

Bedford & District Minor Hockey Association

2017-18 Annual Report

June 5, 2018



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President's Message

It's hard to believe that my term as president is soon ending. The last two years seem to have flown by in the blink of an eye. There certainly have been challenges along the way but I have enjoyed the experience of representing our members. The task of leading was made much easier by having a fantastic group of people around the boardroom table with me. I want to thank each and every VP and coordinator for their continued effort in making Bedford Minor Hockey run as smoothly as possible. I read a quote recently from Paul Varian who runs a consulting business that works with minor sports clubs and not-for-profits. He commented that *"Sports Clubs - no one gives you a mulligan for being 'amateur' anymore; it's 2018, the age of consumerism. Your service has to be as good as the commercial companies beside you."* The board and staff of BDMHA have been working for the past 4 to 5 years on formalizing our policies and procedures in an attempt to professionalize the operations of our association. People today expect entities to have and to follow to the letter these policies. We as an executive have to have them to protect us in our decision making as well. While it seems excessive sometimes, this is the world in which we live.

On a much lighter note this past year was an extremely successful one for our teams. BDMHA took home multiple banners from tournaments, league championships, and provincial championships both at Recreation and Competitive levels. You will read later in this document reports from our VPs outlining these accomplishments. However, what I was most impressed with was the support our teams gave each other. Teams were showing up to other Bedford games and cheering on their friends and fellow Blues. That is the spirit I hope we can continue to build on in the coming years.

As I have mentioned on multiple occasions, through letters to members and these types of reports, our biggest challenge as an association has been ice scheduling and ice costs. My goal as president when I took over was to try and move the needle even a little on ice availability and scheduling. We have met with councillors and, through our Halifax zone presidents' meetings, have tried to push this to the top of the priority list for the city. I feel that we haven't accomplished that goal and with the opening of the new Dartmouth 4-pad it seems BDMHA's ice allocation has got worse (25% of our total ice allocation is now in Dartmouth). I know the board is committed to continuing this fight for our members and as past president I will continue to help in any way I can. Matt Oxford is trying to work with Nustadia who manages BMO and the Dartmouth 4-plex to at least allocate our allotted ice in a sensible manner to allow him some flexibility in scheduling. For example this past year we may have been allocated 5 hours on a weekday evening in Dartmouth but those hours are spread out over 4 ice surfaces (i.e. not back to back on one or two surfaces). Therefore if he needed to reschedule a bantam or midget game that required 1.5 hours of ice he couldn't do it as we had been allocated 5 individual one-hour slots over the 4 ice surfaces.

As mentioned in my semi-annual report BDMHA fully supports the move to half ice games for the Novice divisions. All other sports use adjusted playing regulations for younger players whether it's lower baskets in basketball, smaller surfaces and nets in soccer or smaller fields in baseball. There is a multitude of studies showing the benefits of this for players at all skill levels. From response we have received the kids have enjoyed the half-ice play. Another advantage of the half ice game is that it has

allowed more players to try goaltending without having to commit to the position. BDMHA has purchased additional goalie equipment for teams to use and we have encouraged all teams to rotate players wanting to try the position. At the Hockey NS annual general meeting the presidents of the Halifax zone presented our thoughts on moving Novice to half ice for the full season. There was unanimous support from the associations across the province and the motion was forwarded to Minor Council for approval. Hockey NS has approved the change for the 2018/19 season and it is anticipated that Hockey Canada will push for half ice adoption across the country for the 2019/20 season.

Another item I want to stress to all parents and players is the importance of kids playing multiple sports. Both Soccer Canada and Hockey Canada national associations are recognizing the importance of not specializing at a young age. We as an association need to ensure we encourage our members to allow their children the experience of learning new skills from other sports. In addition, we must educate coaches to not punish players for missing a practice to attend a game for another sport. I want to share with you some of the comments/findings that Hockey Canada has published as part of its “Change it Up” program;

- Around 70% of kids stop playing organized sports by the age of 13 because “it’s just not fun anymore” (*Institute for the Study of Youth Sports at Michigan University*).
- For most sports, there is no evidence that intense training and specialization before age 13 or 14 are necessary to achieve elite status (*Sports Health Journal*)
- Diversified sports training during early and middle adolescence may be a more effective strategy in ultimately developing elite-level skills (*American Medical Society for Sports Medicine*).
- Athletes who specialize were 70 to 93% more likely to be injured than children who played multiple sports (*Dr. Neeru Jayanthi of Loyola University*).

There are many more findings and I encourage everyone to go to “playmoresports.ca” to learn more about the science and benefits of multi-sport.

Finally, I encourage everyone to find a way to help make the hockey experience for our kids better each year. Volunteer with your team, help out during the fall placements or look to join the board to add your knowledge. We have great resources in Matt Oxford and Shawn MacKenzie but the association can’t run without the many hours provided by our members. Thanks to everyone for the helping me over the last two years and I look forward to many more great seasons.

Keith Foster

President

Report from VP Operations, Simon Wilkin

The Bedford and District Minor Hockey Association (BDMHA) has once again experienced a tremendous season thanks in large part to the commitment of our players, parents, coaches and volunteers. Without their dedication, the BDMHA would not continue to be one of the most successful hockey associations in Nova Scotia. We must also recognize and acknowledge the valuable contributions of the broader BDMHA community support.

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 2017-2018

By all accounts, BDMHA teams, had a very successful season again this past year. Below is a brief summary of how our success in their respective divisions. We were very well represented at all levels.

Metro Minor Hockey League (MMHL)

Division	Season Summary
Atom	7 teams finishing 1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd , 4 th , 6 th , 11 th and 14 th out of 19 teams in regular season play and finishing 1 st in the Gold Division championship, 2 nd in the Silver Division championship and 1 st in the Bronze Division championship.
Peewee	6 teams finishing 1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd , 7 th , 9 th and 12 th out of 18 teams in regular season play and finishing 1 st in the Gold Division championship and 1 st and 2 nd in the Silver Division Championship.
Bantam	4 teams finishing 1 st , 2 nd , 7 th and 8 th out of 16 teams in regular season play and finishing 1 st in the Gold Division championship and 2 nd in the Silver Division championship.
Midget	7 teams finishing 2 nd , 3 rd , 4 th , 6 th , 8 th , 9 th and 15 th out of 21 teams in regular season play and finishing 2 nd in the Silver Division championship and 1 st in the Bronze Division championship.
Minor Junior	1 team finishing 5 th out of 8 teams in regular season play and finishing 3 rd in the Gold Division championship.

Central Minor Hockey Federation (CMHF)

Atom	Season Summary
AA	2 teams finishing 1 st and 7 th out of 13 team in regular season play and finishing 2 nd in the league championship.
A	1 team finishing 2 nd out of 9 teams in the regular season play and finishing 2 nd in the league championship.
B	2 teams finishing 1 st and 2 nd out of 12 teams in the regular season play; finishing 1 st and 2 nd in the league championship and finishing 1 st at the Day of Champions.
Peewee	Season Summary
AAA	1 team finishing 1 st out of 8 teams in the regular season play; finishing 1 st in the league championship; finishing 1 st at Provincials and finishing 2 nd at Atlantics.
AA	1 team finishing 4 th out of 7 teams in the regular season play and finishing 2 nd in the league championship.
A	1 team finishing 1 st out of 6 teams in regular season play; 1 st in the league championship and 1 st at the Day of Champions.
B	3 teams finishing 1 st , 2 nd , and 6 th in regular season play; 1 st , 2 nd and 3 rd in the league championship and 1 st at the Day of Champions.
Bantam	Season Summary
AA	1 team finishing 4 th out of 7 teams in regular season play; 2 nd in the league championship and 3 rd at Provincials.
A	1 team finishing 3 rd out of 9 teams in regular season play and 3 rd in the league championship.
B	2 teams finishing 10 th and 11 th out of 11 teams in regular season play
Midget	Season Summary
AA	1 team finishing 7 th out of 7 teams in regular season play
A	1 team finishing 6 th out of 7 teams in regular season play and 3 rd in the league championship.

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 in the 2018-2019 season. 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.

Thank you once again to everyone for your support and we look forward to continuing to work with you during the 2018-2019 season.

Enjoy your summer break!

Respectfully submitted,

Simon Wilkin

VP Operations

Report from VP Finance, Jason Hale

For the 2017-2018 fiscal year we budgeted registration fees based on a total player registrations of 1,102 players. Our actual player registration was 1,092 players (2016-2017 registration was 1,181). The 1,092 does not include any registrations with Metro West Female Hockey registrations or Bedford Armada. Our registration was 10 players lower than our budgeted amount and 98 players lower than the prior year.

The organization finished the year with total revenues of \$1,133,369 and total expenses of \$1,135,255 leaving a deficit at the end of the fiscal year of \$(1,886). The organization was budgeting a small surplus of \$16,400. The difference from budget is due to a slight decrease in overall revenues and also slight increases in a number of expenses. Some of the differences include an increase in equipment expenses, bank charges, and ice costs. In addition the organization made a donation of \$1 per player to the families of Humboldt for a total of \$1,092. The board has discussed the increasing costs and is looking at ways to help control our costs for the 2018-2019 hockey season and beyond.

One of the organizations largest expense continues to be insurance premiums paid to Hockey Nova Scotia. The total cost for insurance for the 2017-2018 was \$77,505 and we have been notified by Hockey Nova Scotia that we will see an additional increase in our insurance costs for the 2018-2019 hockey season. This additional cost has been factored into our registration fees and will result in an increase in our registration fees by \$10 per player. This represents a \$5/player Hockey Nova Scotia fee increase and a \$5/player Hockey Canada increase in our insurance premiums. Hockey Nova Scotia actually increased their fees by \$5/player for the 2017/18 season which we have not paid as we are disputing the timing of the increase (this increase was not factored into the registration fees for the past season). If we are not successful in this dispute BDMHA will be required to pay an additional \$7,340 that has not been accounted for in the financial statements. However, the Association has an accumulated surplus that will cover this additional cost.

BDMHA has also continued the jersey replacement program. This program ensures that all jerseys get replaced based on a 4-5 year schedule. The budget jersey expense for the current year was \$18,000. The Association outfitted 7 teams with new uniforms for a total cost of \$22,283. The difference from budget was due to an accrual from the prior year and relates to Metro West Female Hockey.

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

Jason Hale, CPA, CA

VP Finance

Report from VP Novice/Initiation, Joanne Lenihan

Bedford & District Minor Hockey Association (BDMHA) continues to see high levels of participation in the Novice and Initiation (IP) programs with close to 200 players in each for the 2017-2018 season. 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. Their organization, initiative, thoughts and practical feedback were appreciated and I look forward to working with them both again next season!

Below is a brief summary and overview of the Novice and IP programs continuing from the semi-annual report released in January 2018:

FUNDamentals / IP Program:

Our FUNDamentals and IP programs (IP1 and IP2) have wrapped up another successful season at BDMHA.

Our FUNDamentals program is geared towards four-year-olds (born 2013). We continued our partnership with the Bedford Skating Club, offering one session of CanSkate per week along with one session of hockey. We plan to continue to offer this program structure for the upcoming season as it is very well received. Thank you to Becky Whalen, Bedford Skating Club, and Craig Lynk, Head Coach of the FUNDamentals, for all of their hard work and commitment this season.

Our two IP1 teams for five-year-old players (born 2012) and three IP2 teams for six-year-old players (born 2011) had two hockey practices each week. The focus of these practices was on skill development in skating, puck handling, and shooting. These teams participated in the Mooseheads Timbit Jamboree in November, along with Christmas and year-end Jamborees. Furthermore, 50 lucky IP2 players were randomly selected to participate during the first intermission of the Mooseheads games over the course of the season.

A challenge that we consistently struggle with at the IP level is the scheduling of ice time. In the past, practice times for the IP1 and IP2 teams would be on Saturday and a 4pm practice during the workweek, both at the BMO Centre. However, it was very difficult for our coaches to commit to a 4pm practice time each week so this year we moved all IP practices to Saturday at the BMO Centre and Sunday at the Dome (to accommodate games scheduled at the BMO Centre).

However, we noticed that attendance at the Sunday practices were generally lower (on average 1/3 lower for one IP1 team) than the Saturday practices. We don't know if this was because of having the two practices back-to-back on the weekend, or because the Sunday practice took place at the Dome. We do recognize that the Dome is not an appropriate facility for this age group and therefore, we will not schedule ice time there next season for the IP teams.

BDMHA provided each of the IP2 teams with goaltender equipment. Players rotated the equipment each practice so every player had the opportunity to try it out. BDMHA is a big supporter of introducing and developing goaltenders starting at an early age.

We would like to thank our IP1 Head Coaches Greg Crowell, Warren Hefford, Charlie MacLean and Jason Troini along with IP2 Head Coaches Matt Williams, Ryan Chisholm, Charlie MacLean, Justin Munden and Andrew Woods for taking the lead on their teams and the incredible amounts of work they did for our youngest players. Furthermore, we would also like to thank all of the Assistant Coaches and Team Managers for their commitment to the program.

And lastly, all of our FUNdamental and IP players received a year-end medal at their last practice of the year. These medals continue to be very popular with the players and a wonderful keepsake for years to come!

Novice Program:

The Novice Program underwent a significant change this season. For the first two months of the season there were no games at all for the purposes of skill development. The next two months all games were played 4 on 4 at half ice or cross ice for all levels. The remainder of the season allowed full ice games for all levels.

The full ice games were capped at 15 games. This turned out to be more of a challenge to reach than initially thought because the intent was to have one game a week for the remaining 9 weekends and allow teams to participate in 2 jamborees (considered 3 games per jamboree) however with March Break and jamborees landing on the same weekend as scheduled games, there was not enough ice time available for the remainder of the season to reschedule or make up ice times.

There are many benefits to implementing this change including having the players on the ice more frequently; the number of players involved in each play and the amount of action the goalies are seeing in each game are all great for player development. Many first year Novice players, parents and coaches appeared to have embraced this change; however, because second year Novice players, parents and coaches have experience playing full ice games some felt they were moving backwards instead of preparing for the next level in Atom. Almost all teams felt the two months of skill development was a bit too long without playing a game.

One of the benefits of playing half ice or cross ice games is the requirement for two goalies. It introduces the position to players who may have not otherwise tried it. BDMHA was able to provide enough goaltender equipment to ensure that each Novice team had 2 goalies for each game.

Effective 2018-19 season – a proposal to move to full implementation of half ice games for the Novice Hockey level was supported by Hockey Nova Scotia at the Annual General Meeting held from May 4-6, 2018. This means there will be no full ice games until the Atom level effective September 2018.

This season some of the Novice ice times were scheduled at the new Dartmouth 4-pad. We are looking at how we can more efficiently use this location and ice times.

Tim Hortons provided each of our Novice players with a year-end medal. We have submitted a request to Tim Hortons to replace our aging Novice jersey inventory.

We have approximately 200 players amongst 12 teams at the Novice level. We would like to recognize and thank Head Coaches Andre Lefebvre, Jamie Loughery, Matt Williams and Trent MacKeen for the

Developmental teams; Devin Veinot, Ryan Chisholm and Craig Frizzell for the Intermediate teams; Andrew Carver, Evan Hickey, Scott Pineo and Wayne Matheson for the Advancing Teams; and Carla O'Brien Alderson and Rick Scott for leading the Female Teams.

In addition to the Head Coaches, we also want to thank all Assistant Coaches, Team Managers, parents and players for all of your hard work to make this a successful season.

Our programs are successful because of your commitment and involvement.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Lenihan

VP Novice/IP

Report from VP Competitive, David Greenfield

The 2017/18 Season is now complete and the competitive teams exceeded our expectations for play throughout the regular season along with Central Minor Playoffs, Day of Champions and Provincials. We struggled last year, put in motion a strategy to help address things re-occurring from last year, made the changes, while adapting tried some new things and overall turned into success.

A brief summary

- One of our Atom AA Teams played in the final game of Central Minor, top 2 finish;
- Atom A played in the final game of Central Minor Final, top 2 finish;
- Both Atom B's in Central Minor finals, and one winning the HNS Day Of Champions;
- PeeWee AAA, win the Central Minor finals, provincials and played in the final game of Atlantics, Top 2 finish.
- PeeWee AA, played in the final game of Central Minor, top 2 finish;
- PeeWee A won Central Minor finals, and went on to win the HNS Day Of Champions;
- All 3 PeeWee B teams were in the top 4, two teams moved to the Central Minor finals with the winner moving on to win the HNS Day Of Champions DOC
- Bantam AA, played in the final game of Central Minor, top 2 finish; went to a hard fought provincials and played in the semi-finals.

Our Midget level did struggle some this year with the introduction of Minor Midget, but all associations would have felt the same impact, we will review the situation this summer and see what changes can be done to have some more success at Midget next year.

As well, we iced two Bantam B teams knowing it would be a hard year, but we kept another team playing competitive hockey and the struggles did occur, but after two SEDMHA wins the year ended on a positive note.

We iced 17 competitive teams and statistically speaking a successful year Bedford would like our divisions to run minimally at 50% and preferably > 60% win / loss ratio. While we can drive the same expectation down to a team level, with 17 teams it is inevitable that some teams will be much stronger and weaker in any division in any given year. If we review the divisional results of the regular season for Central Minor:

1. Atom – very competitive having earned 75.7% of possible points (up from 73% last year)
2. PeeWee - very competitive having earned 76% (up from 65% last year)
3. Bantam – did not meet expectations at 41% (down from 71% last year), this was mostly from the two Bantam B teams.
4. Midget – did not meet expectations at 27% (down from 79% last year) , due to the introduction of Minor Midget AAA we have some learnings to overcome.

Overall the Bedford Minor competitive teams earned just over 60% of the points, down from 70% last year, of total potential points using the benchmark as Central Minor regular season, not including central minor round robin, finals, day of champions, provincials, tournaments or exhibition games. As a membership, although a struggle in Btm B and Midget we should all consider this to be viewed as a very successful year. How many 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.

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

With an association this size we will have issues and this year was no exception. Continuous discussions were held with our HDP and a lot of various meetings occurred with the coaching staff and players to assist them in any short falls. Bedford Minor Hockey continues to have a large pool of players that are interested in trying out for competitive teams and each year this continually grows. We saw once again record number of players trying out. The challenges faced with the increasing number of players trying out for a competitive level is trying to make room for them all. Many players have the interest, commitment, and capability to play at competitive levels, but there is only so much room. While in theory offering more spots and opportunity for players to play at a competitive level sounds like a positive, in reality it proved some unforeseen challenges as experienced in 2014/15 and we did see a similar story again this year with Bantam B. We are discussing and reviewing if it makes sense to add an additional B team in the 2018/2019 playing season at the Atom level. More of this analysis will continue in the summer and again during the fall tryout process.

And in closing, without the help of the 2 competitive coordinators this year, tryouts and other regular season duties / issues would have been much more difficult to accommodate. I would like to extend a big thank you to Eric Villeneuve – Atom and Trina Canavan – PeeWee

We are actively looking for a Bantam and Midget coordinator, if interested please send me an email.

This is my last year in the VP Competitive role. After spending 2 years as the Metro Minor lead and 3 years of VP Competitive hockey, I will pass the torch over but in doing so I have made many new friends and having a great opportunity to have worked with a lot of young men trying to find their hockey journey and dream. This is something I will never forget. I will look for something to allow for some engagement with Bedford Minor just in a reduced side-line, in-behind capacity. I wish everyone the best.

Good luck to all in the fall tryout process.

Respectfully submitted,

David Greenfield

VP Competitive

Report from VP Recreation, Krista White

This hockey season was very successful. We created 25 recreation teams within Bedford and District Minor Hockey Association this season: 7 Atom; 6 Peewee; 4 Bantam; 7 Midget; and 1 Minor Junior team. I would like to thank our recreational coaches, team managers, and divisional coordinators for their dedication and tireless efforts on behalf of our players. This season our divisional coordinators were:

- Atom – Brian Furdas
- 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. Our recreational coordinators work tirelessly over the season to make sure all teams have equal practice times and try their best to ensure teams are balanced. I would also like to acknowledge Matt Oxford, our MMHL representative and Bedford Minor Coordinator, who makes sure teams know about scheduling changes, ensures that our teams report their scores in a timely fashion and who is always available to help team managers with any questions throughout the season.

Similar to recent seasons, we completed a formalized process for balancing the Bedford teams in each division. We held one on-ice session (for each division) in September, where multiple evaluators (coaches/volunteers) rated the players on their skating, puck handling and overall hockey ability.

League Performance

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

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

The results were outstanding:

Atom

Gold Division	Silver Division	Bronze Division
Bombers - 1st	Spitfires - 2nd	Bolts - 1st
Panthers - 2nd		

Peewee

Gold Division	Silver Division	Bronze Division
Mooseheads - 1st	Oilers - 1st	
	Flames - 2nd	

Bantam

Gold Division	Silver Division	Bronze Division
Canadiens - 1st	Coyotes - 2nd	

Midget

Gold Division	Silver Division	Bronze Division
	Wings - 2nd	Oilers - 1st

The teams who placed first in the gold division of the MMHL championships proceeded to play in the first annual Metro C Championship which saw the MMHL champion and the DWRHL champion play each other. This championship game was a partnership with SEDMHA. Three Bedford Minor teams participated, we had representatives in Atom – Bombers, Peewee - Mooseheads, and Bantam – Canadiens. All three teams were successful in their games and are Metro C Champions congratulations to all teams for a great season!

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

We hosted the annual Noah Llewellyn Memorial Tournament from December 28-30th 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 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 and looking forward to another successful hockey season in 2018/2019.

Respectfully submitted,

Krista White

VP Recreation

Report from VP Development, Eric Villeneuve

With the 2017-2018 hockey season behind us I am pleased to offer a report on Development within BDMHA. We continue to strive to be at the leading edge of hockey development and look to identify those areas that are on the right course as well as to identify other areas that we feel can be improved upon. 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 potential 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 Pee wee 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.

This past season marked the first time that any one age group has gone through the full 4 years of Core Skills so it has allowed us the chance to evaluate the impact this development program has had on team success. Our 2005 birth year players are the first to complete 4 years in the CS program so let's take a quick look at the competitive team results. I've compared the competitive team results from 2 years ago to this past season (same cohort of players):

Atom 2015-16:

Percentage of total available regular season points earned: 73%

Percentage of total available playoff points earned: 73%

Regular season champions: 1 (Atom B)

Playoff champions: 1 (Atom B)

Pee wee 2017-18:

Percentage of total available regular season points earned: 76%

Percentage of total playoff points earned: 82%

Regular season champions: 3 (Pee wee AAA, A, B)

Playoff champions: 3 (Pee wee AAA, A, B)

We are very happy with these results and it is great to see the hard work put in by players, coaches and staff paying off with more success on the ice. Winning is obviously not the only indicator of success, however it truly is great to see how hard the players work on the ice and to see their efforts rewarded.

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.

Two other areas of increased focus this year were goalie training and coach development and we will continue to place an emphasis on those areas next season. We began every other week goalie specific training for Atom and Pee wee competitive and this was very well received. We hope to increase this to a weekly program next season. We also had a weekly Novice goalie session and it, too, was a success. That group had a Novice power skating session running at the same time and it was also a very healthy program and we will look to continue that next year.

We are in the process of formalizing a contract with FinnGoalie so that our young goalies can continue to benefit from the top level training and mentorship. We have also invested money into Novice level goalie gear in order that more athletes can try that position without having to worry about the financial burden. Our expectation is that with more goaltender training options at no cost as well as the use of free equipment we will be able to address the shortage we face at that position.

For coach development we held a seminar in early February leading into the playoffs and we are planning to hold 3 coaching seminars throughout the 2018-19 season where we plan to have guest speakers on a variety of topics related to the game, preparation, training techniques, etc..

This summer we will be adding a new offering to our Development program – Power Edge Pro (PEP) and Power Skating, with 2 separate week long sessions in August. This is a new, cutting edge program that involves motor skill development, reaction time and puck skills. We will also offer our pre-season conditioning camp (beginning late August) to prepare for the 2018-19 season. These are the only programs that we plan to offer this summer as we believe that hockey players should take a break from the sport and enjoy other sports or simply get away from the intense schedule during the regular season. There is a plethora of evidence supporting the benefits of multi-sport and BDMHA is fully supportive of this. We feel that by getting away from hockey and participating in other activities and sports, kids will come back to the rink hungrier, refreshed and excited to start another great season.

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

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

Eric Villeneuve

VP Development

Report from Hockey Development Professional, Shawn MacKenzie

Fundamentals and IP

The Fundamental Program has been a very successful starting point for our association. The majority of participants are 4-year olds. Skating is obviously primary target for the early ages and we continue to partner with Bedford Skating Club and Skate Canada. Becky Whalen and her staff provide programs with curriculum from Can Skate. Our Fundamental format develops better skaters and a more hockey ready mindset for those entering IP.

IP 1 and 2 are busy programs for our association. Our coaches at this level do a great job of overall skill development with a large fun factor. Not always easy given the high numbers and the age of participants but well-organized station format sessions with lots of hands on deck has helped our program prosper.

Novice

This year saw HNS conduct Novice in three phases: Phase 1 was practice only; Phase 2 was practice and cross ice games; And Phase 3 was practice and full ice games. This coming season (2018-19) Novice will not be playing full ice games as it will be cross ice only at all levels. There are certainly many benefits of the cross-ice formats but it also creates challenges. Graduating Novice players will no longer be exposed to standard positions and the knowledge of things such as offsides and faceoff alignments. In consideration of this we will look to adjust our spring assessments for those coming out of Novice.

Novice Female

This level makes me smile. I feel the fun from the kids. Positive leaders and all in attitude here display the purity of what sport should be.

Atom

Bedford Minor Hockey had a strong year at Atom in both rep and recreation. There were several tournament championships, regular season, and post-season successes. Good depth and the Core Skill program should help this group achieve continued growth and rewards in seasons to come.

PeeWee

PeeWee was our most successful level. Provincial championships at AAA, A, and B levels, also championships at metro minor. Our 2005 born players represent the first graduating class that had a full four years of the Core Skills Program.

Bantam

AA and A both had strong seasons and recreation was healthy as well. At Bantam B we again fielded 2 teams despite a talent pool that wasn't as deep as in previous years. Both of these groups had challenges in the early going and the standings reflected same. The teams could compete for long portions of games but more often than not a stronger, deeper opponent prevailed. A few injuries to some key players set the table for what would traditionally be a season heavy on negativity and separation. This was never the case here. I feel we witnessed some great leadership from coaches' management and parents in this group. Buy-in remained strong, practices were positive and productive, and unity flourished. These groups were at their best late season and both won divisions at SEDMHA. A great reward for a season of persistence and growth against circumstances that are easy to succumb to.

Midget

This past season we saw HNS create a new division of midget hockey. This league was for 15 year old first year Midgets and late birthday 16 year old players in their second year. Rosters consist of players that are on an upward climb but need to play in a quality growth environment in order to compete for spots at Major Midget or high school the next season. The Bedford based team is named Basin Armada and it consists of players from both BDMHA and the Halifax Association. The players on this team had a very good experience and the program certainly provided a better opportunity for development than previous midget programs did. There was some negative trickle down associated with this league as the player drain made us less competitive at the AA and A levels where we traditionally have quite strong programs. It is felt by many that organizations that feed into Minor Midget need a timely categorization period for the remaining groups in order to place remaining players in the best competitive setting.

At Midget Recreation we had 7 teams and were again quite strong. Combine these numbers with two competitive teams, as well as the Minor Midget team, shows us that our programs remain attractive to an age where drop-out is a national concern. The leadership of BDMHA cannot take this state of health for granted and must strive to make Midget the best it can be as this is an age that we want to see continue to play.

Development Programs

IP & Novice Development Power Skates

The IP power skates run by Marie Bowness and the Barons Major Bantam staff and players received good feedback but a challenging 4pm ice slot limited us being able to maximize capacity. These skates are something we hope to continue to offer and we will certainly look for the most attractive slot for to help reach our enrolment targets.

Novice Core Skill Program

This past season we offered 1.5-hour sessions for Novice Advancing and Intermediate. These sessions mirrored what we do at the Atom and PeeWee levels in our core skills program. Participants did 45 minutes of power skating followed by 45 minutes dedicated to puck skills and battle type drills. We had healthy numbers for these sessions and received much positive feedback. Likely the biggest gain was

with the goaltending as goalies joined this program weekly with Finngoalie providing instruction. I feel this was an impact program and one we should look to keep, and if possible, expand on.

Jump into Hockey

I think I speak for all the staff when I say that Jump Into Hockey is a favorite program. The self-discovery of kids that may have thought they were being left behind in our game. The excitement and enthusiasm as well as the cooperation of different genders, ages, nationalities and challenges is rewarding. These kids get better with every session and can't help but make a hockey heart happy.

Goaltending

At one of the recent HNS meetings it was discussed how there is concern that goaltender numbers are on decline and that associations need to look at ways that they can make the position more attractive. Implementing parent education of the position, providing quality equipment, and rotating players through the position at the younger levels were discussed. The topic of low cost goalie specific training programs was also tabled. In response to this challenge, BDMHA put in place the above mentioned weekly Novice sessions run by Finngoalie. For Atom and PeeWee recreation, we made core skill sessions available each week for goalies to participate in even if it wasn't their teams assigned date. In these Core Skill sessions, goalie instruction was provided by Finngoalie.

For our Atom and PeeWee Rep teams a bi-weekly Sunday afternoon 1.5-hour goalie session was conducted by Finngoalie. These sessions were funded by each participating team through the fund-raised dollars they had designated to goalie specific training.

By doing these programs we were able to offer our goalies at Novice, Atom and PeeWee weekly or bi-weekly goalie specific training at no additional costs to participating families. We also continue to provide a goaltending coach as part of our regular core skill program.

New goalie equipment was purchased for the Novice and IP levels.

Fall Conditioning Camp

Once again, we offered a pre-season 3-week conditioning camp. Traditionally we sell this program out and it is a quality offering intended to get participants back in hockey mode and prepared for tryouts.

Spring 3 on 3

Again, very successful lower cost spring offering from IP to Bantam. Much thanks to IP Coordinator Denise Crowell for her contributions.

Future Programs

BDMHA is currently open for registration for PEP and Power Skate Camps. These camps run mid-August, prior to Conditioning Camp and will be available from Novice to Bantam.

If we can find suitable ice slots, we will also look to provide a program targeting position specific for defensemen next season.

Our association continues to be recognized by HNS as a leader in minor hockey. This is a tremendous honor that could not have happened without the selfless contributions of our coaches and team leaders. As a “Model Organization”, we must continue to lead by example and strive to provide the best hockey experience possible for our membership. Thanks to all that have put us in this position.

Sincerely,

Shawn MacKenzie

Hockey Development Professional