

Bedford & District Minor Hockey Association

2018-19 Annual Report

June 11, 2019



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President's Message

Well, the 2018-2019 hockey season is over and I am finished my first year as President of Bedford and District Minor Hockey Association ("BDMHA"). It has been an incredible year and I feel very privileged to be the President of such a great organization. I would like to thank the coaches, the players, our Board, and our entire membership for their tremendous support over the past year. I have enjoyed every single minute of this season and feel the support of the entire organization. Thank you, thank you, and thank you.

Since taking over this position in June 2018, I have spent a lot of time in rinks listening to our parents, coaches, and players to get critical feedback on our organization. My overall goal for BDMHA is to be a model hockey organization, to execute on our organizational strategy, and to ensure all players have an exceptional hockey experience. As an organization we will continue to be proactive, collaborative, and open to all ideas that improve and strengthen BDMHA.

BDMHA is the largest minor hockey association in Nova Scotia with approximately 1,134 players registered for the 2018-2019 hockey season. This season we had 24 recreation teams, 19 competitive teams, and 12 Novice teams. This year we have hosted two very successful tournaments: The Jordan Boyd Tournament and the Noah Llewelyn Christmas Tournament.

I would like to first take the opportunity to thank three executive members who have finished their terms on the BDMHA Board.

- Simon Wilkin - VP of Operations
- Krista White - VP of Recreation
- Joanne Lenihan - VP IP/Novice

All three have worked extremely hard and have made a significant contribution to BDMHA. On behalf of BDMHA and our membership, thank you for your contributions.

I would like to take this opportunity to share some of the highlights of this season. There would be many more but I would like to highlight a few for our membership.

Hockey Nova Scotia - Minor Hockey Association of the Year

BDMHA received the Lauchie MacIsaac Director's award that is presented annually to associations and/or leagues that have achieved outstanding success or progress in the administration of minor hockey during that year. This is a great achievement for BDMHA and I believe the first year we have won the minor hockey association of the year award. Congrats BDMHA!!!!



Hockey Nova Scotia - Rep Team Coach of the Year

Congratulations to Atom A coach, Kyle Schmeisser on winning Hockey Nova Scotia's Jacques Comeau Award for Rep Team Coach of the Year. I think my biggest highlight of the year was seeing Coach Kyle back behind the bench coaching his Atom A team. A tremendous story and one incredible coach.



Presentation to Hockey Nova Scotia – “Raising our Expectations”

I was asked to present at the Hockey Nova Scotia Annual General Meeting to all Minor Hockey Associations (approximately 75 members of various organizations). This was a great opportunity to showcase our organization. The presentation was titled “Raising our Expectations”. It included information about raising our expectations of our players, our coaches, our Board, and our parents.

The presentation received very positive feedback. One highlight for me was sharing some of my guiding principles for BDMHA including the following:

- Have our coaches, players, parents and members positively represent BDMHA at all times – no exceptions
- Focus on the player experience at all levels
 - All players should feel great about themselves and their experience in BDMHA.
- Strive to be a model organization.
 - Continue to look for opportunities to improve (forward thinking, make bold decisions, think differently)
 - Follow all rules/regulations set out by HNS and support HNS in all its initiatives.

I will continue to focus on these principles as I move into my second year as President.

This was a great opportunity and I was very proud to represent our organization at HNS’s AGM. If anyone would like a copy of this presentation please reach out to me and I would be happy to forward to you.

Peewee AAA Atlantic Championship

Peewee AAA wins SEDMHA, Provincials, and Atlantics – congratulations to Greg MacDonald, Matt Wambolt, Pete MacIsaac, and the entire Peewee AAA team on an incredible season.

BDMHA is very proud of your accomplishments, in particular the Atlantic Championship win!



Peewee AA

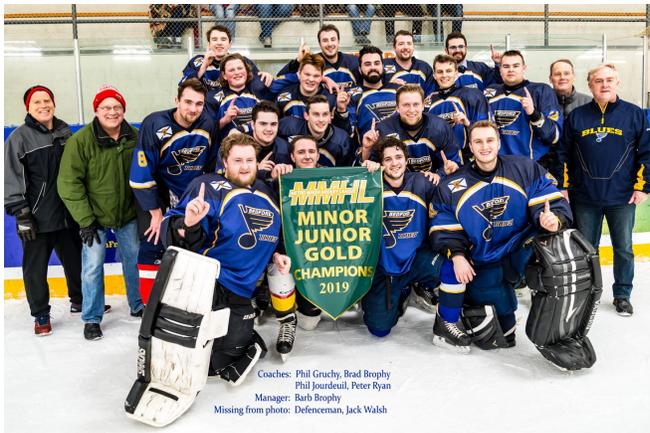
Congratulations to our Peewee AA team. The team won six banners including the CMHF regular season, CMHF playoffs, SEDMHA Odyssey Division and the Peewee AA Provincial Title.



MMHL Champions

I attended a number of the MMHL playoff games. It was a great atmosphere and great support from our parents/organization. Congratulations to the Atom Bolts, Peewee Oilers, Bantam Wild, Midget Raiders, Midget Wings, and Minor Junior teams on their MMHL Championships.





Coaches: Phil Gruchy, Brad Brophy
 Phil Jourdeuil, Peter Ryan
 Manager: Barb Brophy
 Missing from photo: Defenceman, Jack Walsh

I would also like to congratulate all BDMHA teams who won banners, regular season titles, tournaments and championships. We track our wins, our banners, and our success comparatively to other organizations but player experience is really the key to our success. Thank you to all the coaches, volunteers, and parents that have contributed to positive player experiences. This will make us a better organization and also it will foster better players/teammates.

BDMHA in the Media

During the year we also received some great media coverage including the following:

- CTV – Pink Tape Day (click [HERE](#))
- Hockey Night in Canada (click [HERE](#))
- Bedford Atom B Blue Team - “Dance Off” (click [HERE](#))
- Hockey Team Falls on Ice (click [HERE](#))

These are a few examples but we have had lots of great coverage in the media and on social media.

Volunteers

This year we had approximately **332** coaches and **81** managers working with our players and many more volunteers helping behind the scenes with our teams. On behalf of BDMHA I would like to extend a sincere thank you to all the volunteers who contribute a significant amount of their time to our incredible organization, including our Board members. Your efforts are the reason for our success.

I also want to personally thank Shawn MacKenzie and Matt Oxford for their hard work, efforts and commitment to our organization. These two truly represent BDMHA and our values.

50/50 Program – Offsetting Costs of Registration

We have implemented a new 50/50 fundraising program with unanimous Board support. The program is up and running and we are expecting it to be a huge success. This will have a positive impact on our organization and will impact every single family in our organization. I am very proud of this decision and very thankful to all the individuals involved in the process/program.

The first draw will be September 15th, 2019. Some of the highlights of this new program include:

- Ticket sales will directly reduce a player’s registration costs.
- Tickets will be available online and in printed form.
- ***BDMHA will not profit from this program. Only printing and direct costs (minimal) will be recovered by BDMHA. We want to ensure as much as possible goes back to our BDMHA families.***
- 50/50 Website - http://bedfordblues.com/page.php?page_id=116381
- Danielle Hibberts is the 50/50 coordinator - her email will be bdmha.5050@gmail.com

4 Man Referee system – All Levels Atom to Midget (Recreation and Competitive)

I am also very proud of the decision to move to a four-man referee system for all levels of competitive and recreations from Atom to Midget. This change was supported unanimously by the BDMHA board. Currently we are looking at a 2 year transition plan but will implement and plan accordingly.

We are also moving forward with a referee development plan, and a referee recruitment plan. Our goal is for BDMHA to be leaders in the development of referees and to make the referee experience a positive one.

Ice Allocations

Matt Oxford and I have been working very hard in the area of ice allocations. This process started June 2018 when I became President and continues today. Over the year we have built a great working relationship with the Halifax Regional Municipality (“HRM”).

We are currently working with HRM on our 2019-2020 ice allocations and I am happy to inform our membership that our initial assessment of our ice allocation is positive. I am very pleased with the collaboration, support and efforts being made to increase our % of ice allocated to BMO and LeBrun. I can confirm that our initial ice allocation we have been provided more ice at BMO and LeBrun. In addition we have been provided more prime ice at RBC. This is very positive for our membership and our organization.

Thanks to Tim Outhit and the team at HRM. They have been very collaborative and we are working together on our goals for ice allocations.

I do want everyone to understand that for 2019-2020 we will continue to use facilities throughout HRM to service our ice needs. Our ice allocation will not be perfect but we are working very hard for our organization and will continue to work towards our goals for ice allocation.

BDMHA Alumni Drafted

In the 2018 QMJHL draft 5 former Blues were drafted:

- Alex Drover (1st Round - Cape Breton)
- Logan Camp (7th Round - Baie Comeau)
- Jonathan Pickrem (7th Round - Halifax)
- Luke MacLean (8th Round - Quebec)
- Matthew Power (10th Round - Cape Breton)

Also in the NHL draft, Bedford Blues alumni Peter Dilibatore was drafted #180 overall by the Las Vegas Golden Knights!

Final thoughts

As we move into the 2019-2020 hockey season I will continue to focus on improving our organization and on my guiding principles. I will ensure we move forward all initiatives approved by our Board and we will continue to “Raise the Expectations”.

Specifically I would like to focus on:

- 1) Behaviour of our coaches, board and players;
 - a. Have our coaches, players, parents and members positively represent BDMHA at all times – no exceptions
- 2) Parent Behaviour;
- 3) Treatment of our Referees;
- 4) Player experience;
 - a. Focus on the player experience at all levels
 - b. All players should feel great about themselves and their experience in BDMHA.
- 5) Improve our organization.
 - a. Continue to look for opportunities to improve (forward thinking, make bold decisions, think differently)
 - b. Follow all rules/regulations set out by HNS and support HNS in all its initiatives.

To achieve more we have to expect more. I want our organization to be the very best it can be and that will take everyone in our organization (coaches, board members, players and parents) moving in the same direction.

In closing I want to thank everyone in the association. Thank you for the support, I appreciate it very much. We had a tremendous year and we all should be very proud of our organization.

If anyone has any comments, questions or ideas please direct your comments to my attention at bdmha.president@gmail.com. You could also stop me in the rink as I am always willing to chat and listen.

Jason Hale

President

Report from VP Operations

As a testament to the outstanding commitment and contributions of the players, parents, coaches and volunteers of the Bedford and District Minor Hockey Association (BDMHA), the BDMHA was recognized with the Hockey Nova Scotia, Lauchie MacIsaac Director's award, which is presented annually to the association and/or league that has achieved outstanding success or progress in the administration of minor hockey. Congratulations and thank you to everyone who is a part of this exemplary association.

It is the role of the Vice President of Operations to support the overall operation of the BDMHA. This Annual Report will highlight some of our successes this season.

League Results 2018-2019

Once again, BDMHA teams continued to have very successful seasons this year. Below is a brief summary of the success in their respective divisions.

Metro Minor Hockey League (MMHL)

| Division | Season Summary |
|--------------|---|
| Atom | 6 teams finishing 2 nd , 3 rd , 4 th , 5 th , 8 th and 18 th out of 20 teams in regular season play and finishing 1 st , 2 nd and 6 th in the Gold Division playoff round, 1 st and 2 nd in the Silver Division playoff round and 5 th in the Bronze Division playoff round. |
| Peewee | 5 teams finishing 3 rd , 10 th , 15 th , 16 th and 19 th out of 22 teams in regular season play and finishing 2 nd in the Gold Division playoff round, 2 nd and 8 th in the Silver Division playoff round and 5 th and 6 th in the Bronze Division playoff round. |
| Bantam | 5 teams finishing 1 st , 3 rd , 5 th , 10 th and 12 th out of 15 teams in regular season play and finishing 1 st , 2 nd and 4 th in the Gold Division playoff round, 5 th in the Silver Division playoff round and 1 st in the Bronze Division playoff round. |
| Midget | 7 teams finishing 3 rd , 5 th , 7 th , 10 th , 14 th , 16 th and 17 th out of 20 teams in regular season play and finishing 5 th and 6 th in the Gold Division playoff round, 1 st and 2 nd in the Silver Division playoff round and 1 st , 3 rd and 4 th in the Bronze Division playoff round. |
| Minor Junior | 1 team finishing 1 st out of 8 teams in regular season play and finishing 2 nd in the playoff round. |

Central Minor Hockey Federation (CMHF)

| Atom | Season Summary |
|--------|--|
| AA | 2 teams finishing 7 th and 10 th out of 14 teams in regular season play and finishing 4 th in the Pool A playoff round and 3 rd in the Pool B playoff round. |
| A | 2 teams finishing 3 rd and 4 th out of 10 teams in the regular season play and finishing 1 st in the Pool A playoff round and 1 st in the Pool B playoff round. |
| B | 2 teams finishing 1 st and 2 nd out of 11 teams in the regular season play; finishing 1 st in the Pool A playoff round and 3 rd in the Pool B playoff round. |
| Peewee | Season Summary |
| AAA | 1 team finishing 2 nd out of 8 teams in the regular season play; finishing 2 nd in the league championship; finishing 1 st at Provincials and finishing 1 st at Atlantics. |

| | |
|---------------|--|
| AA | 1 team finishing 1 st out of 10 teams in the regular season play; finishing 1 st in the league championship; and 1 st in the Day of Champions. |
| A | 2 teams finishing 1 st and 5 th out of 8 teams in regular season play; 1 st in the league championship. |
| B | 2 teams finishing 3 rd and 7 th in regular season play; 1 st in the Pool A playoff round and 3 rd on the Pool B playoff round. |
| Bantam | Season Summary |
| AA | 1 team finishing 8 th out of 8 teams in regular season play; 7 th in the playoff round. |
| A | 1 team finishing 3 rd out of 6 teams in regular season play and 2 nd in the playoff round. |
| B | 2 teams finishing 10 th and 11 th out of 13 teams in regular season play; 5 th in the Pool A playoff round and 6 th in the Pool B playoff round. |
| Midget | Season Summary |
| AA | 1 team finishing 5 th out of 8 teams in regular season play and finishing 2 nd in the playoff round. |
| A | 1 team finishing 5 th out of 8 teams in regular season play and 2 nd in the playoff round. |
| B | 1 team finishing 3 rd out of 5 teams in the regular season and 3 rd in the playoff round. |

Hockey Development Professional (HDP)

Our Hockey Development Professional (HDP), Shawn MacKenzie, continued all season to put in countless hours providing development and growth opportunities for our players. Core skills continued to offer standardized coaching to our younger players to ensure they are receiving the proper mix of drills that focus on the core skill elements of hockey. Along with the Core Skills program, the BDMHA has continued to offer dedicated times for goalie specific training. Goalie specific training will continue to be a focus for the BDMHA. Many thanks to Shawn for his work and commitment to supporting all BDMHA participants.

BDMHA Administrator/Ice Coordinator

Matt Oxford has once again done an exemplary job as the day to day administration of the BDMHA and continued to find efficiencies within the organization. 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.

It has been a pleasure to serve the BDMHA, in a volunteer capacity, as a coach since 2011 and on the Executive since 2013. This was my last year on the Executive and I wish everyone the greatest success in future years. The BDMHA continues to be a progressive leader in minor hockey development and maintains the highest respect of the hockey community in Nova Scotia and Atlantic Canada. Have a wonderful summer break!

Respectfully submitted,

Simon Wilkin

VP Operations

Report from VP Finance

For the 2018-2019 season we budgeted registration fees based on a total player registrations of 1,153 players. Our actual player registration was 1,134 players (2017-2018 registration was 1,087). The 1,134 does not include any registrations with Metro West Female Hockey registrations or Bedford Armada. This season we had 24 recreation teams, 19 competitive teams, and 12 Novice teams for a total of 55 teams. There were also 6 Initiation groups and 1 introductory level team (Jump Into Hockey).

The overall 2018-2019 budget for the organization had total budgeted net revenues at \$977,300, total budgeted expenses of \$949,800 leaving a budgeted surplus at the end of the fiscal year of \$27,500. Addition revenue to BDMHA arises from tryouts, development sessions, interest income and tournaments.

The organization has worked hard to meet this budget and to continuously manage all programs/expenditures based on our budget. However, during the year we made some necessary purchases that were not included in our budget. Some of these expenses were a direct result of changes to minor hockey programming mandated by Hockey Nova Scotia. The Board has decided to exceed budget, invest in these new initiatives and purchase additional equipment. One major change this year was the change from full ice to half ice for the Novice Division. Additional costs included approximately \$5,200 in goalie equipment, \$2,600 in nets and BDMHA also purchased dividers for \$2,600. These costs will be recouped through future registration cost increases or community outreach. For competitive evaluations, Team Genius was used at a cost of \$2,400 and an additional \$1,300 for tablets for evaluators. These costs will be recouped through future tryout costs.

In addition to the aforementioned new equipment purchases (including goalie gear, rink dividers, tablets), the Association has continued the focus other development initiatives such as the Core Skills and Goalie Training programs as being core to Bedford Minor Hockey. For Atom and Peewee Competitive and Recreation teams, Core Skills have been a very successful program. We continue to monitor and evaluate these and the costs of various camps to ensure they are in line with budget.

Finally, there was an unexpected \$15,000 unbudgeted expense for insurance from Hockey Nova Scotia relating to previous years. This expense was not known at the time of the preparation of the budget or prior year's financial statements. This expense was paid during the 2018-2019 season.

As a result of these initiatives and various unbudgeted expenditures, BDMHA has a deficit for the year ending April 30, 2019 of (\$18,352). However, a portion may be recouped as we review duplications in charges for certifications with Hockey Nova scotia.

For the 2018-2019 fiscal year the player registration fees were set at the following amounts:

| | 2018-2019 Hockey Season | 2017-2018 Hockey Season | 2016-2017 Hockey Season | 2015-2016 Hockey Season |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Fundamental | \$515 | \$505 | \$495 | \$495 |
| Novice IP | \$505 | \$490 | \$485 | \$485 |
| Novice | \$720 | \$710 | \$705 | \$700 |
| Atom Rec | \$835 | \$825 | \$810 | \$805 |
| Peewee Rec | \$835 | \$825 | \$810 | \$805 |
| Bantam Rec | \$835 | \$825 | \$810 | \$805 |
| Midget Rec | \$840 | \$830 | \$810 | \$805 |
| Atom Competitive | \$955 | \$945 | \$930 | \$925 |
| Peewee Competitive | \$955 | \$945 | \$930 | \$925 |
| Bantam Competitive | \$955 | \$945 | \$930 | \$925 |
| Midget Competitive | \$955 | \$945 | \$930 | \$925 |
| Minor Junior | \$695 | \$685 | \$670 | \$665 |
| Jump Into Hockey | \$210 | \$195 | \$195 | \$195 |
| | | | | |

We had a slight increase of \$10 in player registration fees in every division. The increase was made for two reasons. The first reason was to adjust for the increasing cost of insurance as noted above. The second reason was based on our detailed budgeting process to ensure each division was running at a breakeven from a surplus/deficit perspective.

As we look to next season, given the rising association costs including the 4 person refereeing system and equipment/development spending initiatives, it is likely that we will need to increase registration costs into the next fiscal year to continue being fiscally responsible to our membership.

The organization's largest expense is our ice rental contract. The budgeted expenditure for ice associated with registration fees is \$434,200 (2017-2018 season \$472,600). 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.

Camps and development sessions had a net income budget of \$10,646. To-date net income for these sessions and camps totaled \$15,023. There are some new user-pay sessions such as the popular Fall and Winter Defence Camps and Novice Power Skating that will continue over the next season and new offerings into the Summer.

In addition the organization remains committed to our core skills development program. The budget for core skills is \$31,600. The core skills program is focused on our Atom and Peewee divisions and is an integral part of BDMHA development. The program is 20 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.

Jeff Christian

VP Finance

Report from VP Novice/Initiation

The 2018-2019 Novice, Initiation (IP) and FUNdamentals program had another very successful season with over 400 players registered at Bedford & District Minor Hockey Association (BDMHA).

Below is a brief summary and overview of our Novice, IP and FUNdamentals programs continuing from the semi-annual report released in January 2019:

Novice Program:

Our Novice teams (for players born in 2010 and 2011) enjoyed a successful year on the ice from a development point of view. BDMHA is very lucky to have so many volunteers step up to coach and manage and make hockey an enjoyable and fun experience for kids at this age. With over 210 players the Novice level continues to grow at BDMHA.

The significant change of the Novice program this year was playing half-ice all season for all Novice levels. There were no games scheduled from October 1 – November 30 as the objective was development. Starting December 1 until the remainder of the season, including jamborees, all games were played on half ice.

Initially, there were some concerns that second year Novice players would not want to play half-ice all year, however, the overall feedback we received from our coaches, parents, and players was that they could see the benefits of this structure including players being on the ice more frequently; players touching the puck more frequently, and all players being involved with more play – all of these lead to player development and confidence building.

Playing half-ice all season also introduced the position of goaltender to more players. With the need to have two goaltenders – one for each half ice game – it introduced the role to more players who may not have otherwise given the role a chance. The half-ice games introduced players interested in playing goaltender with more action, building development and confidence.

To assist with goaltender development and confidence, BDMHA also invested in smaller nets for the Novice-age players. Having the smaller goalie nets challenged our players to shoot more accurately. With the need of two goaltenders for each Novice team required, BDMHA purchased enough goalie gear to ensue each team had at least two sets.

With 12 Novice teams, we are very fortunate to have amazing head coaches and we would like to recognize Gavin Isenor, Justin Munden, Darren Roche, John Hogan and Gary Boudreau for the Developmental teams; Robert MacLean, Ryan Connors, Patrick Simms and Colin Piccott for the Intermediate teams; Ryan Chisholm, Devin Veinot, Eric Gillis and Wayne Matheson for the Advancing Teams, and Andy Arsenault and Colin Peters as the Head Coaches of our Novice Female team. In addition to the head coaches listed above, we thank the BDMHA parents that have also stepped up as Assistant Coaches and Managers – we could not be this successful without you!

Initiation (IP) / FUNdamentals Program:

Our Initiation (IP1 and IP2) and FUNdamentals have wrapped up another successful season at BDMHA.

Our FUNdamentals program is geared towards four-year-olds (born in 2014). This year we had a record number of 40 players registered for this program. The FUNdamentals program continues a successful partnership with the Bedford Skating Club, offering one session of CanSkate per week run by Becky Whalen and the Bedford Skating Club and one session of hockey run by BDMHA.

With 70 players registered in IP1, BDMHA had 2 teams for five-year-old players (born in 2013), and with 91 players registered in IP2, we had 3 teams for six-year-old players (born in 2012). All IP1 and IP2 teams had two hockey practices each week. The focus of these practices was on skill development in skating, puck handling and shooting. These teams also participated in the Mooseheads Timbits Jamboree in January, along with Christmas and year-end jamborees. Our IP2 players also had the chance to play during the Mooseheads intermission games. All of our IP2 players who were available actually had the chance to play in one of the intermission games over the course of the season and playoffs! Bedford was even chosen to play during the Memorial Cup!

This year, practice times were on Saturday and Sundays for our IP1 and IP2 teams. Saturday practices took place at the BMO Centre with the Sunday practices at the RBC Centre in Dartmouth. It is recommended that BDMHA make arrangements with the RBC Centre to store IP equipment if IP Teams are going to continue to practice at the RBC Centre in the future.

The IP1 and IP2 players were able to have 4 sessions this year devoted to power skating with coach Marie Bowness. These sessions were very well received by the players and coaches, and we plan to have them continue next year!

BDMHA provided the three IP2 teams each with 2 sets of goaltender gear to use for the season. Players rotated the equipment each practice so players had a chance to try it out prior to making an investment in equipment of their own. BDMHA would like to continue to support the development of goaltenders starting at an early age.

With 6 teams, we are very fortunate to have amazing head coaches that will lead large groups. We would like to recognize and thank Denis Aucoin, Head Coach of FUNdamentals; IP1 Head Coaches Mark Clare, Craig Lynk, Rob Dickson and Mark Peveril, and IP2 Head Coaches Jamie Roche, Tyler Whitehead, Greg Crowell, Warren Hefford, Charlie MacLean and Jason Troini for taking the lead on their teams and the incredible amounts of work they did for our youngest players. Furthermore, thank you to all of the Assistant Coaches and team Managers for their commitment to the program.

This was my last year as the VP of Novice and IP. The last two years were truly a rewarding experience. Thank you to all of the parents, coaches, managers and all of the volunteers who make Bedford and District Minor Hockey Association the successful association it is.

And lastly, I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank Tricia Schmeisser (Novice Coordinator) and Denise Crowell (IP Coordinator) for their continued dedication and commitment to their programs over the last two years. Their organization, initiative, thoughts and practical feedback were appreciated.

Joanne Lenihan

VP Novice/IP

Report from VP Competitive

The 2018/19 Season is now complete and on the competitive side we found some success, but unfortunately we fell short of previous years successes as an association. I, along with our Hockey Development Professional, Shawn MacKenzie, have looked at where we were successful during the season, along with where we fell short, and have put in place a plan to address these areas of improvement to help deter this from happening in the forthcoming seasons.

A brief summary of the season

- Atom B, played in the final game of Central Minor, top 2 finish;
- Atom A, won the Central Minor Championship;
- PeeWee A, won CMHF reg season title, played in the final game of Central Minor, top 2 finish;
- PeeWee AA, won the Central Minor Championship, won the Provincial Championship
- PeeWee AAA, won the Provincial Championship, won the PeeWee AAA Atlantics.
- Bantam A, played in the final game of Central Minor, top 2 finish;
- Midget A, won the Central Minor Championship.
- As an association we also won numerous tournaments such as SEDMHA, Caps Minor Hockey Source for Sports, along with many others.

When counting championships for Bedford Minor, we didn't quite get to where we would like to be, but I believe we are on an upward climb in regards to development, and building teams that will be able to compete, and win at a high level in seasons to come. We have installed weekly defense, and goalie training in order to improve on both areas, where we as an association felt could improve upon in order to make our competitive teams stronger in years to come. These sessions were very successful, and improvements were very visible on the ice during games on the later half of the season. We are also looking at other areas and skill sessions like the ones previously mentioned that will improve on all areas, and levels for Bedford Minor. I believe the skill development we have done this past season, as well as what we have planned for next season, will build a foundation for having strong, skilled, and winning teams in years to come.

We iced 19 competitive teams and statistically speaking, for 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 19 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 for Central Minor:

1. Atom – competitive having earned 65% of possible points (down from 75.7% last year).
2. PeeWee - competitive having earned 65% (down from 76% last year).
3. Bantam – did not meet expectations at 34% (down from 41% last year),
4. Midget – competitive at 55% (up from 27% last year) , which was a two fold improvement from the previous year

Overall the Bedford Minor competitive teams earned just over 57% of the points, down from 60% last year, of total potential points using the bench mark as Central Minor regular season, not including central minor round robin, finals, day of champions, provincials, tournaments or exhibition games. This is based on 926 games!!!! That's a lot of hockey and a lot of success.

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. Our percentage of winning did go down in the Atom, PeeWee, and Bantam divisions. I think some of this can be that we iced three more competitive teams this year, which meant we allowed more players to play at the competitive level. I think we will see these percentages increase in the coming years as we develop more players at the competitive level for the association.

The year ends with our traditional Spring ID Camp / Tryouts for Atom and PeeWee.

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 a 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. We were able to add 3 competitive teams to the association this year, allowing 51 more players to play competitive hockey this season. This was the largest amount of competitive teams that Bedford Minor has ever had compete. Having more players play competitive hockey, and also take advantage of the core skills programs allows the association to develop more players which will make the association stronger and more competitive in years to come.

We had a total of 106 call-ups this past season. Some of these were players on other competitive teams who had the opportunity to experience playing at a higher level, as well as in some cases practice prior to the call up game as well. Of those call-ups, 40 players came from the recreation level to play competitive hockey this year.

And in closing, without the help of the all of the 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 Brian Furdas – Atom, Trina Canavan – PeeWee, Pierre Bourdages - Bantam, and Glen Breen - Midget.

I look forward to remaining part of the executive team in 2019/2020.

Good luck to all in the fall tryout process.

Scott Urquhart

VP Competitive

Report from VP Recreation

This hockey season was very successful. We created 24 recreation teams within Bedford and District Minor Hockey Association: 6 Atom; 5 Peewee; 5 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 were:

- Atom – Jennifer MacLeod
- Peewee – Carla Lane
- Bantam – Karen Bowes
- Midget – James Mitchener

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 season. They have been a great help 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 schedules all team practices and games and 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 two on-ice games (for each division) in September, where multiple evaluators rated the players on their skating, puck handling and overall hockey ability.

We would like to congratulate the teams who made it to the Weekend of Champions at Sackville Arena in April and to the teams who competed in the C City Championship!

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. I would like to thank Shawn MacKenzie and his team for helping out with CSS and a special thank you to Shawn for always being available to help out and give advice to all teams.

We hosted the annual Noah Llewellyn Memorial Tournament from December 28th-30th at the BMO Centre. Teams 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 Jason Foster – tournament Chair for running the tournament, an event like this one takes a lot of time and effort and without volunteers like Jason we would not be able to sustain a high-quality even. I would also 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.

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!

Krista White

VP Recreation

Report from VP Development

As we look back on the 2018/2019 season I am pleased to offer a report on Development within BDMHA. We continue to strive to be a leader of hockey development and look to identify our strengths and build off of those as well as to identify other areas that we feel can be improved. As VP Development I work closely with our Hockey Development Professional, Shawn MacKenzie, to ensure that we are delivering the right programs. Shawn has amassed a wealth of knowledge in all levels of hockey over the course of his career as a player and coach and we are very fortunate to have him lead our hockey programs. BDMHA has been identified as a model association in Canada and we will continue to work closely with Hockey Nova Scotia to make sure we are developing our young athletes under the vision that they and Hockey Canada 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.

The Core Skills program has been the foundation of player development by focusing on fundamental skills, drills and sessions that are age and level appropriate. This program is targeted towards the Atom and Peewee age groups (more than 450 players) since these have been identified as the critical development years for young hockey players. All players in the association train in these sessions throughout the 4 years of hockey at these age groups and the sessions are led by Shawn MacKenzie and his on ice staff of coaches who make sure that all appropriate skills are being taught the right way. In addition, the team coaches work at the skill stations alongside Shawn and the Core Skills staff and this allows our team coaches to learn from the highly experienced staff. Close to 170 Core Skills sessions take place throughout the season and this is in addition to the team practices.

Our Spring 3 on 3 program continues to be very popular and it is designed to allow players to play in a relaxed environment at a fast pace and with the emphasis solely on FUN. This year we had over 300 players take part in this program.

This year we continued our focus on goalie training and coach development – two areas that were identified last year - and we will continue to place an emphasis on those areas next season. We offered weekly goalie specific training for Atom and Peewee competitive goalies (up from every other week last year) and this was very well received. We also targeted defenseman training this year (weekly session) and it too was very successful. We will continue with both goalie and defense training next year as well as adding other position specific programs and other programs for the younger age groups.

For coach development we held a seminar as part of development weekend and had presentations from 2 guest speakers – one discussing sport psychology and another on creating offense. We will look to continue with this type of session again next season.

For Development Weekend in early November we had a day of Floorball for all Atom players and it was a big success. The group from Floorball Nova Scotia organized and led the day and there were lots of smiles all around.

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.

Have a great summer and I look forward to catching up in September.

Eric Villeneuve

VP Development

Report from Hockey Development Professional

Fundamental/IP

These programs are the starting point for a lifetime love of the game. Fundamental/IP programs expose these young players to an environment of progress and the rewards of self-discovery. Our starter programs continue to flourish and I feel they are leaps and bounds ahead of IP offerings from a few years past. It does good to visit the purity of this age.

There is a solid group of players in this program and they come with one of our deepest coaching staffs in recent years. This combination should set the table for group success in the next stages of the journey.

Novice

Novice had a different look to it this year as game play for all levels was in a cross-ice format. The transition was smooth and the majority of feedback positive. Our biggest challenge is to find the balance between the positives of the cross-ice format and the preparation to the full ice Atom game. Hockey NS did allow in house full ice instructional games to be played late season. We would anticipate that they will continue to give each association the option to add this to their Novice programs.

Our association has a bulge of 2010 to 2012 birth year players and we look forward to providing the best possible growth settings for players remaining in Novice and those graduating to Atom.

Atom Competitive

This year we were able to field six teams at competitive Atom as well as six teams at the recreation level. It was a successful year at Atom for our association, particularly at the depth levels of Atom A and B. We have been told there are some changes coming from Hockey Canada to Atom. These changes will be in place for the 2020-21 season.

A few key points of what is proposed:

A later start date for fall tryouts. This has been rolled out in consideration of the stress that can be associated to the start of a new school year, as well as to lessen the conflict with other sports that are wrapping up.

There will be a positional rotation of players similar to what is currently seen at Novice. Our association supports that positional rotation is better for overall development and will increase future opportunities by giving players the ability to understand and play different positions.

A few years back BDMHA did rotations in our Atom programs. We selected the top 15 skaters based on tryout scores with no consideration to positions. It was originally well received but over time it did create some challenges to the coaches with regards to rotation and equal opportunity. Some players/family's insistence to play in certain positions undermined the objective and negatively impacted harmony. It would be fair to say it is not accurate to judge the approach based on how a few tried to influence the coach's lineups, but it would also be naive to think that a system dependent on cooperation would not create challenges. We applaud that this will now be Hockey Canada's mandate and we hope to see the cooperation needed to realize the merits of the direction.

Atom recreation

The decision to ice six teams at Atom rep did have a trickle-down impact on the overall depth of Atom recreation. Our strong numbers still allowed us to have six teams, but by going from five to the six teams at rep, it gave recreation less impact players to distribute amongst their groups. Although in placements we strive to create balanced teams, the standings showed a wider gap between our groups than we traditionally would see at this level. Of course, many factors other than player placements can lead to one team achieving more than another. Overall, we experienced success but we will need to look at our recreation evaluation/placement process to see if there are ways we can improve the parity.

Pee Wee Competitive

PeeWee competitive was our strongest level of this past season.

PeeWee B:

Teams were competitive with one team showing more consistent progression in the second half.

PeeWee A:

This year for the first time, we went with two teams at the A level. Both A teams did exceptionally well, with one finishing first in the regular season and the other progressing to the playoff final.

PeeWee AA-Provincial Champs:

This team won pretty much all they pursued, great growth and unity were demonstrated here. Much of the credit for this goes to the coaching staff. They set standards of commitment, communication and cooperation that are rarely seen in minor hockey. The accountability that these players displayed should serve them well in future pursuits.

PeeWee AAA- Atlantic champions:

Over the past number of years our PeeWee AAA program has been a great success. This is largely due to the coaching staff, a threesome of non-parents that have acquired an exceptional knowledge of the age, the challenges and the approach needed to have the best chance for success. Together they complement each other well. Our PeeWee AAA players and parents are fortunate to have these dedicated coaches leading players of such an influential age. Next year BDMHA will participate in the new Provincial PeeWee AAA league. This league will mirror what is currently in place for Major Bantam and Midget Minor Provincial leagues.

PeeWee Recreation

As in Atom, the number of teams we field at rep does effect recreations depth. Some teams had less than the traditional 15 skaters. This leads to increased ice time for participants but it does spread the talent pool a bit thin. Discussions with regard to achieving best possible player experience at PeeWee recreation will take place during the summer.

Bantam Competitive

Our Bantam rep teams this year were made up of significantly more first year players that we traditionally see. A deep group of 2005 players combined with less numbers of 2004 players led to some being at levels they may have traditionally faced more competition to achieve. The transition from PeeWee to Bantam checking levels may be the biggest challenge a player will face in minor hockey. We see greater size discrepancies between first years and second years. The physical advantage a second-year player may have coupled with a year of experience in contact hockey can create a big challenge for a player coming from PeeWee. A transition period is inevitable and often will last to Christmas or beyond.

I feel our association and coaches at Bantam checking levels must do a better job of assisting with this transition by consistently revisiting the curriculum of checking certification camps. Confidence in checking must become job one in the early season. If a player is hesitant in contact or displays poor technique when giving or receiving checks, their overall play will quickly deteriorate. Hesitation becomes hard to overcome and often robs players of the opportunity to display their most effective attributes.

I feel this was a contributing factor in what was an overall struggle at Bantam for our association. This was evident at all contact levels of Bantam hockey. I feel we must learn from this and retool in order to give our players the best possible chance to overcome this predictable hurdle.

Bantam Recreation

We are finding the common theme with recreation is that we need to look at ways of improving the overall recreation experience. We are solid but certainly room for improvement. Our numbers indicate that recreation will remain healthy in Bedford and that we are not experiencing the traditional drop off at the Bantam age that Hockey Canada is concerned with. All the more reason for diligence in the pursuit of improving player experience.

Midget Competitive

Although our Midget levels were solid this year, it is a level that can be puzzling as to what improvements should be made for the future. Current Midget structures allow for three years of birth playing together as opposed to the two years we see at other levels. This in itself creates challenges within teams. Social connections are not always strong, and groups can be diverse in reasons for playing minor hockey. Some players have future hockey goals and some have other priorities. It really is a level where one size does not fit all and it can be a struggle to find the common ground of development vs retention. BDMHA's challenge to put forth a program that satisfies the various desires and to assemble a leadership staff that has the understanding and flexibility to achieve a productive harmony. I feel we are still ahead of the pack with regards to our Midget programs but we must seek ways to improve. More attractive ice slots will always be at the forefront. A few years back I was involved in a Midget review

done by HNS. This review targeted all levels of the age group. One of the main things that came from that review was the Midget 15 yr. old league. As part of that review, we assembled a group of players of differing Midget ages and playing backgrounds. They were given a series of questions and participated in open discussions on how they view Midget and what they would change. It was one of the most informative exercises I have been involved with. This age group has a voice. Perhaps we need to include these young adults in our information gathering.

Midget Recreation

One of the questions we are often faced with at Midget is where does practice fit in with Midget rec teams. At Midget we have groups of players at various stages of adolescence. We have the 15-yr. old that has hockey hopes doesn't drive yet and sports are a big part of their social life. Then we have the 18-yr. old that may be working part time, trying to achieve academic goals and still have sport as part of his life. These older players still want to play but the balancing act of life is now taking place. This can affect practice and game attendance but practice is where poor attendance is most evident. Perhaps we could see. Practice structures set in such a way that we still provide opportunity for coaches to have team sessions but the association also takes some of the dedicated Midget slots. In these slots, BDMHA would lead a practice made up of combined teams. The reality of what we are seeing is that within Midget there are those that desire quality structured practice opportunities and there are those that for whatever reason are not as committed to practicing. Once again, we come back to the question of how to satisfy a group that are at different stages of life and where hockey fits in. I personally feel we need to look for a more creative and perhaps cost-effective approach with regards to Midget recreation practices. We will be tabling Midget practice structure for discussion.

Minor Junior

Great program for Blues players that have moved on but still have desire to play with friends and compete under the Blues umbrella. Our program has been very successful and we are very proud of it.

Development programs

BDMHA continued with development programs from past such as our relationship with Skate Canada and Bedford Skating Club for young levels, a Novice Core Skill option, and our regular Core Skill program for all Atom and PeeWee aged players.

This past season we added weekly goalie sessions and weekly Defence development sessions. Overall, we get favorable feedback and strong enrolment in our existing offerings. Some development opportunities we would like to add for this season would be Forwards specific sessions, Power Edge Pro (PEP) sessions, Novice Power Skate Core Skill Hybrid Sessions, and Bantam Checking confidence and development opportunities.

As always, securing attractive ice slots is the biggest hold back we face when adding to our existing offerings. This can be compounded by our association's overall growth and the need to provide for this growth. Nonetheless we are working hard to obtain more usable ice in order to increase development opportunities.

Coach development is also a priority... at higher levels, coaches learn from each other through sharing of information and the open-minded commitment to being the best coach they can be. Striving for your

best is what we ask of our players. Leading by example is certainly not a new concept and it remains a common thread in the best of leaders.

Thoughts

The hockey season is full of the ups and downs that make our game such an influence on young people's growth. BDMHA is extremely fortunate to have a dedicated leadership group of executives, managers, coaches and supportive parents. The minor hockey experience will always present challenges. We will continue to work in concert with the goal of providing best possible minor hockey experience for all. Through the good, the bad, and the sometimes ugly, it is a journey that we will one day all realize was much too short.

See you at the rink.

Shawn MacKenzie

Hockey Development Professional