

2016-17

ANNUAL REPORT



Bedford & District Minor
Hockey Association

05-31-2017

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President's Message

It's hard to believe another minor hockey year has come to an end. It only seems like yesterday we were in the whirlwind of tryouts, placements and team selections. I want to thank the countless number of volunteers that make our organization run so smoothly. I spoke to a coach recently who had added up the hours he had spent this past year prepping and running practices and coaching games and the hours accumulated by this coach was astonishing. While my year as president has been busy I don't believe I have put in nearly the number of hours that this coach did. While we all sometimes believe that a coach may not be doing the right thing in a game we must all understand the effort and time commitment they put in for our kids and allow them the benefit of the doubt as well as give them our thanks.

From coaches and managers all the way up to the board, our association is extremely lucky to have these committed and talented people. Bedford strives to be a model minor hockey association and we were chosen by Hockey Nova Scotia to participate in a study being run by Hockey Canada. The focus of the study is on what associations do and how they are structured to attain what Hockey Canada defines as a model association. After completing the initial questionnaire we were visited by a representative of Hockey Canada who met with a few board members and Matt Oxford. The intent of this meeting was to ask a few more questions of us and to tour the rink on a night where we were running some core skills sessions and games were being played. We were also able to question Hockey Canada on what associations do across the country to make them better. We were delighted to discover that B&DMHA was only one of four MHA's across the country that was chosen to participate in the study and we were the only one chosen by Hockey Canada for a personal visit. I can proudly say that Bedford was seen by both HNS and Hockey Canada as an association that defines what a model association should be. The goal of the study will be for Hockey Canada to prepare a document that every MHA can use as a scorecard to measure themselves against. The scorecard will include several procedures and processes that Hockey Canada deems an MHA must and/or should have to be a model MHA.

As mentioned in my semi-annual report, the presidents of each of the Halifax zone MHAs continued to meet monthly to work on items that impact us all. I want to thank our zone rep, Scott McArthur for attending each of these meetings to provide us with guidance and insight throughout this process. Over the past number of years development in HRM has made all our boundary descriptions incomplete and/or confusing. Scott has completed a full review of all Halifax zone MHA boundary descriptions and had a large map prepared with all the boundaries drawn out for each MHA to review and comment. The result was that no boundaries were changed, only descriptions and lines clarified. We will be posting the "new"

description and map shortly. This will allow everyone a clearer picture of where each MHA catchment area is and reduce confusion over a number of future development sites.

The zone presidents have also spent time campaigning our respective city councillors on ice availability. With the opening of the new four-pad in Dartmouth there have been rumors swirling that HRM will close four older rinks. We have sent the councillors emails and reports showing that HRM has the highest ratio of population to ice surface in Nova Scotia and one of the highest in the country. This has resulted in 5 year olds having to practice at 4pm on weekdays and teams scrambling to find any available ice no matter where or when. We also have the highest per hour ice costs in all of Nova Scotia and some of the highest in Canada. We also are restricted in our ability to host provincial championships and day of champions due to the ice costs.

Finally, I want to thank Matt Oxford and Shawn MacKenzie for continually providing us with professional service and advice. I can honestly say that the other associations envy us for having these two individuals on our staff.

I hope everyone has a great summer and are able to stay out of rinks as much as possible until we get rolling again in late August.

Keith Foster, President

Report from VP Operations, Jeff Smith

Final League Performance 2016-17

I would like to take the opportunity to thank all of our coach/manager volunteers for their continued dedication and commitment to our program. We tend to measure success in terms of wins and losses, what team we made, or how we fared on a stats sheet, but regardless of performance, hockey offers much more than simply the game. It cultivates friendships, work ethic, commitment, comradery, teamwork, responsibility, leadership, and respect for community but 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 finished in their respective league championships. As you can see, our teams were very successful at the local level. Congratulations to all our champions!

Metro Minor Hockey League (MMHL)

Division	Gold Division	Silver Division
Atom	Bedford Bombers - 2 nd	Bedford Vipers - 1 st
Pewee	Bedford Nordiques - 1 st Bedford Bolts - 2 nd	
Bantam	Bedford Oilers - 1 st	Bedford Canadians - 1 st Bedford Coyotes - 2 nd
Midget	Bedford Leafs - 1 st	Bedford Wings - 1 st
Minor Junior	Bedford Blues - Semi Finalists	

Central Minor Hockey Federation (CMHF)

Atom	Team(s)	CMHF Playoff Recap	HNS Provincials
	AA (Blue & White)	White - Semi Final	
	A	Semi Final	
	B (Blue & White)	White - 2nd Blue - Semi-Final	
Peewee			
	AAA	2nd	
	AA	2nd	
	A	2nd	
	B (Blue & White)		
Bantam			
	AA	Semi Final	
	A		
	B (Blue & White)	White - 2nd Blue - Semi Final	
Midget			
	AA	2nd	1st
	A	2nd	

Executive Volunteers, Hockey Development Professional, and Administrator

In closing, as we sign off on another great season, I would like to again thank the current and departing members of the executive for their service over the past year. 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 and this season was no different. Our volunteers continue to lead our organization and continue to be leaders in the hockey community. New innovative programs, technological improvements, improved focus on player, goalie and coach development make our association one of the most respected in Nova Scotia – something we should be extremely proud of. We encourage members to consider contributing their time and energy to ensure the continued success of our association.

I would also like to congratulate and thank our outgoing VP Female, John Weatherbie. John was one of the driving forces behind female hockey in the province, instrumental in initiating a regionalized female hockey program, and spearheading the efforts to make Metro Force West the first all-female minor hockey association in Nova Scotia. John will chair the Metro Force West Association. Best of luck John!

Our Hockey Development Professional (HDP), Shawn MacKenzie, continues his diligent work, developing, instructing and mentoring our players and coaches. The success of our players and teams reflect Shawn's ability to develop and deliver an outstanding program. We sincerely thank Shawn for his tireless work and his commitment to Bedford Minor Hockey.

To our Administrator, ice coordinator, scheduler, registrar, tournament administrator, hockey sock salesperson, and overall jack of all trades, Matt Oxford, our sincere thanks. You make a tough job look easy and continue to add polish to our association. Your commitment and dedication are second to none.

Finally, as outgoing VP Operations, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the BDMHA Executive board for allowing me the privilege to serve the organization and its members. It has been a wonderful five years!

Wishing all our members a great summer and our association continued success! Keep raising the bar!

Respectfully,

Jeff Smith, VP Operations

Report from VP Initiation/Novice, Simon Wilkin

Initiation

We continued with our Fundamental program again this season. In partnership with the Bedford Skate Club we were able to offer our four (4) year old and first year beginning players, one (1) CanSkate session and one (1) coach lead session per week. The program filled up quickly and we will be looking to continue offering this program structure in the coming season, taking into consideration feedback received from past participants. I would like to recognize and thank head coach Greg Crowell for taking the lead, as well as the entire team staff and Bedford Skate Club for their commitment this season.

This season we continued to have two (2) IP1 groups while adding an additional group at the IP2 level, bringing us to three (3) IP2 groups. All teams were on the ice two (2) times per week. Our IP teams were able to participate in events such as the Moosehead intermission games, the Moosehead Jamboree as well as other jamborees around the Province. I would like to recognize and thank head coaches Matt Williams (IP1), Justin Munden (IP1), Craig Clarke (IP2), Devin Veinot (IP2) and Ryan Chisholm (IP2) for taking the lead on their respective teams, as well as the entire team staffs for their commitment this season.

The Bedford and District Minor Hockey Association (BDMHA) continued to provide goalie equipment this year to inspire future goaltenders. The intent of providing equipment is to rotate it through players who would like to try goaltending prior to making an investment in equipment. The BDMHA would like to continue to support the development of goaltenders starting at an early age.

Medals were again handed out to all Fundamental and IP players at the end of this season.

I would like to recognize and thank Joanne Lenihan for her time and dedication to the Fundamental and IP programs as Coordinator. Joanne was in her second year in the role and continued to build on the great success from the previous season. Joanne is truly an asset to the BDMHA with her outstanding commitment to the programs. We look forward to Joanne continuing on the Executive in a new role next year as Vice President IP and Novice.

Novice

This season we maintained the number of novice-age hockey teams at twelve (12), which had been an increase the previous season. We had over 200 players divided into four (4) Development teams, two (2) Female teams, three (3) Intermediate teams and three (3) Advancing teams. All coed teams were

competitive in their participation in the HRM Novice Exhibition Series. I would like to recognize and thank head coaches Dan Allain (Advancing), Shane Gibbs (Advancing), Kevin MacKinnon (Advancing), Scott Pineo (Intermediate), Tim Garriock (Intermediate), Kyle Schmeisser (Intermediate), Craig Clarke (Developmental), Craig Frizzell (Developmental), Fraser Allen (Developmental), Matt Williams (Developmental), Carla Alderson (Female) and Ryan Chisholm (Female) for taking the lead on their respective teams, as well as the entire team staffs for their commitment this season.

This year the two (2) female teams, which comprised of female players solely from within the Bedford boundaries, were balanced and participated in the female exhibition series. The BDMHA was well represented by these talented and competitive players.

Similarly to the IP program, the BDMHA also has goaltending gear available for teams to borrow to help facilitate young players interested in goaltending. Unfortunately, the novice goalie training with Jack Haritgan, of FinnGoalie, was not able to be accommodated this season due to ice availability and scheduling. The BDMHA continues to make it a commitment to develop our goalies at the novice age level and we plan to propose a return of the goalie training program next season.

Scott Urquhart was new to the role of Novice Coordinator this year and was an integral part of the running of the Novice program. I would like to recognize and thank Scott for his time and dedication, as well as the countless hours he contributed to make the program run as seamlessly as it has with great success.

I will be leaving the role of VP of IP and Novice next year, after having served the maximum two (2) years, but will remain on the BDMHA Executive in a new role as the VP of Operations. I look forward to the new challenge and continuing to serve the members of the association. I cannot thank enough all of the parents and volunteers who make the Bedford and District Minor Hockey Association an exceptional minor hockey association and one of top associations in Nova Scotia. I hope everyone has a great break and look forward to seeing you again next season.

Respectfully,

Simon Wilkin, VP IP/Novice

Report from VP Female, John Weatherbie

This season is year two of Hockey Nova Scotia officially restructuring female hockey 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 Metro West Force Executive Committee.

A major step forward for us this year was the purchase and distribution of distinct Metro West Force jerseys for all of our female hockey teams. This has allowed us to begin creating our own brand and was a step toward the creation of a separate female hockey league. With that in mind we worked with Female Council and Hockey Nova Scotia this winter to follow the proper process and complete the required steps to form Hockey Nova Scotia's first Female Hockey Association (FHA). Our application was approved in March and next year the Metro West Force will begin function as a full FHA and female players will register with the Force instead of the five existing MHA's.

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:

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

Bedford hosted the following teams:

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

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. We thank all who participated.

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 are similar to previous years and 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 our 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 (and the parents) is accustomed to. This will change over time.
- 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 implemented changes to the tryout processes this year in an attempt to make the process less stressful to players. In cases where we were extremely close to being required to have an additional AA team (within 2 to 3 players of the rule) and we felt we had sufficient depth, we went with the additional AA team. An Executive Committee concern to be looked at for next year is the impact that this has had at the A level. There is no easy answer to balancing the development needs of all players. One consideration is the creation of a non-travel "c" league for those very new to hockey. This is an initiative we are working on with Metro East.
- Late registration was a huge problem this year with almost 100 players registering after the close of general registration. Next year we will be changing the registration model and time frames. This created serious issues for the executive committee as the number of players to place changed dramatically late in the process which created additional ice demands. There were many parental complaints when they did not like the ice time they were assigned or the team they were on. In general this caused significant turmoil for all involved.

This season the success on ice achieved by the Metro West Force was remarkable. While many tournaments were won, the AA teams in our association swept provincials with MWF PeeWee AA – Blue, MWF Bantam AA – Red and MWF Midget AA – Black all winning Provincial championships. Atom A – Blue won their league championship, Atom AA – Blue won the HNS Day of Champions as did Midget A – Blue. While championships are absolutely not the only measure of development it is a good indication we are moving in the right direction.

As the Metro West Force becomes a full FHA next year, this will be my last term on the B&DMHA Executive. It has been a very fulfilling experience working with many amazing volunteers, players and parents. I would especially like to thank Shawn Mackenzie for all the support he has provided over the years, his support and leadership has been amazing and he is a tremendous benefit to our association.

Thank you to all the coaches, managers and players who participated in the female program this year.

Sincerely,

John Weatherbie, VP Female

Report from VP Finance, Jason Hale

For the 2016-2017 fiscal year we budgeted registration fees based on a total player registration of 1,108 players. Our actual player registration was 1,181 players (2015-2016 registration was 1,151). This is made up of 991 male hockey registrations, 93 female hockey registrations, and 97 Metro West Female Hockey registrations.

The organization finished the year with total revenues of \$1,144,585 and total expenses of \$1,146,703 leaving a deficit at the end of the fiscal year of \$(2,118). The organization was budgeting a small surplus of \$9,600. The difference is due to having spring tryouts this year in May (the next fiscal year), some expenses incurred a little over budget and writing off some old receivables.

Our camps, tryouts, user pay programs and Christmas tournament continue to be very successful from a financial results perspective. The profit from these programs were approximately \$21,500 for the year, not including the 2017 tryouts.

The organizations largest expense continues to be our ice expenditure. The organization's total expenditure for ice associated with registration fees was \$490,643 (budgeted \$464,200). This does not include ice costs associated for camps, tryouts, development programs and female hockey. These ice costs are built into the calculation of the registration fees.

BDMHA has also continued the jersey replacement program. This program ensures that all jerseys get replaced based on a 4-5 year schedule. The budget jersey expense for the current year was \$20,000. The Association outfitted 8 teams with new uniforms for a total cost of \$20,479.

The cash position of the organization remains strong. The financial statements also reflect a receivable for jersey's paid for by BDMHA for the Metro West female hockey that will be reimbursed to BDMHA. The organization continues to be a strong supporter of our female programs and work very closely with all organizations to ensure the financial success of these programs. In addition, we have prepaid ice of \$20,440 and very little accounts payable.

In summary, the overall financial position of BDMHA remains strong, including our cash position. The organization as a whole has a very detailed budgeting process which tracks very closely to our actual results.

Jason Hale (CPA, CA), VP Finance

Report from VP Competitive, David Greenfield

The 2016/17 Season is now complete and the competitive teams met our expectations for play throughout the season along with the round robin of the Central Minor Playoffs. As most of you recognized and felt we did fall short during the final push in the Central Minor Semi and Final Championship games. Bedford did not have any teams participate in the Day Of Champions, while PeeWee AAA and Midget AAA qualified for Provincials, Bantam AA did not. PeeWee AAA put up a great fight in the Semi-Finals against a powerful TASA team who ended up winning in the dying minutes of the Semi-Final game. Midget AAA was an exciting series, with Provincials being played in Chebucto, this allowed a lot of Bedford faithful to attend in person and were pleased with the results. Midget AAA was the only Bedford competitive team to bring home a Provincial Title. Our Hockey Development Professional, Shawn MacKenzie has analyzed the success throughout the season and eventual fallout of not making any final provincial finals games (except Midget AAA) and has already put in motion a strategy to help address this from re-occurring next year.

How can we say we had success without more Provincial Titles? First, Bedford had all but two competitive teams play in the Central Minor Semi Final games for a chance to win a provincial title. This alone is the most qualifications Bedford has ever seen. But let's dig deeper.

We iced 17 competitive teams and statistically speaking a successful year Bedford would like our divisions to run minimally at 50% and preferably > 60% 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 divisional results of the regular season + the initial playoff round robin games for Central Minor:

1. Atom – very competitive having earned 73% of possible points (same as last year)
2. PeeWee just over 65% (up from 49% last year)
3. Bantam – very competitive at 71% (up from 56% last year)
4. Midget – extremely competitive winning at 79% (up from 68% last year)

Overall the Bedford Minor competitive teams earned almost an incredible 70% of total potential points using the bench mark as Central Minor regular season and playoff games played, not tournaments or exhibition games, a 9% win ratio increase (61% last year). As a membership, we should all consider this to

be viewed as a very successful year, taking 7 of every 10 possible points throughout the entire season. How many games? This is based on 1,178 games!!!! That's a lot of hockey and a lot of success.

Although Midget AAA won the provincial title, they did not win the Central Minor Championship Title, therefore we did not have any teams winning a Central Minor Championship Title - in comparison last year we had three Central Minor Championship Titles. We will have a game plan with focus for next year.

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 did work with these teams to ensure they have the best possible outcome and resources available to have a successful year.

The year ends with our traditional Spring ID Camp / Tryouts for Atom and PeeWee. As outlined in my report last year, I had intent to add a process for the Bantam level. This became a reality by teaming up with the Major Bantam league, in Bedford's case, the Barons. We now have a joint process (Bedford/Barons) in place accommodating all interests. Additionally, we are trying a pilot project fitness test using ProEdge at the Bantam level. The fitness test results will be a very informative report card that provides valuable information on what the player needs to work on in the summer months to help realize their goals to play at the Competitive level. I will look at how we can introduce an efficient process to provide a fitness test for all competitive levels, Atom through to Midget.

With an association this size we will have issues and this year was no exception. Continuous discussions were held with our HDP and a lot of various meetings occurred with the coaching staff and players to assist them in any short falls. Bedford Minor Hockey continues to have a large pool of players that are interested in trying out for competitive teams and each year this continually grows. We saw once again record number of players trying out. The challenges faced with the increasing number 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 are discussing and reviewing if it makes sense to add an additional B team in the 2017/2018 playing season at Atom and PeeWee. More of this analysis will continue in the summer and again during the fall tryout process.

Midget is continuing to see a large number of players interested in playing non-contact and the central minor league added additional teams from outside the HRM (but not long drives) and the division ended having 8 teams, up from 3 last year. The increases in Midget numbers are welcome and show that Bedford Minor is committed to provide a fun environment for players to continue to enjoy the game.

With the introduction of the Minor Midget AAA league in 2017/2018 will create new challenges, some known, some not known. We will work with the new league to ensure we have enough lead time to make the best informed decisions as there will a ripple impact on the Central Minor Hockey league and how Bedford ices teams.

And in closing, without the help of the 3 competitive coordinators this year, tryouts and other regular season duties / issues would have been much more difficult to accommodate. I would like to extend a big thank you to Eric Villeneuve – Atom, Trina Canavan – PeeWee and Bill Hunt – Bantam. Bill Hunt is stepping down this year and we are actively looking for a Bantam and Midget coordinator, if interested please send me an email.

I look forward to remaining part of the executive team in 2017/2018.

Good luck to all in the fall tryout process.

David Greenfield, VP Competitive

Report from VP Development, Chris Bewsher

I'm pleased to offer this report on behalf of our Development group for the 2016-17 Hockey Season. A team which consists primarily of our Hockey Development Professional, Shawn MacKenzie, Association Coordinator, Matt Oxford, and myself.

I'll start by throwing a bouquet out to our Core Skills Staff. As our principal development venue Core Skills offers programming through the critical development years of Atom through Peewee. By design, every player who passes through our association will be exposed to Core Skills Programming throughout these four consecutive hockey seasons. Taking place in season, teams are generally on the ice once per week with our hockey development professional, Shawn Mackenzie, and his assigned staff. This surmounts to in excess of 80 hours of in-season hockey specific development over and above what players already receive from their team practices.

In an addition to Core Skills, we offered in-season power skating and puck skills development at the Novice level. Our efforts resulted in a slight loss from a budget perspective. We found our biggest challenge to be the time slot which was available to us as it hampered families an ability to get their players to the rink during the work week. In addition, team schedule conflicts were a competing interest for us. Trying to coordinate an ice time which presented no conflicts for teams compounded by staffing requirements ultimately impacted our ability to break even. Similar efforts were made to offer development within the Bantam level within the area of power skating puck skills and some position specific teaching. We ran about 7 sessions and then canceled the remainder as the registration was quite low and the program could not carry itself. I feel if we're going to continue to offer these programs in-season, the executive committee at large needs to continue to lobby for more ice time while ensuring our budgets remain within manageable levels as this would allow us to break even with lower numbers of players participating.

Spring 3v3 was offered this year from IP right up to the Bantam level and continues to be well received. A very simple concept which offers participants the opportunity to play the game in a relaxed, fast-paced, no consequence environment. Miss the net, fan on a shot, who cares. It's a place to play, experiment, and have fun. One consistent piece of feedback related to the skill levels on each team was evident that in some cases a skilled player could dominate the play which limited other players from touching the puck or having the opportunity to make a play. The natural evolution of this program would be to tier the teams resulting in like-skill players playing against each other. While we don't want to replicate a tryout process for 3v3 it's fair to say players could be categorized according to their skill level and this might have a positive impact if we were to have a sufficient number of players participating.

Going forward into next year, our in-season development offerings should be subject to ice time, interest, and the required registration numbers. One item that remains outstanding from a development perspective is the ratification of our goalie instruction contract with Finngoalie. An issue which has been before the executive committee for some time now and which I think should be carried forward and ratified in the coming season. All of our summer programs, defense camps, power skating and puck skills are generally held in August to compliment the tryout process and give players the opportunity to prepare for their upcoming season. Check out our website development page for updates on times and offerings.

Volunteers remain the backbone of an association like ours and we would not be where we are today had it not been for the dedication and commitment of so many people. In closing, I would like to wish the new executive the best of luck during their coming season as well as thank them for volunteering their time to support this association.

Yours truly,

Chris Bewsher, VP Development

Report from VP Recreation, Krista White

This hockey season was very successful. We created 23 recreation teams within Bedford and District Minor Hockey Association this season: 6 Atom; 5 Peewee; 5 Bantam; 6 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 were:

- Atom – Carla Lane
- Peewee – James Mitchener
- Bantam – Karen Bowes
- Midget – Darrin Quigley

A special thanks goes to each of our coordinators who have been watching over our teams in 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 of contact for our rec membership. I would also like to acknowledge Matt Oxford, our MMHL representative and Bedford Minor Coordinator, who makes sure teams know about scheduling changes, ensures that our teams report their scores in a timely fashion and who is always available to help team managers with any questions throughout the season.

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. This year, Shawn MacKenzie and his team lead the on-ice evaluations for Atom and Bantam and we will be implementing this process in all divisions for the 2017/2018 season.

Our recreational teams were very strong this season in the Metro Minor Hockey League. This year, the MMHL divided the divisions into 3: Gold, Silver, and Bronze.

- 4 of our 6 Atom teams competed for the Gold Division championship and 2 competed in the Silver Division championship.
- All 5 of Peewee teams competed for the Gold Division championship.
- 1 of our 5 Bantam teams competed for the Gold Division championship, 3 in Silver and 1 in Bronze.

- 3 of our 6 Midget teams competed for the Gold Division championship, 2 Silver and 1 Bronze.
- Our Minor Junior competed in the Gold Division Championships.

The results were outstanding:

Atom

Gold Division: Bombers placed second

Silver Division: Vipers placed first

Pewee

Gold Division: Nordiques placed first; Bolts placed second

Bantam

Gold Division: Oilers placed first

Silver Division: Canadians placed first; Coyotes placed second

Bronze Division: Leafs placed second

Midget

Gold Division: Leafs placed first

Silver Division: Wings placed first

The teams who placed first in the gold division of the MMHL championships proceeded to play in the first annual Metro C Championship which saw the MMHL champion and the DWRHL champion play each other. This championship game was a partnership with SEDMHA. Three Bedford Minor teams participated, we had representatives in the Pee wee Division (Nordiques), Bantam Division (Oilers) and Midget Division (Leafs). All three teams were successful in their games and are Metro C Champions congratulations to all teams for a great season!

Core Skills Sessions (CSS) continued this season for Atom and Pee wee aged recreational teams, balanced with coach lead team practices. This approach has been very well received based on feedback received to date.

We hosted the annual Noah Llewellyn Memorial Tournament from December 26th-28th at the BMO Centre. We had a total of 28 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 Bolts, PW Oilers; Silver medal winners--Atom Aces, PW Bolts, Bantam Canadians and Bantam Wings; Gold medal winners—Atom Vipers, Bantam Oilers, and Midget Leafs.* Again, this was a very strong showing by Bedford teams. 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 who all contributed a great deal of time and effort.

This year one of our very own coaches was recognized for his hard work and commitment to minor hockey. I would like to extend my congratulations to Darryl Pierrynowski, Bedford Bantam C Oilers Coach, who was the recipient of HNS Rec/House Coach of the Year Award!

Our association is very fortunate to have the hundreds of passionate, committed coaches, managers, volunteers and parents who put in long hours of their own time 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 this season. 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. Thanks to everyone for a great season and looking forward to another successful hockey season in 2017/2018.

Krista White, VP Recreation

Report from Hockey Development Professional, Shawn MacKenzie

IP/Novice:

If Hockey Canada is facing a decline in numbers, it does not appear to be the case within our association. Early programs such as Fundamentals and IP are near capacity. We are seeing enrollment growth despite hurdles such as costs and other sports and activities going to indoor operations during the hockey season. In my time with the association, I have seen significant gains in the quality of programs being offered at these entry levels. Instruction, coach preparation and efficient use of ice are likely the biggest differences. It is certainly a fun level to be a part of as enthusiasm runs high and lots of laughs on the ice. It is good to see this next group developing the hockey heart that is such an important part of our nation's game.

This year HNS used the Development & Intermediate levels of Novice to implement cross ice games as a progression to full ice play. This was, for the most part, well received. Word is that it will continue to be a part of the Novice experience with a likelihood of all Novice levels playing this format in the early schedule.

From time to time I get asked why Bedford Minor chooses to have 3 teams at the Novice Advancing level. Fact is that it is not our choice to make. HNS mandates the number of teams at Advancing using a formula that is based on enrolment. There is currently no consideration of how many of those players can actually demonstrate the skill set needed to compete at the top level of their age. It is my opinion that this is not an accurate way to determine how many teams an association has to ice at certain levels. It also leads to a percentage of players being placed at a level where they can be overwhelmed by the challenges. The majority of these youngsters playing Advancing by default would have better overall growth at the Intermediate level.

Recreation:

2016-17 was a very successful season for the Recreation levels of BDMHA. Atom through Midget placed teams at the top of the standings with our PeeWee level proving to be particularly strong. Tournament banners and Metro Minor championships speak well of the associations depth. The biggest negative we faced at Recreation this season was with regards to balancing of Midget teams. BDMHA will make adjustments to the Midget Rec placement process working towards better balanced teams while still considering a players request for things such as travel arrangements or to be placed with friends.

I have stated in previous reports how I enjoy the Recreation level of our association. I find a certain purity at Rec. I don't mean to imply that purity doesn't exist at all levels of minor hockey, but I typically do not see as much jealousy and unhealthy competition amongst teammates at the recreation levels. When I

was young and played in Bedford Minor, we did not have the high numbers that we see today. We all played Recreation and from that group a team was selected to represent Bedford in a metro league and tournaments. This was before the day of AAA hockey or the so called elite programs that are now common to the minor sports world... We didn't judge our peers or who we chose to hang with by how good a player they were, we were simply teammates. This was all we knew I suppose in a way Rec takes me back to those times.

Our association is seen by many as leaders in recreation hockey. Credit is due to those coaches, parents, and players that have made that happen.

Competitive:

A lot of positive things happened at our competitive levels this past season. We had numerous first place finishes and were strong at all levels. This season I really felt that we were moving forward as a collective group. Of course we weren't without issues, but I had a sense that we had reached a new level of organization strength. For most of our teams a strong regular season continued into the round robin portion of playoffs. Again many teams finished on top with the majority of others earning a top 4 seeding. The top 4 seeding puts teams in a sudden death format. It is here that the picture changed. As an association we did not fare well in this "win or go home" type environment. Teams that had been superior in team play and execution looked to become hesitant and individualistic, anxious and unsure. As a result many of our teams were disappointed and suffered defeat by teams that we had been able to beat regularly in the past.

So we now search for the reasons of our collapsing when games meant the most. Was it because important games were being played just before March Break and some had vacation thoughts ahead of task at hand? Was it a case of overconfidence, feeling we would simply continue to roll on? Was it that we faced a more determined and aggressive opponents? Or perhaps the fact that young people don't always wear the expectations of being the favorite well....it is much easier to be the underdog.

The above may have been contributing factors, But I believe it was more about a lack of preparation and readiness for the increased intensity of winner take all type games. This preparation is the area in which I feel we dropped the ball. Although we spoke to groups about what was needed to achieve in those games, I don't think we prepared nearly as well as we should have. We paid a price for that. I feel that we need to put together a plan of better preparation for the next year's playoffs. Many of the challenges we will

face will be predictable and similar to what we found them to be this year. Would we have prevailed in a traditional type series? I think we would have but the reality of minor hockey is one game to decide a fate.

So it is was a bitter sweet season. Lots of success but some major disappointment as well. I hope this doesn't come across that it is all about winning. It is not. I know in my heart that the kids are improving and acquiring valuable lessons along the way. However I truly want the kids to experience the special feelings, lifetime memories and bonds that develop from championship teams. As a leader I want to do a better job next year of setting the table for this final step towards team success. I know firsthand that the handshake of victory feels much better than the one of defeat.

Conclusion:

BDMHA is a large association that faces increasing challenges..We are fortunate to have such a dedicated team of executive, coachs managers and parents striving to meet those challenges Over time we will see leadership changes but one thing must remain constant - the kids come first.

Enjoy the summer.

Shawn MacKenzie, Hockey Development Professional

Report from Administrative Coordinator, Matt Oxford

Last season I had indicated that we continually face issues related to unused ice during the hockey season. Over the past few seasons the association has been making a conscious effort to reduce the total number of vacant hours on the primary contract with the BMO Centre. If looking at the overall association's usage for 2016-17, the total number of vacant hours has dropped from 107 in 2015-16 to only 37 hours in 2016-17. If you consider our ice contract was roughly \$500,000, that would mean less than \$10,000 in ice was unused. Therefore, the percentage of vacant ice is under 2% for the season.

There were several factors leading to this reduced number:

1. Divisional coordinators for our Recreation and Novice/IP teams were very well organized and ensured that their teams were established and available to start their season immediately on October 1 (last year we had some communication breakdowns and game ice was not allocated to those groups for practices)
2. Teams arranged their own contracts with the BMO Centre rather than adding/subtracting to the primary contract thus allowing for simpler reconciliation and bill collecting
3. Competitive/Recreation teams were excellent in communicating tournament dates that allowed more effective re-distribution of ice times for game reschedules.
4. Teams were willing to claim available ice when given short notice
5. The Number of snow/storm days was low compared to previous years
6. BMO Centre closed for 2-days due to severe weather rather than staying open

Vacant Ice by month

- October – 9 hours
- November – 0 hours
- December – 6 hours
- January – 10 hours
- February – 5 hours
- March – 7 hours

Again, our friends at BMO, Deb Nickel, Ice Scheduler, and Bill Cruickshank, General Manager have been very accommodating to our association needs. I would like to acknowledge them for their efforts to ensure the BMO Centre continues to be a premier facility in the province and a place the association is proud to call home.

I would like to thank the executive committee (past and present), and our coach/manager volunteers for all the time and dedication they have provided to bring this association to where it is today. Looking forward to 2017-18 and building upon the successes of this past season.

Respectfully,

Matt Oxford, Administrative Coordinator