



BEDFORD & DISTRICT MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

2019-20 Semi-Annual Report

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Executive Reports

President, Jason Hale

Happy New Year and I hope everyone is having a great 2019-2020 hockey season! For those of you who don't know me, I live in Papermill Lake subdivision with my wife Kimberly and two boys Cameron and Carter. I am a Chartered Accountant, have completed and lectured the CICA In-Depth Tax Program and specialize in US/International Taxation. I am Tax Partner and the National US Personal Tax Leader for Canada. Previously I sat on the Board of Evaluators for CPA Canada and on the Board of Directors for Regional Residential Service Society. I have managed numerous teams with BDMHA and was the VP Finance/controller for BDMHA.

After 18 months in the role, I feel like we have accomplished a great deal and have improved our organization in various areas. I am very happy with our strategy, our Board, our execution of initiatives, our brand, and all that we have accomplished over this period. I feel very privileged to be the President of our organization and will continue to extremely work hard executing on our strategy. I will continue to work hard to make improvements in every aspect of our organization. Our organization is forward thinking; collaborative and I can assure all our members that our Board is working together executing on our strategy. I want every member to know that your Board will always make decisions that are best for our entire organization and continue to look for ways to improve, grow and strengthen our organization.

Our Organization

BDMHA is the largest Minor Hockey Association in Nova Scotia. Currently we have 1,105 players registered for the 2019-2020 hockey season (1,146 for the 2018-2019 hockey season). The decrease is due to BDMHA not having a female Novice team and supporting Metro West Force in their development of this program. This season we have 23 recreation, 20 competitive, 10 Novice, and 6 Initiation teams. In addition, we have hosted Hometown Hockey, and two very successful tournaments. The Jordan Boyd Tournament had 48 teams participate and was the first tournament hosted under the new Peewee Provincial league. The Noah Llewelyn Christmas Tournament had an incredible turnout with 44 teams registering for the tournament. We are extremely pleased with the success of both tournaments and we will continue to build on these tournaments. We continuously work hard to be a model organization and support Hockey Nova Scotia in their initiatives and programs.

We have two full time paid employees, Shawn MacKenzie (Hockey Development Professional) and Matt Oxford (BDMHA Coordinator). This season we have approximately 350 coaches and 80 managers working with our players. In addition, we have numerous other development professionals, 31 board members, tournament organizers, Hometown hockey committee members, various volunteers, and many more individuals that positively contribute to our organization. On behalf of BDMHA, our board and our members, thank you for your contribution to our organization.

Last season we were recognized by Hockey Nova Scotia as the Minor Hockey Association of the year, a first for BDMHA. Our Board consists of 31 dedicated individuals. It should be noted that we have added 2 additional roles on our Board. We have added a Social Media Coordinator (PJ Mäkinen) and a 50/50 Coordinator (Danielle Hibberts). These two individuals have only been working on our Board since June but have had an incredible impact on our organization. ***As members, I ask that you please take the time to personally thank these two individuals for their contribution.***

Hometown Hockey

BDMHA and Halifax Regional Municipality hosted Rogers Hometown Hockey the 2019 Thanksgiving weekend. This event was the same weekend as the Jordan Boyd Tournament, which made things even more exciting. For BDMHA this was a once in a lifetime event and certainly an event I will never forget. This event was an incredible opportunity for BDMHA to showcase our organization and community on the National stage. Our Hometown Hockey committee included Jason Hale, Stefanie Redden, Stephanie Maidment, PJ Makinen, Sarah Schlender and Andrea Hudgin. We worked very closely with HRM, our Pee wee AAA team and Rogers to ensure the event was a success.

This was a nationally televised event and certainly was the biggest event BDMHA has ever hosted. We were fortunate to have Ron MacLean and Tara Sloan at the BMO Centre. Pascal Leclaire, Tomas Kaberle and TJ Galiardi all participated in the event as NHL alumni. Other special guests included Mayor Mike Savage, Geoff Regan, Kelly Regan, Jill Saulnier, and Cam Russell. One of my highlights from the weekend for me was spending time in the BMO with Ron MacLean and Tara Sloan. Ron stopped to talk to every player, every coach and every team, telling stories and taking pictures. The smiles on the players faces, the excitement in the BMO was really something special. Thank you to all the volunteers, the players and parents who supported this event. Also, a special thanks to the Pee wee AAA parents and players for hosting another incredible Jordan Boyd Tournament the same weekend. Hosting both made for a very interesting and busy weekend.

Congrats BDMHA for hosting Hometown Hockey! We are working on a video to share with our membership on some of the highlights from the weekend. In the meantime, I want to share the links to some of the videos and share some pictures from the weekend.

Here are some of the video links from the Hometown Hockey weekend:

- <https://www.facebook.com/rogershometownhockey/videos/465620544038834/UzpfSTIzMTYxODExNjk3MDY4NToxNjQ5NzgyMDAxODIwOTQ5/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/rogershometownhockey/videos/2358505507743432/UzpfSTIzMTYxODExNjk3MDY4NToxNjQ5NzgwOTUxODIxMDU0/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=384226849197074>

Congrats to Jack and the Atom AA Blue team for leading the Parade of Champions. Jack was also named team captain on a video that went viral across North America.



Congrats to Rachel Walsh (Peewee AAA) and Connor Wilkin (Bedford Barons) who joined Ron MacLean and Tara Sloan on National Television to announce the three stars for the Winnipeg/Pittsburgh game. Great job Rachel and Connor!!



Thanks to our friends at Scotiabank for donating \$5,000 to Bedford Minor Hockey. Scotiabank continues to support our organization and our community, and they had many volunteers participate in the weekend. A special thanks to our Bedford Mill Cove Branch for their continued to support. We appreciate the support from Scotiabank, and we were very surprised to learn that the bank was donating \$5,000 to our organization.



Here is a picture of Ron MacLean and our Peewee AAA team. Ron took some time to join the team in their dressing room in the second intermission of their game vs. Eastern Shore.



Ron MacLean and Tara Sloan with the Boyd family.



Thanks to Geoff and Kelly Regan for stopping by the Jordan Boyd Tournament. We were lucky enough to get a picture with some of the Pee wee AAA team and the Championship trophies. It was great seeing Geoff wearing his old Bedford Blues Jacket.



Also, it was great to see Hockey Nova Scotia Board Members Arnie Farrell (President) and Brad MacKinley (VP Operations) supporting our tournament and event. They had a tour of the production trailer and spent lots of time watching games. What a great picture of the Pee wee Atlantic Hockey Championship trophy which Bedford won last year. was won by our Pee wee AAA team last season.



A few other various pictures from the Hometown Hockey event:





Stay tuned for the video that will have many more highlights and pictures from the weekend. Thanks again to everyone who participated, volunteered and what a great way to top winning Minor Hockey Association of the Year.

BDMHA – Success on the Ice

On the ice BDMHA has seen significant success this season. The following are some (sorry if I missed any) of the banners and Championships our Bedford Blues have won so far in the 2019-2020 hockey season. On behalf of BDMHA, our Board, and our members, congratulations to all these teams, and also to all teams participating in various tournaments across the Maritimes. We continue to have success on the ice at every level of our association. It should also be noted that many of these Championship games were Bedford vs. Bedford.

Congratulations to the ***Bedford Blues Atom A Team*** and the ***Bedford Blues Peewee AA Blue Team*** on winning the 2019 Jordan Boyd Tournament.





Congratulations to the **Bedford Midget Canadiens** and the **Bedford Bantam Coyotes** on winning the 2019 Noah Llewelyn Memorial Tournament. I am very happy to share that the Noah Llewelyn Tournament had 44 teams participate in the tournament in 4 divisions. I want to personally thank tournament Chair, Jason Foster and our VP of Recreation, Stefanie Redden for making this one of the best recreation tournaments in Nova Scotia.



Congratulations to the **Bedford Bantam Wild** for winning the banner at the 2020 Lounsbury Tournament in Moncton.



Congratulations to the **Bedford Peewee B White** for winning the 2019 Jack Frost Tournament.



Bedford Minor Hockey sent 14-16 teams to Moncton to participate in the ASCU Moncton Challenge Cup. It was a great weekend for Bedford Minor Hockey and our community. Three BDMHA teams won championships at the Moncton Challenge Cup, **Bantam AA, Bantam A White, and Peewee B White**. In addition, we had many more teams that played in semi-final games and final games during the weekend. Congrats to all the teams that participated in this tournament.



Congratulations to the **Bantam B Blue** for winning gold at the 2019 O'Leary Hockey Classic on PEI!



Congratulations to the **Bedford Blues Bantam AA** team for bringing home the banner from the 2019 TASA Fall Classic tournament.



Congratulations to the **Bedford Blues Bantam A White team** for winning the 2019 Annual Colin Chipman Memorial Tournament in Bridgetown.



Our Community – Success off the Ice

BDMHA teams continue to be active in our community. Overall BDMHA is making an impact and a positive contribution to our community. Thank you to all the teams and coaches who take part in these community-based activities. Let's keep up the great work.

The following are some of the things our teams have been doing in the community

Our Bedford Blues Bantam B Blue collected donations for the Salvation Army Kettle Campaign at the Bedford Superstore.



Atom AA White and Peewee Hawks showing their support for anti-bullying with the pink on their sticks.



The **Bedford Peewee AA White** team played **Bedford Peewee AA Blue** in support of Hockey Fights Cancer. In support of this great initiative our Peewee AA White team got the chance to hang with the Stanley Cup.





Here is a picture of the **Bedford Bantam Coyotes** team who visited Hope Cottage today and provided food donations that will be enough to feed 300 homeless people a warm meal.



Our **Bedford Blues Atom AA White** collected donations for Feed Nova Scotia at the Bedford Superstore.



Our **Bantam AA** team helped the Q104 Toy Drive at the Bedford Parade of Lights.



The **Bedford Bantam A White** helped out with cleanup and breakdown of the Remembrance Day ceremony in Hammonds Plains.



Our **Bedford Blues Bantam AA team** showed support for veterans by putting names on their sticks of people they want to play for.



We have also had numerous teams participate and try Para Hockey. Here is a picture of the first session of BDMHA's brand new Para Hockey Player Development Program.



The Nova Central Rebels girl's ringette team invited the **Bedford Bantam Wild** out for a fun game of ringette. The story was covered on CTV Live @ 5pm. Here is a picture from that game and the link to the CTV story.



Click [HERE](#) to view the story on CTV

Jack Henry named team captain - Here is a great video from our Atom AA Blue Team. The team named Jack Henry team captain and presented him his own Bedford Minor Hockey jersey. Jack and his team lead the Hometown Hockey Parade of Champions. Great job Atom Blue and Coach MacLean.

Click [HERE](#)



Bedford Hawks we received the following message via our social media. This is a great story of sportsmanship.

Hats-off to PeeWee C player #5 on the Bedford Hawks. During our game last night, when asked by the referee about a game-deciding goal (and what would have been a hat-trick for him) that appeared to the refs to have gone in, he truthfully answered that it was indeed not a goal. His show of sportsmanship led us to our first hard-earned victory of the season, but more importantly, every Chebucto player in the dressing room afterwards recognized him and admired his choice to "do the right thing". It truly seemed less important than the win to them!!

This is personally why I support love the sport of hockey and the small lessons it can teach our kids!
- Chebucto PeeWee C

50/50 Program

BDMHA implemented a 50/50 program so parents would have the ability to offset the costs of hockey registration and development programs. So far, our first two draws have had winners taking home approximately \$25,000. Overall, we are very pleased with the results of our 50/50 program but

unfortunately out of our approximately 1,200 members we have had less than 250 members participating in the program.

For our 50/50 program to be a success we really need to do the following:

- 1) Increase the number of BDMHA members selling and promoting this program. We would like to challenge every member sell a minimum of \$40 of tickets to ensure a sizable pot. Sales are difficult if the pot isn't large, but a large pot is only possible if more people sell more tickets.
- 2) We must increase our pot size. This would generate more interest and generate more excitement/sales of our 50/50 program.

It is important that everyone understand that BDMHA does not profit or take any money associated with this program. All profits are returned directly to the family that sell tickets. This program is not mandatory but was implemented as a possible aide to members who voiced their concern about hockey registration fees. I am proud of our organization and very proud that we were able to get this 50/50 program up and running. I am worried that if we do not have more participation, we will have no option but to discontinue this program. As this program directly helps parents offset costs of hockey, discontinuing the program would be disappointing. Our next draw is Sunday January 19, 2020.

We hope each of you can work with your parents, friends, and teams to make your 50/50 program a success. If you really want to help our hockey association – here is a great opportunity.

The experience funding link is (this is our online platform):

<https://www.experiencefunding.ca/BDMH-5050>

The link to our 50/50 page is (if you have any questions):

http://bedfordblues.com/page.php?page_id=116295

I am asking each of you to help support BDMHA and email your teams to get involved. Thanks and if we all work together this will be a huge success.

Congratulations to our November 50/50 winner, George Coupar. He picked up \$21,864.90!



Also, congratulations to our September 50/50 winner, Jessica Burke. She won \$25,727.21!



Other Initiatives - Highlights

BDMHA is working on numerous initiatives and ideas to move our organization forward. Here are some examples of initiatives completed or currently in progress:

1. Relationship with Nustadia – we continue to work very closely with Nustadia on a number of projects and initiatives. We now have blinds outside of Rink A and it is my understanding that we will see additional capital improvements over the next 1-3 months. Nustadia continues to be a great partner to Bedford Minor Hockey and we will continue to work with them for improvements for our members.
2. Review of tryouts – we are currently doing a full review of our tryout process based on feedback we received. If anyone has any comments, ideas or comments please forward them to bdmha.president@gmail.com.
3. Referees - we will continue to look for ideas and ways to ensure we have the best referee development programs in the province. We have had a number of meeting with Hockey Nova Scotia and our Referee In Chief looking at next steps and ways to continue to be leaders in this area. We are very pleased with the feedback we are receiving from all our referees, coaches, and other organizations. We feel we are in great shape with respect to referees and their development. Thank you to Gary Couch, Bob Chisholm and Connor Stone for leading this area of our organization. We appreciate your efforts very much.
4. Strategy – we are working on our strategy and ensuring implementation at all levels of our organization. Our Board will be working very closely with Shawn MacKenzie, (Hockey Development Professional), Scott Urquhart (VP Competitive), Stephanie Redden (VP Recreation) and Denise Crowell (VP IP/Novice) to ensure implementation of our strategy at the team/program level
5. Tournament Committees – we are currently working on creating a Bedford Minor Hockey tournament committee to help organize and coordinate Bedford Minor Hockey tournaments. Including the Jordan Boyd Tournament and also the Noah Llewellyn. Please email me at bdmha.president@gmail.com if you would like to join this committee.

Some Final thoughts

I have been reflecting on a number of areas I think we can improve as an organization.

- 1) Supporting our tournaments – we continue to struggle to get volunteers to support our tournaments and I would like to change this moving forward into 2020 and our next tournaments.
- 2) Parent Behaviour – we continue to get complaints about our parent behaviour. It simply is not acceptable. BDMHA prides itself on our reputation, the behavior of our coaches and equally as important the behavior of our parents. Our actions directly reflect on our organization. Also, the behavior of coaches and parents directly impacts the emotion on the ice. So please.....relax, have a breath and remember you represent the best minor hockey association in Canada and your actions reflect our organization.
 - a. I believe and hope every member of our organization, players, parents, and coaches positively represent our organization at all times – no exceptions.
 - b. ***Here are a couple great videos that I encourage all coaches and parents to watch (I have posted these before):***
 - i. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xVk6SZ6OYhM>
 - ii. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rrHumC2fW10>
- 3) 50/50 Program – Overall, we are happy with the 50/50 results but BDMHA can do better, much better. Currently we have less than 250 members using and participating in this program. BDMHA can do better and as an organization we want to support and help the parents who relies on this program. Many of our families need this program to help offset the costs of Minor Hockey. Not supporting this program is not supporting our BDMHA family. I believe as an organization we can do better and make this a huge success. From BDMHA perspective, success is not the size of the pot, the bigger the pot the better but the reality is we really want to help families (that really need financial help) offset the costs of minor hockey. Helping 1 family is success! But of course, we want to help as many as possible and want this program to be around for many years to come.

I am hoping we can make significant positive contributions to each of these three areas. In addition, I want all members to know that we will continue to focus on player experience and ensuring all players feel good about themselves and their teams. As an organization we want to ***win with EVERY single player on EVERY team feeling good about themselves. They should have confidence, dignity, respect and a feeling of accomplishment.***

In closing, please conduct yourself accordingly during games, practices, meetings and tournaments. Your actions directly reflect on our organization. I hope every member of our organization, players, parents, and coaches positively represent our organization at all times, no exceptions.

“Athletes don’t always remember techniques, drills, or coaching philosophies. They remember coaches. They remember how those coaches made them feel as a person and the impact they had on their lives.”

“Some cultures minimize talent. Great cultures elevate talent. Leaders set the tone. Culture is the advantage.”

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.

VP Operations, Eric Villeneuve

As we reach the mid point of the 2019-2020 season, I'm happy to provide an overview of the first half of the season. The VP Operations is responsible for supporting the overall operation of BDMHA. There is a lot of activity in the early part of the season for our association that includes 1105 players on 60 teams (IP: 6, Novice: 10, Atom: 11, Pee wee: 12, Bantam: 10, Midget: 9, Minor Junior: 1, Jump Into Hockey: 1).

This year we also introduced Para/Sledge Hockey in partnership with Hockey Nova Scotia (HNS). This program is open to children of all abilities from across the HRM. Bedford teams have joined in the weekly practices and have really enjoyed the experience of trying a new (and challenging!) and exciting game.

Our teams have achieved great success in the first half with a number of tournament championships and great standing in both recreation and competitive leagues.

Coaching certification:

HNS audits the qualifications of volunteer coaches in every minor hockey association to ensure that all coaches meet the requirements. BDMHA's Certification Coordinator is Christien Lefebvre and I would like to thank him for the many hours that he dedicates to ensure that all of our coaches are up to date on their certifications. HNS has a deadline of Dec 1 for completing the Criminal Record Check, Vulnerable Sector Check, and Respect in Sport Volunteer Program. As well, all coaches must be up to date with coaching clinics and safety training certificates.

Hockey Development Professional (HDP):

Shawn MacKenzie continues in his role as HDP and does a tremendous job in designing and implementing development programs for players at all ages and levels. The Core Skills Program is the biggest program and runs throughout the season from the first week of the season until the last. Shawn also runs other in-season programs catered to specific positions. Another important area of focus for the HDP is developing and supporting the coaches in BDMHA. A big thanks to Shawn for all of his time and energy in helping make our association such a successful one.

BDMHA Administrator/Ice Coordinator:

Matt Oxford fulfills both of these roles for BDMHA and ensures that everything runs smoothly in everything from registration to ice allocations, supporting the Executive and the BDMHA website. Matt also does league scheduling for the MMHL and CMHF, tournament support (Noah Llewelyn and Jordan Boyd) and communicates directly with HNS and the other Minor Hockey Associations. Thanks so much to Matt for all of his time and expertise which are instrumental in BDMHA being a model association in Nova Scotia and beyond.

Apparel:

IIG/Nova Trophy continues to be the official supplier for BDMHA. They added a number of new products and new designs to our offering this season and make things easy for families by coming into the BMO Centre to sell the apparel. We continue to bring in new jerseys so that all Bedford teams look unified and professional.

Referee In Chief:

Gary Couch started as our new referee in chief this season and has done a tremendous job in helping organize an in-house training session for new and experienced officials in partnership with HNS. The feedback was excellent and HNS was delighted with that program.

Gary also rolled out the new 4-man system at certain levels and that, too, has been a success. Thanks very much to Gary for all of his efforts in helping to mentor and teach our many new referees who have joined this group for the first time.

Executive Members:

I would like to thank all members of the executive who dedicate so much time to our association. Their efforts have been instrumental in the success that we have seen this season on many levels. With an association as big as ours, it really does take the collective efforts of the board members and the families of our players to create such a great place to play hockey. Thanks to everyone involved...it is a real pleasure to work with all of you.

Congratulations on a great first half of the season and I look forward to an excellent and fun second half.

VP Competitive, Scott Urquhart

There are big changes in store for Bedford minor this coming Fall season. Hockey Canada has [renamed](#) the divisions we currently use, in order to make hockey more inclusive, and welcoming to everyone. This change will be fully implemented in the Fall tryouts, but Bedford Minor will slowly integrate it into our association starting with the [Spring tryouts](#). This renaming will also align with other sports such as soccer who also use this structure to organize their divisions. Bedford minor fully supports these changes, as it simplifies the system for all families, especially those new to hockey.

The divisions will be broken down as follows:

Minor Hockey Age Division Chart 2020-21 Season		
Year of Birth	Age on Dec. 31, 2020	Age Division
2014 and earlier	6 or under	<u>Under-7 (U7)</u>
2013	7	<u>Under-9 (U9)</u>
2012	8	
2011	9	<u>Under-11 (U11)</u>
2010	10	
2009	11	<u>Under-13 (U13)</u>
2008	12	
2007	13	<u>Under-15 (U15)</u>
2006	14	
2005	15	<u>Under-18 (U18)</u>
2004	16	
2003	17	
2000-2001-2002	18-19-20	Under-21 (U21)

This year we stayed steady with the number of teams (20), at the competitive level. We increased our PeeWee teams to 7 with an additional AA team, as well as another Bantam team at the A level. We would like 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 20 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 (beginning of January) the Atom teams are moderately competitive having earned 80% (Last Year at this point 66%) of possible points to date, with PeeWee earning 69% (LY65%), Bantam increasing to 65% (LY36%) and Midget 45% (LY62%). Overall the Bedford Minor competitive teams have earned 75% (LY58%) of the potential points, an increase of almost 25% over last year. This is based on Central Minor games played to-date(beginning of January), 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.

Atom:

At the B level we are holding down first place in the division with our other team on an upswing from fifth place and climbing. At the A level we are currently sitting at first and second, with a comfortable lead over the other teams. Our two AA teams sitting in second, just 2 points out of first, and fifth in their divisions currently.

PeeWee:

At the AAA team, last years provincial/Atlantic champions, are currently sitting in first place. With no returning players from last year, this team is made up mostly of the AA provincial champions from last year, and carrying the torch successfully this far. We have two AA teams, who are sitting in third, and fourth with only five points out of first place. The A teams are sitting at second and sixth, with both teams having great recent tournament placing, giving them a boost after the holidays. The B teams are at second and third in their divisions beating on the door to the top spot by just one point.

Bantam:

Our AA team has had a complete 180 compared to last year, and sitting on top of the standings, with strong play, and great teamwork. We have two A team, who are made up of first and second year players, exclusive to each team, and are holding down the second and third spots in the standings. The B teams at the mid pack levels in their division, and are solidifying their footing to make a push to the upper part of the standings come playoff time.

Midget:

At AA team is currently sitting at third in the standings, with the A team in first, and climbing in their division. We did not ice a Midget B team, as other associations were doing away with the level.

We have been performing mid-year team evaluations with each team, to discuss where the association can work to support the coaching staff to reach their year end goals. Along with all of the coaches and assistants, we want to ensure that all teams have the best possible outcome, and resources available to have a successful year. This has resulted in around 30hrs of work to ensure we are providing the support, and feedback on an association end to all teams. A great amount of information was learned on both sides that we can use to improve as an association overall, to make the necessary changes, and improvements to strengthen the association. We have worked with the coaching staff on ideas, and plans to improve development, and compete level for all teams, so that they are at the top of their form come playoff time.

We have already started preparing for next season with the posting of our [Spring Tryouts](#) dates, along with the initial planning. We are adding Bantam (U18) back into the Spring along with the Atom (U11) and PeeWee (U13) divisions. We felt the addition of Batam in the Spring will help streamline the tryout process, and make it faster, and easier process for all involved.

As the association is so large, the Fall process continues to be a long and tension filled time for players, parents and volunteers alike with this past Fall tryouts encompassing over 80 hrs of tryout ice, going from Step 2 to October 13, as well as 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.

Our Defense and goalie training session are again a big success this year. Matt Oxford was able to secure ice at BMO to make it easier for players and parents to attend.

This year we combined the roles of our divisional coordinators in order to make it more efficient, and to streamline the reporting process for the divisions, We combined the Atom/PeeWee coordinator into one role (Brian Furdas), and Bantam/Midget into one role (Glen Breen). I would also like to thank each of them for their tireless volunteer hours during the season to make sure all of our divisions run smoothly.

We have had great success thus far with our tournament placings, and look forward to the new year, and to more great successes.

VP Recreation, Stefanie Redden

Our 2019-2020 season has been incredibly successful. We created 23 recreation teams within Bedford and District Minor Hockey Association this season: 5 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 are:

- Atom – Jennifer Oake
- Peewee – Jennifer MacLeod
- Bantam – Krista White
- 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 few months. Our player's experience is significantly more successful due to all of your efforts and commitment to both your teams and the association.

A key part of our success as an organization comes from the commitment and hard work from our Coordinator Matt Oxford. I would like to extend a special thank you to Matt for all of his support throughout the season, from scheduling to supporting our families and our executive team, we couldn't do it without you.

Similar to recent seasons, we completed a formalized process for balancing the Bedford teams in each division. We held evaluations that were comprised of a skills session and an intra-squad game for both Atom and Peewee. For Bantam and Midget we ran intra-squad games only. Multiple evaluators rated the players on their skating, puck handling and overall hockey ability. The results of the balancing process were compiled and each player was ranked. The players were then separated into groups based on their relative rankings at a player draft for each division. Once the draft process was completed, teams were reviewed by myself and our Hockey Development Professional, Shawn Mackenzie and some small adjustments were made in order to ensure balanced teams in each division.

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.

Good luck to all of our teams in the MMHL playoffs. The Day of Champions will be held at the end of March this year and the top two teams in each league division will play for first place!

Core Skills Sessions (CSS) continued this season for Atom and Peewee 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 27th-29th at the BMO Centre. The tournament was our largest to date with over 42 teams registered! Congratulations go to the winners of each division: Atom –Tasa Ducks, Peewee – Sackville Bruins, Bantam – Bedford Coyotes, Midget – Bedford Wings. A special thanks goes out to our tournament organizer, Jason Foster. His countless hours spent dedicated to the success of this tournament are the reason this was our best tournament to date. His commitment to ensuring a positive experience for all teams participating and memorializing Noah Llewellyn was extremely impressive and admirable.

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 2019-2020. 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 2019-2020 season. Good luck to all of our teams.

VP Novice/Initiation, Denise Crowell

Bedford & District Minor Hockey Association (BDMHA) has had many players register for our FUNdamentals, Initiation, and Novice programs for the 2019-2020 season. The high level of interest can be largely attributed to our strong commitment from our players, parents, coaches, managers and all of our volunteers. Here is a summary of our programs to date:

FUNdamentals/Initiation Program Report

The IP program continues to be very popular and has continued to grow each season. We currently have over 200 players registered.

Our FUNdamentals team is comprised of 4 year olds and has been growing in popularity. Many new players are coming from the CanSkate program with a keen interest in learning the game of hockey. Since skating has proven to be the biggest skill in the development of young hockey players, we're seeing the players improve by leaps and bounds each week.

The FUNdamentals team has one session of CanSkate per week run by the Bedford Skating Club on Monday late afternoon, and one session of hockey at the BMO Centre each Saturday, led by Head Coach Charlie Maclean with help from co-coaches, Dave Peters & Chris Kelly. We anticipate that the partnership between BSC & BDMHA will continue to flourish for many years to come as its success is evident in the growing enrollment numbers each season.

Our IP1 teams are made up of 5 year old players. This program is currently at capacity with just over 75 participants and is divided into two teams head coached by Greg Crowell (Group 1), and Tyler Whitehead/Denis Aucoin (Group 2). 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 are made up of 6 year old players. This is the largest division in IP with just over 90 players in total, divided into three teams led by head coaches each – Mark Peveril (Group 1); Craig Lynk (Group 2), and Rob Dickson/Mark Clare (Group 3). 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. Despite the early morning practice times, attendance has been good. At the IP2 level, the players on all 3 teams have been trying their hand at being a goalie. Each team was given 2 sets of goalie gear that they use weekly at practice.

The IP1 and IP2 programs practice at the BMO Centre in Bedford on Saturdays and at the RBC Centre in Dartmouth on Sundays. Marie Bowness continues to offer power skating to our IP1 and IP2 programs this year. The addition of power skating sessions offered the players the opportunity to strengthen their skating abilities, again a key to the development of young hockey players. The sessions have been very well received. Two sessions have already taken place for all IP1 and IP2 teams with two more sessions planned for the new year.

At all FUNdamentals & IP levels, the players are engaged at practices and are showing great interest in learning the basic hockey skills that will help them develop into well rounded hockey players moving forward. We continue to have new inquiries for players wishing to enroll well after the registration has been closed for the season. We have been able to accommodate all inquiries so far.

A huge thank you to Stephanie Maidment who has stepped into the Initiation Program Coordinator role this year. Her hard work and commitment to the program has been a great asset, and greatly appreciated by players, parents, coaches and managers alike!

Novice Program Report

The Novice Program saw a slight reduction in registration numbers for the 2019-2020 season with approximately 173 players registered. Much of this reduction can be attributed to the offering of Novice level hockey by the Metro West Force Female Hockey Association.

The 173 players are distributed amongst ten (10) teams - two (2) Advancing teams, three (3) Intermediate teams and five (5) Developmental teams. The number and distribution of teams was based on the number of players registered and the results of the player evaluation process. We were able to get our own Novice evaluation jerseys this year, which helped the evaluation process run more smoothly.

The Advancing teams are led by Co-Head Coaching teams of Charlie MacLean/Rob MacLean and Ryan Connors/Donnie Ruiz; the Intermediate teams are led by Head Coaches Jason Troini, Gavin Isenor, and Warren Hefford; Developmental teams are led by Head Coaches Alain Lefebvre, Neil Cooper/Ryan Black, Brian Furdas, Wayne Cochrane and Chris Kelly.

Teams are scheduled up to 3 ice times per week – 2 practices and 1 game (on average). The ice allocation and scheduling for the 2019-2020 season allowed all Novice teams to practice at the BMO Arena, however there remains a number of 4:00 pm and 4:15 pm ice slots that are challenging for parents. To reduce the impact to parents and assist with scheduling, teams were offered the opportunity to set their weekly practice time slot if they were willing to take one of the earlier slots. Several teams took advantage of this option, which aided with overall scheduling for all teams.

From October 1 – November 30, the Novice program consisted solely of practice sessions with a focus on skating and skill improvement. As of November 30th, teams were permitted to play games, following the Hockey Canada and Hockey Nova Scotia guidelines on half ice (cross ice) games. Using this format, players are on the ice more frequently, touching the puck more often and are involved in more play, leading to increased player development and confidence building.

Of the 173 players registered, only 4 identified as goalie during the registration process. While Novice level is still early to designate a position, there is a concern that the low numbers of goalies will impact future levels of hockey within the Bedford District Minor Hockey Association and we will have difficulty rostering future teams in the Atom, Peewee and higher levels with a goalie. As a result, “Come Try Goalie” sessions were offered to Novice level players to encourage the trial of the goalie position in a safe and fun way. The response has been positive and approximately 20 players have registered to participate in the goalie sessions. Each Novice level team was also assigned goalie gear and will rotate players through the position which may encourage more parents and players to support this critical position.

A great thank you to Nancy Oldford who took on the Novice Coordinator role this year as well. Her countless hours organizing the Novice teams and providing communication to everyone has allowed the program to run so smoothly!

A special thank you to all of the Head Coaches, Assistant Coaches and Team Managers and all of our volunteers – your dedication and hard work are critical to instilling values in our players and building a love of hockey. To parents and players, thank you for your hard work and commitment. Our combined contributions and support for each other have resulted in a strong hockey community and a successful Minor Hockey program!

VP Finance, Jeff Christian

To be inserted...

Hockey Development Professional, Shawn MacKenzie

For the 2019-2020 season, BDMHA increased the number of teams at the rep levels. We are seeing large amounts of players attending tryouts for rep hockey. This year's evaluation of the talent pool told us that we need to look at having two teams at levels we traditionally have only had one.

Decisions of this nature are never easy. They must be non-reactionary, well thought out with in-depth evaluation of our own player pool, as well as conversations with competing MHA's. One of our biggest concerns would be placing players outside their best growth environment. We also needed to consider how thinning out would affect the ability for levels below to compete.

At the rep level we now have 6 Atom teams, 7 Pee wee, and 6 Bantam teams (if we consider that BDMHA is the feeder for Baron Major Bantam). Midget rep shows less teams with AA and A programs. We were in a position to put forth a Midget B team but other MHA's were not in the same position so as a result, Midget B is not a part of CMHF this season. One decision of interest was that at our Bantam A level we divided teams in a way that sees one group that are all second year, and another all first years. (Major/Minor). At the Recreation levels, our numbers remain strong as we have 5 Atom, 5 Pee wee, 5 Bantam, and 7 Midget teams.

BDMHA's Player First approach is to place players at levels that they show the desire and the demonstrated ability to succeed. As touched on, there is always the concern that the multiple team approach would make us less competitive as an association and would create greater numbers of players that would potentially repeat the level the following year.

The play up to the Christmas break indicates that we have remained more than competitive at most levels and the season is on track to meet its player first objectives. We have and will continue to have our challenges along the way but overall it has been a positive first half of the season. This has been reflected in the standings as well as tournament success.

We now face the bigger challenge of elevating play in preparation of the stretch drive and playoffs. As part of our preparation, BDMHA has been conducting sit down meetings with team leadership groups to review, share thoughts, and identify growth targets. In these meetings we also discuss how the association can best support each individual team as they prepare for the upcoming challenge. BDMHA feels that the ability to "out team" an opponent will be the most effective approach. The hope is that the out teaming includes BDMHA, our coaches, players, and families. We are all shareholders in the journey and it is important that those of us in positions of influence show our players the proven strength of a true team first approach. I personally look forward to supporting our groups in their strive.