

**2015-2016**

# **ANNUAL REPORT**



**Bedford & District Minor  
Hockey Association**

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## President's Message

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Hopefully now most of you are getting outside the rink and enjoying the nice spring weather. The 2015-16 season is now behind us and I am proud to say Bedford Minor continues to evolve and strive to improve with each passing year.

This season had many accomplishments. Our biggest initiative this season was our Jump into Hockey program. The Fall session of this program was sold out. It was very successful and most kids in the program wanted to continue on for the winter session. Due to the demand and in conjunction with HNS we were able to offer two winter sessions. The goal will be to develop and evolve the program in the years to come. Other developmental on ice initiatives that we have had continued success with are our Core Skills for Atom and PW, Fundamentals (4 year-old program) and extra user pay developmental programs at the Novice and Bantam levels.

Off the ice we were approached by a Dalhousie researcher studying the reasons as to why kids quit sport. Some of our bantam aged members participated in the study. We are looking forward to hearing the results to try to learn and possibly adapt our programming to keep our kids playing the game.

Another highlight of the season was a visit from Megan Cassidy. Megan is a 17 year-old HRM resident who is the founder of Purple Day. Purple Day (March 26th) was founded in an effort to promote epilepsy awareness worldwide. She came to talk to our board about how she would like to see hockey teams help her with her cause. We did have a couple of teams show their support by wearing purple laces and using purple stick tape. Next season the goal will be to have more teams participate in this initiative.

Bedford Minor had a very successful playoff season. In the recreation MMHL league we captured every Championship at the Gold conference from Atom to Minor Junior. Bedford also won the Green conference gold medal at the Atom level. We Captured 3 CMHF titles (Atom B White, Bantam B White, Peewee AAA) and brought home 3 Provincial Titles (Atom B White, Bantam B White, and Bantam AA, with Midget AA placing second).

I would like to finish by saying thank you to all the volunteers at the team and executive level who have logged countless hours to make this season successful. With over 1100 kids in our association and over 50 teams is a big job to keep it all running as smoothly as possible.

I would also like to thank Matt Oxford for keeping us organized and Shawn MacKenzie for his hockey expertise and commitment to development of the players. Thank you as well to the executive team. They worked very hard and I can truly say we worked as a team to make the season as successful as possible. My role was made easier because of the great team I had to work with.

I hope everyone has a good summer and we will see you back in the rink in September.

### ***Abigail Cook, President***

Bedford and District Minor Hockey Association  
May 2015-May 2016

As some of you might know I am stepping down as President this season. I started my involvement in BDMHA as a novice manager, I then moved into coaching at the IP and Novice levels. I stood on the Executive for 2 years as Coaching Certification coordinator, 2 years of VP Novice and 1 year as President. I have had the opportunity to meet many people and enjoyed the rewards and challenges of the role. This past year I had an amazing team under me who worked very hard to set up the season and help solve and guide us through the challenges the season brought. I would like to thank David Greenfield, Chris Davison, Simon Wilkin, and John Weatherbie. They were great leaders in each of their respective programs

## Report from VP Operations, Jeff Smith

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### Coach Selection – 2016/2017

At the end of last season, one of the goals for the 2015-2016 season was to focus on the coach selection process, especially where our competitive teams are concerned. The objective was to use an enhanced application process to streamline coach selection and to thereby more effectively choose the best coaches for the positions available. The goal for coach selection in 2016-2017 is to continue to improve the process to ensure we have the best possible fit for our teams. This year we offered incentives to our membership to complete coach/manager evaluations. The response has been significantly better than in past years and it is our hope that this data will be a valuable asset in future coach selection.

### Coach Certification

Over the past few seasons, the Criminal Record Check, (CRC) and the Child Abuse Registry (CAR) certification have been the predominant bottlenecks. To facilitate and improve the CRC requirement, BDMHA has implemented the online 'MyBackcheck' process. Managed by the Coach Certification Coordinator, Theda McKenna, MyBackcheck has improved BDMHA's efficiency in obtaining this requirement. The CAR on the other hand, remains a bottleneck with no way to improve the process from our perspective. As we move into the summer season, I encourage prospective coaches to take a minute to initiate these processes in advance of next season. It will be one less thing to worry about as the season starts and will certainly reduce the bottlenecks and workload on our certification coordinator and managers.

### Final League Performance 2015/2016

I would like to take the opportunity to thank all of our coach/manager volunteers for the job they do. While our overall performance as an association was strong this season, hockey is much more than a game. It cultivates friendships, work ethic, commitment, comradery, teamwork, responsibility and leadership to name but a few. While these traits are inherent in the game, they are reflected in and by our coaches and managers and for that, on behalf of the players and executive of Bedford Minor Hockey, I thank you.

Below is a brief recap of how our teams finished in their respective league championships. As you can see, our teams were very successful at both the local and provincial levels. Congratulations to all our champions!

## Metro Minor Hockey League (MMHL)

| Division     | Gold Division                                 | Green Division       |
|--------------|---|----------------------|
| Atom         | Bedford Bombers – 1st                         | Bedford Vipers – 1st |
| Pewee        | Bedford Bolts – 1st                           |                      |
| Bantam       | Bedford Leafs – 1st<br>Bedford Bulldogs – 2nd |                      |
| Midget       | Bedford Leafs – 1st<br>Bedford Wings – 2nd    |                      |
| Minor Junior | Bedford Blues – 1st                           |                      |

## Central Minor Hockey Federation (CMHF)

| Atom          | Team(s)           | CMHF Playoff Recap                      | HNS Provincials      |
|---------------|-------------------|---|----------------------|
|               | AA (Blue & White) |   |                      |
|               | A                 |   |                      |
|               | B (Blue & White)  | Atom B White – 1st<br>Atom B Blue – 2nd | Atom B White – 1st   |
| <b>Pewee</b>  |                   |   |                      |
|               | AAA               | Pewee AAA – 1st                         | Semi-Finals          |
|               | AA                |   |                      |
|               | A                 |   |                      |
|               | B (Blue & White)  |   |                      |
| <b>Bantam</b> |                   |   |                      |
|               | AA                | Bantam AA – 2nd                         | Bantam AA – 1st      |
|               | A                 |   |                      |
|               | B (Blue & White)  | Bantam B White                          | Bantam B White – 1st |
| <b>Midget</b> |                   |   |                      |
|               | AA                | Midget AA - 2nd                         | Midget AA – 2nd      |
|               | A (Blue & White)  | Midget A Blue - 2nd                     |                      |

## BDMHA CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT

The Executive of Bedford and District Minor Hockey has proposed an amendment to Article X of the Constitution at this year's AGM. Article X deals with the scheduling of the AGM after the end of the hockey season. The proposal is to change the mandated date for the AGM from 'before the end of May' to 'before June 15'. The purpose of the change is to allow sufficient time to conclude year end financials and to finalize the next season's budget.

### *Executive Volunteers, Hockey Development Professional, and Administrator*

In closing, as we sign off on another great season, I would like to again thank the current and departing members of the executive for their service over the past year. We are very fortunate in Bedford Minor Hockey to have individuals with a multitude of talents and tireless energy all working towards a common goal and this season was no different. Our volunteers continue to lead our organization and continue to be leaders in the hockey community. New innovative programs, technological improvements, a relationship with Dalhousie University conducting research on youth in sport, improved focus on player, goalie and coach development make our association one of the most respected in Nova Scotia – something we should be extremely proud of. We encourage members to consider contributing their time and energy to ensure the continued success of our association.

Our Hockey Development Professional (HDP), Shawn MacKenzie, continues his diligent work providing development and growth opportunities for our players. The success of our players and teams reflect Shawn's ability to bring out the best in everyone he coaches. We sincerely thank Shawn for his tireless work and his commitment to Bedford Minor Hockey.

Finally, to our Administrator, ice coordinator, scheduler, registrar, hockey sock salesperson and overall jack of all trades, Matt Oxford, our sincere thanks. You make a tough job look easy and continue to add polish to our association. As I said in the semi-annual report, Matt has streamlined and nurtured our many processes and his work has helped BDMHA grow into one of the flagship organizations in Nova Scotia minor hockey. Your efforts are very much appreciated.

Wishing all our members a great summer! Hockey season is just around the corner!

Respectfully Submitted,

***Jeff Smith, VP Operations***

## Report from VP Initiation/Novice, Simon Wilkin

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### Initiation

Our Fundamentals program was very well received again this season. In partnership with the Bedford Skate Club we were able to offer our four (4) year old and first year beginning players, one (1) CanSkate session and one (1) coach lead session per week. The program filled up quickly and we will be looking to continue offering this program structure in the coming season. I would like to recognize and thank head coach Matt Williams for taking the lead, as well as the entire team staff and Bedford Skate Club for their commitment this season.

This season we also had two (2) IP1 groups and two (2) IP2 groups who were on the ice two (2) times per week. Our IP teams were able to participate in events such as the Moosehead intermission games, the Moosehead Jamboree as well as other jamborees around the Province. I would like to recognize and thank head coaches Devin Veinot (IP1), Wayne Matheson (IP1), Carla O'Brien Alderson (IP2) and Scott Pineo (IP2) for taking the lead on their respective teams, as well as the entire team staffs for their commitment this season.

The Bedford and District Minor Hockey Association (BDMHA) continued to provide goalie equipment this year to inspire future goaltenders. The intent of providing equipment is to rotate it through players who would like to try goaltending prior to making an investment in equipment. The BDMHA would like to continue to support the development of goaltenders starting at an early age.

In response to feedback received last year, medals were handed out to all Fundamental and IP players at the end of this season.

I would like to recognize and thank Joanne Lenihan for her time and dedication to the Fundamental and IP programs as Coordinator. Joanne was new to the role this year and we would not have seen the success that we had, without her outstanding commitment to the programs. We look forward to Joanne reoffering for the Coordinator position again next season.

### Novice

This season we had an increase in the number of novice-age hockey teams to twelve (12). We had over 200 players divided into four (4) Development teams, two (2) Female teams, three (3) Intermediate teams and three (3) Advancing teams. All coed teams were competitive in their participation in the HRM Novice Exhibition Series. I would like to recognize and thank head coaches Michael Singer (Advancing), John Walsh (Advancing), Eric Villeneuve (Advancing), Glen Breen (Intermediate), Jamie Copeland (Intermediate), Gary Vardy (Intermediate), Tim Garrick (Developmental), Pat McGrath (Developmental), Fraser Allan (Developmental), Kyle Schmeisser (Developmental), Jason Lawton (Female) and Ryan Chisholm (Female) for taking the lead on their respective teams, as well as the entire team staffs for their commitment this season.



This year the two (2) female teams, which comprised of female players solely from within the Bedford boundaries, were tiered for the first time with one (1) of the teams participating in the co-ed intermediate exhibition series and the other team participating in the female exhibition series. The BDMHA was well represented by these talented and competitive players.

The novice goalies received training with Jack Haritgan, of Finn Goalie, every Wednesday evening for specialized goalie sessions. This was of no cost to the player. We continue to make it a commitment to develop our goalies at the novice age level. We also have goaltending gear available for teams to borrow to help facilitate the young players interested in goaltending. I would like to recognize and thank Jack Hartigan and the BDMHA Executive making this arrangement possible. We plan to continue with the program next season.

Doug MacKinnon was new to the role of Novice Coordinator this year having been the Initiation Program Coordinator in the previous two (2) seasons. I would like to recognize and thank Doug for his time and dedication to the Novice program and the countless hours he contributes. The success of the Novice program is attributed in large part to his commitment to the program.

I will be remaining in the position of VP of IP and Novice next season and look forward to continuing to build on the success of this year. I cannot thank enough all of the parents and volunteers who make the Bedford and District Minor Hockey Association the exceptional association it is. I hope everyone has a great break and we look forward to seeing you again next season.

Warm regards,

***Simon Wilkin, VP IP/Novice***

## Report from VP Female, John Weatherbie

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This year Hockey Nova Scotia officially began the process of restructuring female hockey. To that end the province was divided into six regionalized female zones with an Executive Committee tasked with overseeing each zone and working with the host minor hockey associations. Our region, Metro West, consists of Bedford, Halifax, TASA, Sackville and Chebucto. This year I am acting as the Chair of the Halifax Zone Executive Committee.

Joint tryouts were held with oversight from Female Council and evaluation support from the Dalhousie Tigers female hockey team and impartial representatives from all associations. The Executive Committee worked together to run the tryout process. The number of female players evaluated was approximately 350. At the conclusion of tryouts and evaluations, the following teams were formed:

- Four Atom A teams
- Three Atom AA teams
- Three PeeWee A teams
- Two PeeWee AA teams
- Three Bantam A teams
- Three Bantam AA teams
- Two Midget A teams
- Two Midget AA teams

Bedford hosted the following teams:

- Atom AA
- PeeWee A
- PeeWee AA
- Bantam A
- Bantam AA

One important addition this year is the Atom AA level. At the request of our members we requested that Female Council add the level to Atom female this year and it was approved as a trial. Feedback will be solicited from Coaches and team participants after the season to determine if this should be recommended as a permanent addition.

This year we also offered Community Hockey for the first time. Community Hockey is for players who are new to the game. This was a trial program but we had a great group of young players that had good development. I do not expect that we will offer this program next year due to low registration and unpredictable turn out. Next year the direction will be for young female players to be join the co-ed Jump Into Hockey program.

The coach selection process this year was executed by the Executive Committee. We had a strong group of candidates that were interviewed and subsequently selected. The six Female Executive Committees are working together to have similar coach selection and tryout processes for the upcoming season.

Overall, the feedback has been positive on the regionalization initiative but there are always complaints and areas which can be improved. There are a few items which have caused the majority of complaints. They include:

- Players that previously made AA at their current level were assigned to A based on the tryout results. There is no grandfathering of level in the new model, each assignment was tryout performance based. There will be adjustments this year based on the feedback from last year,
- Different fee structures, inclusions, policies and guidelines between different MHA's. This will only be resolved by a consistent female program for all female players within the zone. This is not expected to happen in the upcoming year,
- The initial psychological stress of playing for a different brand than the player (or in some cases, the parent) is accustomed to. This will change over time with rebranding. The Bedford teams were permitted to purchase (through registration fees) Metro West branded Blues jerseys which the players were very proud of. This was the first step in developing our own brand,
- Too many AA teams. The number of AA teams is driven determined by the number of players trying out as per Hockey Nova Scotia rules; Metro West adhered to these rules. We are discussing changes to the tryout process for next year,
- Continued improvement of communication. A new Metro West web site is in the works that will provide a focal point for female communication.

Team and player wise, the key challenges this year are:

- Goalies in PeeWee and Midget. We were a goalie short in PeeWee and were helped out by a PeeWee recreation goalie as well as goalies from other associations and Atom. We must develop more goalies.
- Female coaches – in Bedford we have female coaches in Bantam A. We need to continue to find and develop strong female hockey minds to step behind the bench.
- Ice time – there is an extreme ice crunch this year which has made it difficult to get two practices in per week and will potentially impact development in future years.

We'd like to thank all coaches, managers and players who are participating in the female program this year. While this report primarily speaks to Bedford teams it is important to note that with regionalization many of our "Bedford" players play for other associations. We are proud of all the Metro West players but I would like to call out the TASA PeeWee AA team for their tremendous effort in provincials and competing for seven overtime periods, ten periods total in the championship game. It was an amazing display of effort and determination.

There have been a number of people who have put forward offers to volunteer next year, this is much appreciated and we encourage more volunteers to step forward.

Sincerely,

***John Weatherbie, VP Female***

## Report from VP Finance, Keith Foster

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The association budgeted an \$8,400 loss for fiscal 2015/16 as the association had built up a large accumulated surplus over the past number of years. The actual loss for 2015/16 was \$24,500 bringing the accumulated surplus down to \$125,400.

Revenues and expenditures were all higher than budget as the original 2015/16 budget did not include female teams as the expectation was that all female hockey in HRM would be brought together under one female association. This new association did not transpire and B&DMHA again hosted a number of female teams. Hosting these teams did not adversely affect the results as their registration fees were set by the VP Female and the VP Finance in the fall of 2015 to ensure they broke even for the year.

The \$16,100 increase in the actual loss versus the budget for the year is largely a result of the following items;

- Development camps net income was \$6,800 below budget. A number of the summer 2015 camps were not as well attended as budgeted. In addition, the fall/winter Bantam core skills sessions had low attendance.
- The association had budgeted an annual replacement cost for Jerseys of \$20,000. During 2015/16 a total of \$30,200 was spent on jersey replacements (a \$10,200 increase). The association replaced a large portion of the practice jerseys used for try-outs and recreation placements in the year in addition to replacing the regular Blues jerseys.
- Receivables that had been recorded at the end of the 2014/15 year for ice billed to other associations for female ice used by those associations were reversed in the current year totaling approximately \$10,000. B&DMHA had not received ice bills from the other associations for ice used by its female teams when the 2014/15 statements were finalized.
- These amounts were partially offset by an increase in miscellaneous income of \$10,000 largely from clearing out competitive team bank accounts.

Regards,

***Keith Foster, VP Finance***

## Report from VP Competitive, David Greenfield

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The 2015/16 Season is now complete and the competitive teams met our expectations. We iced 17 competitive teams and statistically speaking we would like our divisions to run minimally at 50% 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,

1. Atom teams were extremely competitive having earned over 73% of possible points
2. PeeWee just over 49%
3. Bantam at 56%
4. Midget at 68% - Of special note, Bedford was the only association with two Midget A teams this year.

Overall the Bedford Minor competitive teams earned over 61% potential points based on Central Minor regular games played, not tournaments or exhibition games.

Bedford captured 3 Central Minor Championship Titles: Atom B White, PeeWee AAA, and Bantam B White. While success was also had during the Provincial Championships with Bedford winning 3 titles from the Atom B White, Bantam B White, and Bantam AA teams compared to only 1 provincial title last year.

We all know it is not the scoreboard to ultimately determine success in Minor Hockey, but it is an indicator we can use to determine if we are struggling competitively in any of our divisions, a factor in competitive hockey. As in any year, we do have a few teams requiring attention for various reasons and we have been working with these teams to ensure they have the best possible outcome and resources available to have a successful year.

The year ends with our ID Camp / Spring Tryouts for Atom and PeeWee to realize a goal to make the Competitive tryout process a little more efficient and to cut-back on the stress and volunteer time commitment of the fall tryout process. My intention is to look for a way to introduce a similar process for the Bantam division, being mindful of the timing and overlap with the Major Bantam Spring ID Camp.

With an association this size we will have issues and this year was no exception. The biggest concerns came from decisions that deviated from last year where we iced different combinations of teams. Most notably:

- 1) Two PeeWee B teams compared to three PeeWee B's last year
- 2) Two Bantam B's teams compared to two Bantam A's and one Bantam B last year
- 3) No Midget B team compared to one 1 Midget B last year.

Discussions were held with our HDP and input from our Executive team as it was noted last year the team combinations we had in place did struggle to compete within an expected level of our program. The exception was Midget who did perform extremely well as a division. In order to "right size" this did create a ripple effect and brought forward a situation that has never occurred in Bedford where a high number of players either remained at the same level or were placed at a lower level than they played last year. This ultimately led to disappointment for players and families but allowed the overall competitive program to be aligned with our capabilities. In Midget, we didn't have enough players registered / interested to ice four teams therefore we went with three teams: one AA and two A's. After tryouts completed, we ran a couple of Midget B exhibition games and decided the team was capable of playing as a Midget A team, therefore we requested HNS and Central Minor to have our team changed from a Midget B team to a Midget A team and we thank the Central Minor Executive to allow for this change as they had to reschedule all Midget B and Midget A games at our request. This turned out to be a good decision as both of our Midget A teams did compete.

Bedford Minor Hockey continues to have a large pool of players that are interested in trying out for competitive teams each year and it is continually growing. We saw once again record number of players trying out. Atom had the largest growth of players wanting to play on a competitive team. Pee-Wee and Bantam had slight increases over last year while Midget did **decrease** this season and is mostly an effect of the 2000 birth year being a smaller pool of registered players compared to other years. We expect Midget competitive level numbers to increase again next year with the introduction of the 2001 birth year into the Midget program and from early indications we have a large number of players interested in playing non-contact therefore we will look to ice at least one Midget B team next year even though we didn't have one this year. The increases in Midget numbers are welcomed and show that Bedford Minor is providing a fun environment for players to continue to enjoy the game.

The challenge faced with the increasing numbers 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. We continue to believe Bedford has the depth to offer two teams at the “B” level, but are not ready to do the same at other levels i.e AA or A. This change has increased the competitiveness as noted above of both our Competitive and Recreational level teams. This in turn also creates increased competition amongst our own players vying for a spot on one of our Competitive level teams, which ultimately provides an individual drive for growth.

In closing, we added some much needed help with 3 new competitive coordinators this year. I would like to extend a big thank you and welcome to Eric Villeneuve – Atom, Trina Canavan – PeeWee, and Bill Hunt – Bantam. We are looking for Midget coordinator, if interested please send me an email.

I look forward to remaining as part of the executive team in 2016/2017.

Good luck to all in the fall tryout process.

***David Greenfield, VP Competitive***



## Report from VP Development, Chris Bewsher

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I would like to start by congratulating all of our teams as well as thanking our many volunteers, and their families for the support they've offered throughout the entire 2015/2016 minor hockey season. Our volunteers and our families are the fabric which make us such a great organization.

Our program is principally designed by our Hockey Development Professional, Shawn MacKenzie. In addition to his extensive knowledge and experience, Shawn is well connected within the hockey community. His closest connections are routinely leveraged on the ice to train Bedford Minor Hockey players. Shawn works with all levels and has personally trained the likes of Sydney Crosby, Brad Marchand, Nathan Mackinnon, and many other notable pros.

Matt Oxford is the association's administrator and provides the administrative planning, logistical support and overall management required to run our programs year after year. Since being hired over 3 years ago Matt has progressively captured lessons learned and helped our development programs evolve into what they are today.

My role as the Vice President of Development is to support both Matt and Shawn, contribute to the development of new programs and initiatives brought forward through the executive committee. As a not for profit the cost associated with Bedford's Hockey Development Programs are run as close to breakeven as possible. Any residual profits are reinvested back into the development of Bedford Minor Hockey Players and its programming. Our development programs help support initiatives like in season Core Skills Development, the hiring of skilled instructors, and/or the purchase of needed hockey training equipment.

Planned Summer Development Offerings:

- Summer Goalie Camp: August 22-26, 2016
- Pre-Season Conditioning Camp: August 22-September 9, 2016
- Defence Camp (Tentative...details hopefully announced soon)

Bedford Minor Hockey development programs can be accessed by visiting the [BDMHA Development Page](#) on our website.

Your feedback on development offerings and opportunities being offered within our association is important to us. If you have some thoughts you would like to share we would encourage you to do so by contacting myself or any one of our executive members listed on the executive page of our website.

We trust everyone will dedicate some time to hang up the skates this summer and enjoy the good weather which we hope will come. See you next season

Yours truly,

***Chris Bewsher, VP Development***

## Report from VP Recreation, Chris Davison

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Hello everyone,

2015-16 has been a very successful season for recreational hockey in Bedford and area. We created 23 recreation teams within Bedford and District Minor Hockey Association this season: 6 Atom; 5 Peewee; 6 Bantam; 5 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 – Krista White
- Peewee – Karen Bowes
- Bantam – James Mitchener
- Midget – Darrin Quigley

A special thanks goes to each of our coordinators who have been watching over our teams in of their respective divisions, and taking great care to make sure that things were running smoothly over the past few months. They have been a great help to me as they act as the first point contact for our rec membership. I would also like acknowledge Bill Hunt, our Metro Minor Hockey League (MMHL) representative, who makes sure teams know about scheduling changes and ensures that our teams report their scores in a timely fashion.

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. Balancing was very successful this season, as we saw all our rec teams cluster near the top of the MMHL regular season standings--a clear hallmark of balancing success was the competitiveness of all Bedford teams. This could very well be our most competitive season ever, with 20 out of 23 teams finishing in the top half of the standings, and thus competing for the top prize in each of their respective divisions.

Our rec teams have done very well in the MMHL playoff season. At this time, the league divides into a top and bottom half, with the top teams competing for the Gold championship and the bottom half, going for the Green championship on championship weekend, this Easter. Bill and Krista volunteered with me at the MMHL championship weekend—thanks to both for the support as we acted as fair play ambassadors making sure that teams played their entire bench during the semi-final and final games. Bill also executed duties as VP Bantam during the season.

- 5 of our 6 Atom teams competed for the Gold Division championship (out of 18 teams total)
- All 5 of Peewee teams competed for the Gold Division championship (out of 21 teams total)
- 5 of our 6 Bantam teams competed for the Gold Division championship (out of 16 teams total)
- 4 of our 5 Midget teams competed for the Gold Division championship (out of 19 teams total)
- Our Minor Junior team lead their 9 team division

We hosted the annual BDMHA Christmas Tournament from December 26th-28th at the BMO Centre. This year we renamed the Christmas tournament in honour of a dedicated Bedford Blue, Noah Llewellyn, who lost his brave fight against Ewing Sarcoma in late 2014, at the young age of 14. A dedication ceremony was hosted on the evening of Dec 26th, and a banner was raised to hang in BMO rink D in Noah's honour. We had a total of 36 teams involved in the tournament, which saw lots of great hockey, and most importantly, the players thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Congratulations to all Bedford teams who participated, and congrats to: Division semi-finalists--Atom Jets, PW Nordiques & Bantam Canucks; Silver medal winners--Atom Aces, Bantam Oilers & Midget Raiders; Gold medal winners--Bantam Leafs & Midget Leafs. Again, this was a very strong showing by Bedford teams, with 8 of the 12 Bedford teams participating, reaching the playoffs on Dec 28th. 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 my tournament committee co-chair, Meghan Milloy, for all her energy and help.

This year, MMHL Championship weekend was scheduled for Easter weekend, March 25-27, 2016 at the Sackville Arena, Lower Sackville. The weekend saw the Bedford Vipers play in the Green championship, and the Bedford Bombers and Aces play for the Gold championship, with the Bombers prevailing. In Peewee, the Bedford Wings and Bolts played in the Gold championships, with the Bolts winning the championship. In Bantam, Bedford Bulldogs and Leafs played in the Gold championships, with the two Bedford teams squaring off in the finals, with the Leafs coming out on top. In Midget, the Bedford Rebels played for the Green championship, and the Bedford Raiders, Wings and Leafs all played for the Gold championship. The Leafs prevailed over the Wings in the final game to win the Gold championship. At Minor Junior the Bedford Blues dominated the league for much of the season and continued this into the final weekend. Of course, hockey is more than just winning on the score board. All teams met with success on the

ice and off, as they had a season filled with fun and friendship. Great work everyone. You make me very proud.

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

Another great story this season was the introduction of the Jump Into Hockey program. This weekly skills course aimed at beginners aged 8-12, was an overwhelming success in its first 10 week fall session. Most participants have opted to continue into the second 10-week session starting January, and we added a Saturday ice time to handle the overflow as word of mouth grows. Parents and players alike are very enthusiastic about the program that is coached by Shawn MacKenzie that is designed to help prepare players for the recreational program. The success of this program is hoped to inspire others in other MHAs, and Hockey Nova Scotia is looking to us for leadership on this type of offering. These boys and girls are like little sponges, with a love of hockey that only grows with each session. We are looking at other options for expansion of the program next season. I personally will continue to support the progress of community hockey at BDMHA.

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 through 2015-2016. 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. Here's to another successful season.

All the best,

***Chris Davison, VP Recreation***

## Report from Association Administrator/Ice Coordinator, Matt Oxford

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The biggest issue we continue to face is vacant ice within the association. Over the past few seasons it has become apparent that vacant ice is inevitable. However, we are trying to decrease this number every season by adjusting our approach to ice management. The total number of vacant hours from the regular season was 107 hours. This number is slightly higher than 2014-15 but not by much. From October 1 to December 31 we had 51 hours vacant. January to March saw 56 hours vacant. Unused MMHL game ice during the first 2 weeks of the season attributed to the bulk of the first half vacancies whereas a couple snow days and the first Saturday of March Break attributed to the bulk of vacancies in the second half. This is roughly equivalent to 4% of our total ice allocation. A target for the 2016-17 season is to get this number down to 3%.

### Vacant Ice by Month

- October: 33.5 hours
- November: 5 hours
- December: 12.5 hours
- January: 19.5 hours
- February: 19 hours
- March: 17.5 hours

Our friends at BMO, Deb Nickel, Ice Scheduler and Bill Cruickshank, General Manager have been great to work with. I would to thank them for being so accommodating with our association. Specifically, with regard to the adjustment of practice ice times as and when conflicts arise.

I would like to thank the executive committee, and our coach/manager volunteers for all the time and dedication they have put in to making this association a pleasure to work for. I feel quite fortunate to be part of such a great association and the members that are part of it.

Looking forward to the off-season and what the 2016-17 will bring.

Kind regards,

***Matt Oxford, Administrator/Ice Coordinator***

## Report from Equipment Manager, Trent Nurse

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The association is currently entering the third year of a five-year jersey rotation. At the moment, all of the competitive teams have received the new style Kobe jerseys. The jersey plan for the 2016-17 season is as follows:

- 5 new Midget sets [blue/white]
- 4 new Bantam sets [blue/white]
- 1 new Peewee set [blue/white]
  - Note - budget allows 10 sets

There will be some one-off jerseys purchased due to damage with no fault of players (i.e. skate cuts and holes worn through).

There were a few instances where players received jerseys that were too small. Therefore, I plan to order two (2) extra jerseys for each level Midget, Bantam etc.

The “old jersey sell-off” was a huge success for our members. We may look to continue this on a yearly basis as new jersey sets are purchased.

Looking forward to helping out with the association and the 2016-17 season.

***Trent Nurse, Equipment Manager***