

2015 16 Directors Report -

Hockey 1 and Intro to Hockey

The initiation programs for **Hockey 1** and our **Intro to Hockey** programs continued to grow and were a huge success in the 2015/16 season.

Like previous years, 40 bright 4 and 5 year olds arrived the second week of September to begin their journey in **Hockey 1**. Some nervous and some ready to go full force. By Christmas the non skaters were full participants in the **Trail Appliances H1-4 Tournament** and by season's end our **Hockey 1's** were showing their stuff on championship weekend and earned their banners with pride.

The **Intro to Hockey** program also trained 40 "new to hockey" youths between the ages of 6 and 16. RMHA is proud to be one of the only associations to offer this type of program which encourages players who started hockey later to be able to learn in a fun, safe environment. Over the summer our Board of Directors will be looking at more ways to grow this program and incorporate game play for these eager new players in future seasons.

Both programs continued to register players until January and never closed registration. Another beneficial aspect unique to RMHA.

The First Shift

In 2015, Richmond Minor Hockey Association (RMHA) applied for, and was granted the **First Shift** program. A joint venture through Bauer and Hockey Canada. In the process we signed up 45 kids who have never played minor hockey before. The players were professionally fitted with hockey gear from head to toe by Bauer, and RMHA provided professional coaching and six practice sessions. RMHA received exceptional feedback on this program and its rollout.

After the initial six practice sessions, RMHA held a 'second shift' development program. 33 players re-enrolled with RMHA. In March of 2016, RMHA also applied for and was granted an additional two **First Shift** programs. These sessions began in April of 2016. Of the 90 players enrolled, 60 are Richmond based players who we hope will continue their hockey development with RMHA. RMHA will continue to apply for the *First Shift* program in 2016/2017.

Hockey 2/3/4

The 2015/2016 season has come and gone and it has been very rewarding and enjoyable. Taking on the position as H234 Division Director and being a first year board Member, I was excited and proud of all the accomplishments by the teams this past season. We had two **Hockey 2** teams, two **Hockey 3** teams, and two **Hockey 4** teams. Development at each level from **Hockey 2** to **Hockey 4** was very successful. The number of teams will dramatically increase because of the success of Hockey Canada and Bauer's **First Shift** program, as well as Richmond Minor Hockey Association's **Intro** and **Hockey 1** programs.

Cross-ice 3 on 3 format for League games was introduced to the H2 players to maximize skill development. Guidelines were provided by Pacific Coast Amateur Hockey Association (PCAHA). This is a developmental tool used by many of the leading hockey nations in the world. It has been demonstrated to increase puck possession time for each player, resulting in quicker development of individual technical skills, increased ice time, increasing the tempo of the game for all players, increased player creativity and improved "hockey sense", or understanding of the principles of the game.

The goal is to improve player development while ensuring an exciting and fun environment for the players. We did see remarkable improvements in the players that participated in the 3 on 3 games. This game format will continue in the 2016/2017 season at the **Hockey 3** level up until Christmas. This should help expedite the improvement of the skills for H3 players. The second half of the H3 season will be back to the 5 on 5 game format. Each of the teams from H2 to H4 experienced many successes including exhibition/league games and participating again in the jointly coordinated **Trail Appliances Richmond Ice Centre** and other tournaments. Hockey 3 & 4 coaches highlighted a fulfilling year with excellent successes at the **Trail Appliances Richmond Ice Centre**, Cloverdale, Mission tournaments. RMHA is fortunate to have a great set of coaches who were committed to their team's success and development this year.

Atom C Division

Atom C1 finished the PCAHA League playoffs in first place in Green Group and went on to win the Green Group Playoff Championship.

Atom C2 had a very successful season, finishing first in league play, Gold Group and winning the Gold Group Playoff Championship. They played in a tournament in Seattle, finishing with a bronze medal. The team also won Silver in the **RMHA Hilton Vancouver Airport Atom/Peewee 'C' Spring Classic Tournament**.

PeeWee C Division

Peewee C1 and Head Coach Nick Steadman had a slow start but soon got off to a great second half of the season. The team won 2nd place in the **RMHA Hilton Vancouver Airport Atom/Peewee 'C' Spring Classic Tournament** and won the Gold Group Playoff Championship as well as the PCAHA President League Team Achievement¹ (Sportsmanship) Banner.

Peewee C2 and Head Coach Sean Harrington played in 3 tournaments; in Lillooet they won Gold, in Portland they lost in the semis, they also lost in the semis in Richmond. The team placed 3rd in the Gold Group Division.

Peewee C3 entered 2 tournaments. In Cloverdale they were short many players but had a good time and in the **RMHA Hilton Vancouver Airport Atom/Peewee 'C' Spring Classic Tournament** they won Gold. The team won the President's league Green Group Playoff Championship.

Bantam Division

We had a very strong Bantam group this year, with both teams finishing the season in the top tier of the President's League. Our C1 team won the Gold Group Playoff Championship. We will have 17 2nd year Bantam players moving up into Midget next season. We made some changes to the evaluation process this season, but this was extremely simple due to there only being two teams. We engaged in a blind draw, where each coach drew an evaluation number/player in order of evaluation scores, to ensure that the teams had even strength based on those scores.

Midget Division

We made a few changes to the Midget Balancing and evaluation process this season. We removed the skills evaluations for this group, and just played three evaluation scrimmage games instead. This allowed us to speed up the process and begin balancing earlier. Midget is typically our largest age group; we often have four or five teams, mostly due to the fact that Midget is a three year division rather than the usual two. This year, however, we did not have the expected number of coaches, so despite having enough for four smaller teams, we opted to have three larger teams. Our teams had 18/18/19 skaters each; two teams had two goalies and one team had one. Despite the fact that this did work out for all three teams, it was not an ideal situation, and one I have already taken steps to avoid going into next season. I have talked to all potential coaches for this Division, and have had four confirm that they will take teams if the numbers require it. We are losing two Assistant coaches this season, former President Arthur Wong, and Sean Williams. Their sons have graduated Midget, although we do hope that they will return for Juvy. We will have 22 players graduating Midget this year, although we hope many of them return for Juvy as well.

Midget C2 finished PCAHA league play in first place, Green Group. Midget C1 finished league play in second place in Gold group and went on to with the Green Group Playoff Championship.

Juvenile Division

We are very proud to have iced a Juvenile C team this season. The team finished league play in third place and was awarded a PCAHA Team Achievement Award¹.

Rep

For the 2015/16 season we started with 10 rep teams (Atom A1/A2, Peewee A1/A2, Bantam A1/A2, Midget A1/A2, and Juvenile A1/A2). Unfortunately, half way through the season we had to collapse the Juvenile A2 and had the remaining players join the Juvenile A1 team.

Atom- A1 finished 4th in Final Four and A2 finished 3rd in President Series. The A2 team went to the second round in playoffs and played all three games which is a great accomplishment for the team.

Peewee- A1 finished 2nd in President Series and A2 tied for 2nd in President Series.

Bantam- A1 tied for 3rd in President Series and A2 finished 2nd in President Series. A2 finished the season very well making marked improvements towards the end of the season.

Midget -A1 won the banner in President Series and A2 finished 2nd in President Series.

Juvenile- A1 finished 3rd in Final Four.

¹ The PCAHA Team Achievement Awards are awarded annually to recognize the team(s) in each division and category, Atom and above, adjudged to have best demonstrated the attributes of sportsmanlike behaviour, fair play both on and off the ice, and cooperation with league officials. Recipients shall be chosen by the Executive Committee based upon the recommendations of the respective Managing Directors.

We saw great improvements in our players' development over the course of the season this is a result of the commitment our coaches made to their teams and the outstanding development the association provides to our players. We have already announced our A1 coaches for the upcoming 2016/17 season with all but two coaches returning to RMHA.

Sponsorship

For the 2015 2016 season sponsorship had a very successful year. Sponsorship dollars brought in \$16,600.75 for Association revenues plus several "in kind" contributions (including Pizza for Canada Day). In addition to this, we have renewed our agreement with the Richmond Hospitality Group (Sheraton, Hilton and Marriott Vancouver Airport) for a further three years. This is an excellent arrangement for our association.

The primary driver behind the sponsorship increase was the 50th anniversary Promotion with a trip to Las Vegas for all sponsors who contributed more than \$500. As we move forward it is more and more prevalent that sponsors will need to be attracted through this type of enticement using alternative sponsorship models.

Looking ahead there are opportunities we need to explore. We need to be more proactive to engage RMHA families who own and operate businesses or are actively involved in a corporate enterprise. Leveraging these relationships so they benefit both RMHA and the sponsoring RMHA family whether it be a mutual discount or simply better recognition of their support and sponsorship.

For example if a RMHA member owns and operates a business then we need to look to promote their business in exchange for sponsorship dollars. Whether it be whether it be a discount for RMHA families. Or a simple I am a RMHA supporter sticker/poster in their place of business. We also need to look to how we can recognize the sponsors and supporters further.

In summary I want to thank each of our sponsors and supporters throughout the season. Your contributions go a long way to ensure our kids have the best hockey development experience possible.

Risk Management

The Risk Management department continued to see improvements in its processes, and practices. In 2015, we implemented an online system to enable all volunteers and coaches to apply for their criminal record checks. This has made it that much easier for RMHA to approve volunteers to work with the players. We also saw the implementation of the E-Pact system. The E-Pact system allows all parents to input contact information and health and safety data online which eliminates the need for paper forms. Team safety officials now have the information available should the need arise. The Risk Management department continues to work closely with all team safety officials to ensure the health and safety of all RMHA players and volunteers.

Tournaments

The 2015/16 season for tournaments was one of the highlights for RMHA. We hosted total of 163 teams between the three tournaments. Our numbers tells us that we are now the single biggest source of money apart from registration. We would like to thank each and every one of the members for this incredible turn around because without the volunteers this would not be possible.

December 19-22 2015 saw **Vancouver Airport Marriott Bantam Midget "C" Tournament** Co-chairs Patti Allen, Darren Kucheran and the tournament committees host 40 teams from all over BC at RIC. This was an increase from last year's total number of teams. The tournament was well received by the teams and went as planned under the guidance of the tournament committee.

The 35th annual edition of the **Richmond International Bantam Midget Hockey Tournament proudly sponsored by the Sheraton, Marriott and Hilton Vancouver Airport Hotels** was held Dec 26th TO 31ST. The tournament was run by longtime volunteers under the leadership of Rick Alder, Wendy Steadman, Maxine Schulmeister and the rest of the tournament committee. The Tournament hosted 60 teams in total. The caliber of play was excellent with teams representing both Minor Hockey Association and Academy Clubs and Elite Programs throughout BC, Alaska, Washington, Oregon, California and as far away as Idaho. The tournament introduced a new website and live-streaming of 30 of our 160 plus games. Great volunteer effort was contributed by parent groups of RMHA Midget / Bantam A1 and A2 as well the RMHA alumni group.

March 12-16 2016 we hosted the annual **Sheraton Vancouver Airport Atom/Pee wee 'A' Spring Classic Tournament**. The tournament was led by chair Tracey Lore who managed to from an amazing tournament committee to lead this group. This Tournament outdid itself by hosting 63 teams throughout BC, Washington and Oregon. The tournament introduced a referee's supervisor to help out all the young RMHA officials. This was well received by the teams playing in the tournament and we felt the up and coming referees were well supported on the ice. The highlight of the tournament for us was that Richmond Minor was represented in 5 out 7 divisions, the other 2 we did not have teams at that level. In the 5 division RMHA represented, a Richmond team was in the final. This is an amazing fact when you have 63 teams in the tournament which tells us that our program is working.