



**BEDFORD AND DISTRICT MINOR HOCKEY  
ASSOCIATION 2017/18 SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT**

*January 2018*

[Abstract](#)

Reports from Executive VPs on the current state of the association

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**NOTICE**

BEDFORD & DISTRICT MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

2017/2018 SEMI-ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

BMO Centre – Multi Purpose Room

January 27, 2018

12 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

**Keith Foster**

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Happy New Year to all the members of Bedford and District Minor Hockey Association, although I suspect by the time everyone is reading this it will be late January. Hard to believe there is only a couple of more months left in the minor hockey season. It was another busy fall for our association with organizing a thousand kids into teams at all levels. I want to thank everyone that spent countless hours at the rink this past fall to get us up and running again. It is a thankless job that our VPs of Rec and Competitive have and I want to personally thank Krista and David for their efforts.

### **Changes in Minor Hockey**

There are always changes each year in minor hockey and this year was no exception. Hockey NS introduced a new Novice program that split the season into three parts. The first third of the season is dedicated to practices only; the second third to half ice games; and the final third to full ice games. BDMHA fully supports the move to half ice games as there is a multitude of studies showing the benefits of this for players at all skill levels. We were, however, happy to see that HNS has allowed teams to play a maximum of 15 full ice games in the last third of the year. We believe that this gives the kids something to look forward to as well as prepare the second year novice players for the move to Atom in the fall. There certainly was a lot of planning, communicating and scheduling issues that our VP IP/Novice, Joanne Lenihan has had to deal with. This has been a learning year for everyone involved and assuming no changes are made by HNS for next year we believe things will run a lot more smoothly next year.

The second biggest change in minor hockey has been the introduction of the Minor Midget league for largely first year midget aged players. The new Bedford based team in this league (the Armada) had to quickly get up and running in the fall. BDMHA does not run or manage this team, however, because of the trickle-down effect of the Armada tryouts we had to delay our midget tryouts and decision on what level midget teams we would field. Every minor hockey association in metro has felt the same pain and it has resulted in some teams playing at levels that that may not be appropriate. We will work with HNS and the other MHAs this summer to try and resolve the issues related to the introduction of this new midget level.

Finally, the new Metro West female association began its inaugural season this year. All female players from Bedford/Fall River wanting to play female only hockey are now part of this new association and no longer fall under the BDMHA umbrella. BDMHA still operates a female only team(s) for the Novice level but it was decided that the role of VP Female on our board remain vacant as the novice players fall under the direction of the VP IP/Novice.

## **Tournaments**

BDMHA hosts two tournaments each year. The Jordan Boyd tournament, which was started by the Peewee AAA team years ago, runs over the Thanksgiving weekend and is operated by the Peewee AAA parents. The team has always been limited to how much it can raise from the tournament, however this past year, as part of our fundraising review, the board agreed to remove the limit on the condition that the Atom and Peewee teams from Bedford not be charged a tournament entry fee. The Noah Llewellyn tournament which operates between Christmas and New Year is our Recreation tournament. The VP Rec has in the past been the chair of this tournament; however, we are looking for someone to volunteer to be its annual chair to provide continuity from year to year. If anyone is interested or knows of maybe a retired former member of our association that would like to give back to the association please contact any member of the board. I also want to mention that the Boyd and Llewellyn families continue to attend both tournaments to hand out medals and banners. BDMHA appreciates the families' continued involvement and allowing us to honour these players that we lost too early.

## **Ice Availability and Cost**

As many of you are aware the availability of ice and the cost of playing minor hockey has been a continued focus of mine. BDMHA has been forced to take 25% of our ice at the new Dartmouth 4-pad which has caused a number of scheduling and fairness issues. Our administrator, Matt Oxford, has tried his best to accommodate teams at various levels but the requirements of certain game times from a scheduling point of view has meant that some teams are required to have more ice in Dartmouth than others. Members of the Board met with Bedford Councillor, Tim Outhit, and representatives of HRM Rec late last fall to express our concerns regarding ice allocations and cost. HRM Rec continues to believe that 4pm weekday ice is "prime-time" which is a large problem with regards to how we are allocated ice and results in HRM Rec believing there is an excess of ice in Metro. We pointed out that BDMHA was forced to purchase ice at the Dome on the weekends to allow our IP/Novice groups to not have to practice at 4pm. While there were no concrete results from this meeting we believe we were heard and expect that further consultations will be forthcoming to try and resolve our issues.

Finally I would like to thank Matt Oxford and Shawn MacKenzie for their continued efforts in keeping BDMHA a model minor hockey association. Also, as we approach the end of another year I would ask that everyone think of how they can help next year. Whether this is assisting us by taking on a board role or volunteering for committee or project.

Regards

***Keith Foster, President***

## Report from VP Operations

***Simon Wilkin***

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It is the role of the Vice President of Operations to support the overall operation of the Bedford and District Minor Hockey Association (BDMHA). With close to 60 teams, the BDMHA has again this year experienced tremendous success due in large part to the great commitment of our players, parents, coaches and all our other volunteers. A few of the areas to highlight include:

### **Coaches Certification**

Hockey Nova Scotia (HNS) annually audits the qualifications of volunteer coaches in each minor hockey association, to ensure that coaches meet the various requirements outlined by Hockey Nova Scotia. In the BDMHA, the coaching certification process is managed by the Coach Certification Coordinator, Cameron McInnes and he continues to support coaches in obtaining these requirements. Over the past few seasons, the Criminal Record Check (CRC) has been made easier to complete through the 'MyBackcheck' system and direct billed to the Association. While the Child Abuse Registry (CAR) remains a slower process, proactive communication will hopefully minimize issues related to obtaining this certification. Each year the deadline for completing the HNS requirements is December 1<sup>st</sup> at which point the BDMHA is required by HNS to remove coaches who have not met the basic requirements for their level.

### **Hockey Development Professional (HDP)**

Our Hockey Development Professional (HDP), Shawn MacKenzie, continues his diligent work providing development and growth opportunities for our players. The successful Core Skills program is once again being offered this year. 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. Along with the Core Skills program, the BDMHA has also introduced dedicated times for goalie specific training. Many thanks to Shawn for his work and commitment to supporting all BDMHA participants.

### **BDMHA Administrator/Ice Coordinator**

Matt Oxford continues as the day to day administration of the BDMHA and continues to improve efficiencies within the organization. Through his efforts, he has ensured the BDMHA continues to be one of the premier organizations in Nova Scotia minor hockey. Matt's work behind the scenes is a critical part of the seamless day to day operation of the BDMHA. Matt is responsible for registration, supporting the Executive, the BDMHA website, ice scheduling, league scheduling (both MMHL and CMHF), tournament support, as well as direct interactions with parents, HNS and the other Minor Hockey Associations. Many thanks to Matt for his work and commitment in the operations of the BDMHA.

### **Apparel**

IIG/Nova Trophy continue to be the official supplier of products for our association. We continue to cycle in new style jerseys to create a unified look for all BDMHA teams. IIG/Nova Trophy has moved to a more convenient location in Bayers Lake.

### **Executive Members**

I would like to thank the current members of the executive for all the work they do on behalf of the membership. With a membership of close to 1100 players, it takes a strong group of dedicated volunteers to ensure day to day operations run smoothly. We are very fortunate in the BDMHA to have the talented individuals who work tirelessly towards a common goal. It can be thankless at times, and occasionally stressful, but our volunteers have lead our organization to be one of the most respected minor hockey associations.

Thank you once again to everyone for your support and we look forward to continuing to work with you in 2018. Please contact us if you have any questions regarding the BDMHA policies or procedures.

Respectfully submitted,

***Simon Wilkin, VP Operations***

## Report from VP Finance

**Jason Hale; CPA, CA**

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For the 2017-2018 season we budgeted \$872,000 in registration fees based on total player registrations of 1,102 players. Our actual player registration is currently showing 1,087 players (2016-2017 registration was 1,181) and we have approximately 60 teams. The current year's numbers only includes male hockey player registration as female hockey is now administrated through Metro West Force Female Hockey Association.

The overall budget for the organization has total budgeted revenues at \$1,027,600, total budgeted expenses of \$1,011,200 leaving a small budgeted surplus at the end of the fiscal year of \$ 16,400. Addition revenue to BDMHA arises from tryouts, development sessions, interest income and tournaments.

The organization is working hard to meet this budget and to continuously manage all programs/expenditures based on our budget. It is expected that the final fiscal year end results will result in a surplus in line with the budgeted amount.

For the 2017-2018 fiscal year the player registration fees were set at the following amounts:

	<b>2017-2018 Hockey Season</b>	<b>2016-2017 Hockey Season</b>	<b>2015-2016 Hockey Season</b>
Fundamental	\$505	\$495	\$495
Novice IP	\$490	\$485	\$485
Novice	\$710	\$705	\$700
Atom Rec	\$825	\$810	\$805
Pewee Rec	\$825	\$810	\$805
Bantam Rec	\$825	\$810	\$805
Midget Rec	\$830	\$810	\$805
Atom Competitive	\$945	\$930	\$925
Pewee Competitive	\$945	\$930	\$925
Bantam Competitive	\$945	\$930	\$925
Midget Competitive	\$945	\$930	\$925
Minor Junior	\$685	\$670	\$665
Jump Into Hockey	\$195	\$195	\$195



We have a slight increase in player registration fees in every divisions except Jump Into Hockey. The increase was made for two reasons. The first reason was to bring the organization back into an overall surplus position. The second reason was based on our detailed budgeting process to ensure each division was running at a breakeven from a surplus/deficit perspective. BDMHA wanted all divisions to cover the costs associated with each division. The increase in player registration fees has all divisions breaking even and an overall budgeted surplus of the organization of \$16,400 due to additional revenues from development, camps and other income.

The organization's largest expense is our ice rental contract. The budgeted expenditure for ice associated with registration fees is \$472,600 (2016-2017 season \$464,200). This does not include ice costs associated for camps, tryouts, and development programs. We are tracking ice costs very closely as this is our most significant expense. It is expected that the final ice expenditure will be slightly above our budgeted amount. 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 (2 Peewee, 3 Bantam and 2 Midget) with new uniforms for a total cost of \$18,335. In addition, old jerseys were sold during the year and all proceeds were donated to the Jordan Boyd Foundation.

Camps and development sessions had a net income budget of \$13,922. To-date net income for these sessions and camps totaled \$14,443. There are some user-pay sessions that will continue over the winter season and net income is expected to meet budget.

In addition the organization remains committed to our core skills development program. The budget for core skills is \$24,802. The core skills program is focused on our Atom and Peewee divisions and is an integral part of BDMHA development. The program is 16 weeks of development for approximately 24 of our teams. We expect this program to be on budget.

Overall the financial position of BDMHA remains strong, including our cash position. The organization has a very detailed budgeting process which tracks very closely to our actual results and helps ensure the financial stability of the organization.

Regards,

***Jason Hale, VP Finance***

## Report from VP Recreation

***Krista White***

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This has been a very successful recreational hockey season thus far. We created 25 recreation teams within Bedford and District Minor Hockey Association this season: 7 Atom; 6 Peewee; 4 Bantam; 7 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 – Brian Furdas
- Peewee – Carla Lane
- Bantam – Karen Bowes
- Midget – James Mitchener

Special thanks go 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 scheduler, who makes generates all game schedules for MMHL teams, makes sure all teams know about schedule changes and wears many more hats within our association and our teams. Matt is such an integral part of our association and making things run smoothly.

Similar to recent seasons, we completed a formalized process for balancing the Bedford teams in each division. We held one on-ice sessions (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 or helped instruct the on-ice evaluations for all divisions. 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.

Our recreational teams have done very well this season in the Metro Minor Hockey League, which is entering into their playoff season. The MMHL has divided the divisions into 3: Gold, Silver, and Bronze.

- 5 of our Atom teams are competing for the Gold Division championship, 1 is competing in the Silver Division championship and 1 is competing in the Bronze Division championship.
- 3 of the Peewee teams are competing for the Gold Division championship and 3 are competing in the Silver Division championship.
- 2 of the Bantam teams are competing for the Gold Division championship, and 2 in Silver.
- 4 of our Midget teams are competing for the Gold Division championship 2 in Silver and 1 in Bronze.
- Our Minor Junior has not started playoffs as of yet but are currently in 4<sup>th</sup> place in their division.

Good luck to all of our teams in the MMHL playoffs. The Day of Champions will be held at the end of March and the top two teams in each league division will play for gold! The winner of the MMHL Gold Division will play a city championship game versus the winner of the DWMHA during SEDMHA.

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 28th-30th at the BMO Centre. Although our numbers were down this year, we saw lots of great hockey, and most importantly, the players thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Congratulations to all Bedford teams who participated.

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 the tournament committee who all contributed a great deal of time and effort.

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 2017-2018. 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 2017-2018 season. Good luck to all of our teams.

Regards

***Krista White, VP Recreation***

## Report from VP Development

*Eric Villeneuve*

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At the halfway mark of the 2017-2018 hockey season I am pleased to offer an update on where we stand with our Development programs at BDMHA. As an association, we continue to be at the forefront of development and we strive to follow the guidance that Hockey Canada and Hockey Nova Scotia provide.

As a not for profit organization we run our programs as close to break-even as possible and any profits are reinvested in our development programs.

For a number of years our Core Skills program has been the foundation of player development through focusing on fundamental skills, drills and sessions that are age and level appropriate. We are extremely fortunate to have Shawn MacKenzie as our Hockey Development Professional. His knowledge and experience gained at all levels of hockey – from IP all the way to the NHL – are second to none and he continues to finetune these sessions depending on areas that he sees are most important. On the ice, Shawn has an impressive group of instructors that provide excellent coaching to the players in the association. As an added benefit, the team coaches help on ice during these sessions and gain valuable insight from Shawn and his staff.

We are constantly discussing ways to bolster and improve our development programs and this year is no different. The core offerings have been the Core Skills program, position-specific camps, power skating and conditioning camps. We will continue to offer these programs and make adjustments as needed. During the past year and a half, we have identified a couple of areas that we feel could use additional attention and resources. The biggest one is goalie training. We have seen the number of goalies drop off significantly at the younger levels and at the same time we had gotten away from formal training to a certain extent. This season we started weekly novice goalie sessions that are free for the goalies. During these sessions, we are using part of the ice for power skating for skaters. For our competitive teams at the atom and peewee levels, we have added every other week goalie training (on top of their regular Core Skills sessions). Both of these programs have been a big success and we will continue with these with an eye to increasing them. FinnGoalie is our goaltender training provider and is doing a fantastic job with these programs, our weekly Core Skills goalie training and working separately with individual teams. We are in the process of formalizing a contract with FinnGoalie so that our young goalies can continue to benefit from the top-level training and mentorship. We have also invested money into Novice level goalie gear in order that more athletes can try that position without having to worry about the financial burden. Our expectation is that with more goaltender training options at no cost as well as the use of free equipment we will be able to address the shortage we face at that position.

The other area of focus is our coaches. As mentioned we are in a unique and enviable position to have Shawn MacKenzie on staff at BDMHA. The number of hours he pours into this association is remarkable. You will see him at any number of rinks in the area – often on the same night - watching our teams play. Shawn meets regularly with coaches to help identify ways to improve player and team performance. We are looking to make this a formal part of our development program. We will begin with a coaching seminar early in February and the aim is to have 2 or 3 coaching seminars per season moving forward. Each seminar would have a different theme and different topics to discuss so that our coaches will be as prepared as they can possibly be to lead our young athletes into competition.

For Development Weekend in early November we took a different approach. Since we provide an extensive development offering throughout the season we decided to go back to something that we don't see enough of anymore...unstructured, old-fashioned fun. Our atom teams played road hockey games at the Northwood Seniors' residence next door to the BMO Centre in front of their residents. It was so refreshing to see the kids enjoying the game outdoors with their friends. The feedback was extremely positive and we will look to do something similar again next year.

Thanks to all of you who have offered feedback and ideas on our development programs. I would also like to thank all of our volunteers for their time and energy in making the hockey experience a fun one for everyone involved.

***Eric Villeneuve, Vice President Development***

## Report from VP Novice/Initiation

**Joanne Lenihan**

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We have had a great first half of the season for our Initiation and Novice teams. We continue to see high levels of participation in these two levels for the 2017-18 season. Below is a brief summary and overview of the various programs at the Initiation and Novice levels:

### FUNDamentals/Initiation Program Report

For the third year in a row we are at capacity with approximately 200 players at the Initiation level.

Our FUNdamentals players (born 2013) is comprised of 4 year olds and there are 31 players on the team. Once again, we have continued our partnership with the Bedford Skating Club. The FUNdamentals team has one session of CanSkate per week run by the Bedford Skating Club on Monday evening, and one session of hockey at BMO each Saturday, led by Head Coach Craig Lynk. This arrangement has led to great improvements in the team's skating ability, as evidenced by their rapid improvement from October until now.

Our IP1 teams (born 2012) are made up of 5 year old players. This program has 68 participants and is divided into two teams. IP1 Group 1 has Head Coaches Greg Crowell and Warren Hefford leading them, and IP1 Group 2 is led by Head Coaches Charlie MacLean and Jason Troini. Both of these teams practice twice a week on Saturdays and Sundays, working on hockey skills and continuing to build on the CanSkate skating techniques taught during the FUNdamentals program.

Our IP2 teams (born 2011) are made up of 6 year old players. This is the largest division in IP with 99 players in total, divided into three teams. IP2 Group 1 is led by Head Coaches Matt Williams and Ryan Connors, IP2 Group 2 has Charlie MacLean and Justin Munden leading them, and IP2 Group 3 has Head Coach Andrew Woods in charge. The IP2 teams are on the same practice schedule as IP1, with practices on Saturdays and Sundays each week. The ongoing work on puck control, passing, shooting and skating technique should set these players up well for their first year of Novice next year.

One major change to the IP1 and IP2 program this year was switching from having one workweek and one weekend practice to two weekend practices – one on Saturday and one on Sunday. This was in response to several years of parent and coach feedback. The Saturday practices all take place at the BMO Centre and the Sunday practices all take place at the Dome. While the Dome has its challenges with the colder temperatures, we are working hard to make it work as best we can for our young players.

Our IP1 and IP2 teams participated in the Tim Horton's Mooseheads Jamboree held at the Scotiabank Centre this year on Sunday November 12<sup>th</sup>. With 900+ players attending from various associations in the region, it was a huge, very well-run event. In addition, some of our IP players participated in jamborees over the Christmas break. Furthermore, some of our IP2 level players have been given the opportunity to play during the first intermission of the Halifax Mooseheads home games. We have been given 4 games to participate in, allowing 40 of our IP2 players this exciting opportunity.

A very special thank you to Denise Crowell who stepped into the role of Initiation Coordinator this year. She is a great addition and asset to the Bedford and District Minor Hockey Association (BDMHA). Thank you to Denise for all that you do!

### Novice Program Report

The number of teams at the Novice level continues to be high for the 2017-18 hockey season. We have approximately 200 players at the Novice level divided into twelve (12) teams.

We have four (4) Developmental teams led by Head Coaches Andre Lefebvre, Jamie Loughery, Matt Williams and Trent MacKeen; three (3) Intermediate teams led by Head Coaches Devin Veinot, Ryan Chisholm and Craig Frizzell; three (3) Advancing teams led by Head Coaches Andrew Carver, Evan Hickey, Scott Pineo and Wayne Matheson; and two (2) Female teams led by Head Coaches Carla O'Brien Alderson and Rick Scott. Teams were scheduled up to 3 ice times per week.

There was a significant change to the Novice program this year. For the first two months of the season (October 1 – November 30) there were no games at all for the purposes of skill development. The next two months (December 1 – January 26) all games were played 4 on 4 at half ice or cross ice for all levels. This also included any jamborees teams may have participated in during the Christmas break. Full ice games will be allowed to be played after January 26. There is a game cap of 15 for all levels for the remainder of the season.

There are many benefits to implementing this new structure including having the players on the ice more frequently; the number of players involved in each play and the amount of action the goalies are seeing in each game are all great for player development. With two goalies required for each half ice/cross ice game it also introduced that position to players that may not have otherwise tried it.

Some of the challenges of the new structure was ensuring we had enough goalie gear to support all of the teams that needed them. As well as ensuring the game schedule was back-to-back at the BMO Centre in order to use the half ice divider boards (as there were no boards available at the new Dartmouth 4-pad).

A very special thank you to Tricia Schmeisser who stepped into the role of Novice Coordinator this year. She is an excellent addition to the Bedford and District Minor Hockey Association (BDMHA). Thank you for your countless hours of communicating with teams; organizing schedules and the overall operation of the Novice program.

I also want to thank all of the Head Coaches, Assistant Coaches, Team Managers, parents and players for all of your hard work in the first half of this year. Our program is successful because of your commitment and involvement.

Respectfully submitted,

***Joanne Lenihan, VP Novice/IP***

## Report from VP Competitive

*David Greenfield*

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The 2017/18 Season is now past the half way point and the Bedford Blues are performing very well at the Atom and PeeWee levels, including the PeeWeee AAA haven't lost a regular season game. We are struggling and trying to find full stride at Bantam B and both Midget A and Midget AA. We have iced 17 competitive teams and statistically speaking Bedford would like the each division to minimally run at 60% of the total available points. 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 an impressive 75% of possible points to date, with PeeWee gathering almost 76%, Bantam only at 43% and Midget 27%. Overall the Bedford Minor competitive teams have earned over 62% 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 2017 with the continuation of a concept of an ID Camp / Spring Tryouts for Atom and PeeWee and newly added for the first time Bantam checking level(s). The spring concept and goal is 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 2018/19 season. As the association is so large, 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).

Midget, as with last year, we didn't have enough players registered / interested to ice more than 2 teams, AA and A. The Central Minor still has a healthy Midget B division and we would like to see a Bedford Midget B once again. Bedford Minor continues to put focus at all levels of hockey to ensure we are providing a fun environment for players to continue to enjoy the game regardless of the divisional letter attached to the level.



The challenged faced with the association is the increasing numbers of players trying out for a competitive level is 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 and again now in the 2017/18 season. 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, A or AA etc. The increased competition amongst our own players vying for a spot on one of our Competitive level teams 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!

Respectfully,

***David Greenfield, Vice President Competitive***