tournaments that impacts the number of ice times user groups receive during the season. Three of these tournament are now spilling over into Wednesday and Thursday therefore taking ice times that traditionally would be available. The current tournaments held at BMO are:

- Jordan Boyd Memorial Tournament – Thanksgiving Weekend (typically Oct. 10-12)
- SEDMHA Female Tournament – Nov. 26-29
- Noah Llewellyn Memorial Tournament – Dec. 26-28
- East Coast Ice Jam – Jan. 6-10
- SEDMHA Novice Jamboree – March 24-27

The 3rd Annual Jordan Boyd Memorial Tournament was a great success. We were able to increase total registration to 45 teams which makes it the biggest tournament to date. The planning process for the 2016 tournament will begin soon, and the hope is accept more teams moving forward. I would like to thank the PeeWee AAA team for their assistance in running this tournament, it wouldn't have been possible without your help. I would also like to thank the Boyd family for their continued involvement in the tournament and support of this great event.

Our friends at BMO, Deb Nickel, Ice Scheduler and Bill Cruickshank, General Manager have been great to work with. I would to thank them for being so accommodating with our association. Specifically, with regard to the adjustment of practice ice times as and when conflicts arise.

Matt Oxford, Ice/Administrative Coordinator