



## 2020 - 2021 West Hants Minor Hockey Association Annual Reports

### President

I left off on this note in 2020's AGM "With still a lot of unknown with what the upcoming hockey season will look like I'm confident that we have a great board and will make the best out of what we are given as the Rebound Plan. We will communicate via Email and Facebook as we learn of any changes to the current Rebound Plan"

What I would like to say is how proud I am of everyone that was involved in making this season one that could have easily not have been one. Players and Parents adapting and understanding, Rinks allowing our area to be one of the best to be a part of during this pandemic, specific call out to Shane and the staff at the Newport and District Arena - this group worked with us every week and did everything they could to maximize the season for our members, our safety reps keeping us safe, coaches and managers sacrificing, Hockey Nova Scotia providing he guidance, and our board for reacting and finding he solutions all for one common goal get as much out of a season as we could and I am so proud of what we were able to accomplish!

I think we were one of the few organizations that were able to grow during this pandemic, while the new facility was not able to be celebrated the way that we would have liked we were happy to break it in and look forward to what it can bring in the future.

We tried a couple new things this year, we modified our Development program, had an all girls event and had staggered payments broken out into 3 phases while this was a lot of extra efforts on the back end, it has provided us with experience for potential future use. We will go back to the full payment structure for this year.

We are open for ideas that our membership have for upcoming seasons and will be working closely with our volunteers to continue to look at new ways to not only grow our current program but make it better year after year.

After the 2 year pilot for 13AAA I wanted to thank East Hants for working with us and our partnership while not translating to wins in the win column was a great one and if each association was a little bigger in size I would have been very confident in the success as we worked very well together. I am pleased to announce that we will be returning to be part of the Valley Team for u13AAA this coming year and looking forward to building new relationships and sharing somethings that worked very well from our past partnership.

Our recreation program was back and stronger this year in numbers, thanks especially to Jamie for helping me run it and all the coaches and kids that came on the ice, this program doesn't happen without you and these kids think the world of the program.

As always I want to thank Leo Stacey for working with us through some very unique situations and always helping find a solution that would benefit the athletes.

Our board members did a great job below in explaining the details of the season and I was so thankful to have their support in a year that took much more attention behind the scenes than I ever though possible.

Wanted to Thank Melissa Richard for her dedication to taking us to the next level over her reign as Registrar and wish her the best of luck in her political Journey and look forward to welcoming and working with Kristen Bonang. Also wanted to Thanks Chris and Courtney for all of their work over the many years as coach and manager but specifically the last couple years as equipment manager, we welcome Rob Davies as the replacement for the upcoming season. With the departure of Steve Murphy early in the year we were happy that Gregg Riley rejoined us as head coach and congratulate him on his season as assistant coach for our Valley Wildcats Jr A team and wish him the best of luck as the new head coach of our U15 Major Team. Lastly we are happy to have Brendan Mosher join us as he works beside Dan Macleod this season as Referee in Chief and look forward to him focusing on Referee development this season.

Thank You,

Raymond Croft

President - West Hants Minor Hockey Association

## **Vice President**

Our 2020-21 Season was a unique year to say the least. Covid threw a lot of wrenches into our hockey plans. We survived a lot, the restrictions, wearing masks (barely), no parents allowed, only one parent per kid, hand sanitizer, in doors, out doors, social distancing, no more standing at rails, and no rink fires. But we learned to adapt. We wore the masks, we monitored Team Snap for updates, we live-streamed games. Our kids got to play hockey. I appreciate and respect all the behind-the-scenes work that goes into making a Minor Hockey program run smoothly. All our Hockey volunteers did an amazing job!!

As VP, part of my role is Dispute Resolution, and although I cannot go into any detail, I had a busy year with a wide range of issues. We had 11 suspensions throughout the season, ranging from two game up to six games. Things must have heated up towards the end of the season as I have 6 suspensions being carried over into the start of the upcoming season.

With any luck, our restrictions will be lifted for the 2021-22 Minor Hockey Season and things will go back to normal, or at least a new normal. Overall, I've enjoyed my third year as Vice President and look forward to next season.

James Hart

Vice president, WHMHA

## **Treasurer WHMHA**

Challon Dykens - provided resignation today (we will actively work on a replacement and provide details financials once available)

Treasurer WHMHA

## **Director of Hockey**

Good Day All,

Well another exciting year will be, behind us at the close of this year's AGM.

Before I get into how our competitive teams fared, I want to Thank all our West Hants Warrior volunteers and the Newport & District Rink staff and commission. Without these individuals stepping up and all of us putting in the extra time we did our hockey season would have been lost to covid. Because of all of the great arena staff and volunteers we managed to over come a pandemic and ensure our players had a season, a lot of other areas can not say the same well done everyone.

Our first order of business last year for our competitive teams seen us renew our partnership with East Hants for the season, at the U13 AAA level, which again seen the roster filled overwhelmingly with West Hants players. Well done Warriors!!

The next was to put together a condensed version for tryouts so we could pick our teams and get the season started on time. The Valley Maple Leafs stepped up and did our evaluations for us, Rob Hood and Brad Burgess provided us with strong on ice lead instructors for the process with volunteer coaches helping on the ice set the drills in place.

We are looking to use the same format again this year with a couple of small tweaks.

Based on our tryouts we were able to ice competitive teams at the following levels;

U8 – Advanced

U10-AA

U10-B

U13-A

U13-B

U15-A

U18-A

Our competitive Teams from U8 to U18, had tremendous seasons. Four of our competitive teams played in the championship games at the end of the season U10 AA silver, U10 B silver, U13 A Gold & U18 A silver.

Development over all was tremendous by all coaches at these levels, each level provided its own sets of challenges which each coach answered the bell and provided strong on ice and off ice leader ship to their teams. Well, Done Coaches

Our skills level was a huge group with Corey Millet taking the lead there and providing a great learning and fun atmosphere for all our smallest Warriors.

Female coaches grew in our organization as well this year, as we had Julia Fisher, join the U15A coaching staff as an associated coach, to Head coach Rob Davies.

Our young officials at the competitive level had another strong season of growth, looking forward to see these guys continue to grow with the game.

In closing, last year Covid definitely, provided us with a huge challenge but one as a group, as a team, as a family, we found away to rise over top of it, and battled like True Warriors.

Go Warriors Go !!

Jamie Leighton

Director of Hockey,

West Hants Minor Hockey

## Head Coach

As the ending of the 2020/2021 season has concluded I wanted to take the opportunity to thank all of the coaches, managers, and volunteers within each of the teams. This season will go down as arguably the most challenging season ever given that we were continuing into a worldwide pandemic. Managing the unknowns during the season and being reactive to the restrictions wasn't an easy task; but everyone did their best to ensure the kids got the opportunity to play as much hockey as possible during the year.

Hockey Nova Scotia is responsible for managing player, coach, and team staff registration as well as maintaining all of these records on our behalf. E-Hockey continues to be the tool that team staff use to ensure qualifications are up to date. It is imperative that team staff continue to stay on top of their qualifications and ensure they are compliant with the requirements to be a volunteer. Delaying this could impact your ability to participate with team activities as Hockey Nova Scotia are enforcing the 1 Dec deadline for certifications.

Coursing represents one area where West Hants Minor Hockey continues to invest in team staff. The coaching requirements vary by level and age and provide coaches the tools to have a successful season. Safety training has to be recertified every three years.

During the 2020/2021 season West Hants Coaches took the following Courses.

<b>Course Name</b>	<b># of Participants</b>
Development 1 Clinic	4
Intro coach	4
Intro coach (on line)	8
HU Safety	28

As you can see 44 Coaches and team staff took some form of training at a cost of \$2,364.88

Coaching applications for the 2021/2022 season will be available mid-August and coaches are reminded to watch the westhantswarriors.com website throughout the summer. We can't understate the significance of all of the coaches and team staff play and the integral role they play in providing our players a positive and memorable experience.

As this was my first year completing these duties a thank you to all the Executive Members for the support and especially to our registrar Melissa for the extra help working with the Hockey Canada Registry.

Gregg Riley  
Head Coach WHMHA

## VP Recreation

This year we had 6 teams compete in the AVMHL from novice to midget approximately 90 players participating. Just like every other league this year was one of the most difficult with shutdowns and travel restrictions due to covid 19 but we battled through and although we didn't have our Day of Champions as usual we used a modified play off format to crown divisional champions. All though I feel our teams were competitive we only managed a bronze medal in bantam. Congrats to Will Kerr's team. I would also like to thank all of our volunteers from coaches to managers and also our safety reps for keeping our players safe as well as our facilities. Hopefully next season return to normal or as close to normal as possible.

Jeff Davis

VP Recreation

## VP Female

Increased number of female registrants 36 from 2019/2020 to 43 2020-2021 influx was in the lower ages.

- Hosted first annual WHMHA female ice session lead by previous alumni members. This was a no fee opportunity for our association to bring all females together to meet all the girls, run some drills, empower and celebrate female in hockey. We had 25+ register with 4 coaching volunteers and lots of giveaways.
- Emphasis next year with the player code of conduct and our female players. Holding our association at a high standard for supporting our females and awareness to our players.

Natalie Ross

VP Female

## Ice Chair

This year the ice schedule accommodated 15 WHMHA teams. The division demographic was 1 IP Skills group, 3 Novice teams, 3 Atom teams, 3 Pee wee teams, 3 Bantam teams, and 2 Midget teams. This was equal to the number of teams from the 2019-20 season. In addition to team ice, the association dedicated ice slots to the player/goalie development programs and the Friday night recreation program.

For ice assignments each team received 1 practice ice per week and 1 game ice per week.

This season the player development program was pay to play format. There was a U9/11 group and a U13/15 group. Each group had 4 sessions of 1 hour duration (1 ice time per month). The goalie development program remained free of charge.

The association used 804.5 hours of ice throughout the 2020/21 season, excluding BOH. (Note- BOH did not run in 2020/21).

This consisted of 511 hours in Newport and 293.5 hours in Windsor with a typical regular season weekly breakdown of 23 hours per week in Newport and 16 hour per week in Windsor. The cost of ice in Newport for the 2020/21 season was \$200/hour (on par with 2019/20 rates), with for \$210 weekend game ice to help cover additional rink personnel for Covid protocols. The cost of ice in Windsor for the 2020/21 season was \$230/hour, down 2% from 2019/20 season rate of \$235/hour.

The 2020/21 overall ice cost was \$177,561 with a breakdown of;

- Regular team ice in Newport/Windsor, \$153,465.
- Tryout ice in Newport, 31.5 hours, \$6751.
- Goalie development in Windsor, 6 hours, \$1,380.
- Player development in Windsor, 8 hours, \$1,840. (recoverable- pay to play format).
- Team buy ice in Newport/Windsor, 55 hours, \$11,825. (recoverable- rebilled to teams).
- Friday night recreation program in Windsor, 10 hours, \$2000. (recoverable- via program registration fee).

The 2020/21 overall ice costs of \$177,561 represents a \$8,284 (4%) decrease over the 2019/20 season overall ice costs of \$185,845 (including tryout ice).

At time of writing there is indication that the ice rates in Newport will increase from \$200/hr to \$220 /hour for next season. There has been no indication of ice rates in Windsor for next season.

For this past few season the weekend game schedule for Bantam & Midgets games were scheduled back to back at the same arena so that games for this level were not occurring at both rinks simultaneously. These games require 4 officials and with current official numbers the Referee in Chief was struggling at times to line up officials in past years. This scheduling arrangement should continue be carried forward into future years.

In speaking with the rinks, the weekend game ices ended the day 10 minutes ahead of the daily end of schedule. Within the day there were also times that ice was ready but games did not start until their scheduled time. Looking forward into the 2021-2022 season consideration should be given to making the Weekend game slots 1:20 or 1:25 in duration with a 10 minute buffer at end of day.

Some other notable points from the 2020/21 season;

There were a few occasions during the season where Covid restrictions prevented teams from sharing the ice. Working with the rinks, middle school, and KES we were able secure enough extra ice to ensure all teams received a weekly practice ice during the restricted periods.

With the opening of the new West Hants Sports Complex there was a high interest and demand for ice at the new facility. As a result WHMHA was not given the same amount/same slots that we have had in previous years as the facility made a decision to give some of this ice to other community user groups.

WHMHA was able to secure additional ice in Newport to meet the demand of the association. This is reflected by the ice split between Newport/Windsor as detailed above. After discussions with the West Hants Sport Complex they agreed to move to an hourly flat rate, as opposed to practice ice and game ice rates, for WHMHA ice since block book several hours back to back. This allows easier budgeting from our side and easier tracking from both our side and the facility side.

During the past two seasons the ice schedule was adjusted for weekend games such that the floods were done every two (2) periods as opposed to after every first (1st) period. This resulted in a 1.5 hours of ice time savings each weekend. This has worked OK and has become the normal expectation.

Bantam C teams were given a 1.5 game ice slot. Costs for the extra ice and additional referee hours was reflected in the rep fees for Bantam C.

In order to ensure equity re-charge for buy ice, the rates for both rinks were averaged and that average of \$215/hour was recharged to teams for buy ice, regardless of rink their buy hour was at.

Teams were good at providing the ice chair with early notification if they could not use their regular scheduled ice. This allowed the ice chair time to re-assign the ice to an alternative user or cancel the ice slot without charge. There were only one or two occasions throughout the year where late notice resulted in ice sitting empty at the cost of the association.

During this past season both rinks were very accommodating if the association cancelled ice due to weather provided adequate notice was given and that it was done at an association level with all teams cancelling so rink personnel could be released early.

Although there were significant challenges due to Covid, all in all the season ran fairly smoothly from an ice scheduling perspective

Rob Hood

Ice Chair- WHMHA

### Referee In Chief

As with everything the past year was a very trying one with covid to deal with we had about 25 refs register in our association each year we lose at least 5 for various reasons ( move on to university or lose interest ) , I see this year being no different we did raise the rates the past year in hopes of encouraging guys to take that clinic and hopefully return.

However with covid and not a lot of games being played it is hard to say if it factored into things

WHMHA has been paying the basic minimum rates for years to the refs (Hockey NS has the minimum rates on their site)

Another thing we are looking into is mentoring the younger refs Brendan Mosher is coming on board and taking over as the new RIC and will be involved with the mentoring.

I will be still be doing the assigning for the upcoming year at which time after that Brendan will take over both roles

In past years when numbers were down I approached the schools in September to put word out about the clinic

This plus other forms of spreading the word ( web site , radio ) will be necessary to make the upcoming season be a better one

The coaches at Midget and Bantam level can perhaps take the time to mention to their teams of the need for more refs

I ask the refs to be at the rink 20 minutes minimum prior to game time and if someone is not their to contact me

Also in trying to and make things work better each ref is sent a reminder the night before for his assignment the next day

With this text he is told who he will be working with so if someone is not their they know who and are to contact me

As refs we owe it to the teams / rinks to be on time and ready to go

I have not heard but assuming this years clinic will be held as usual at Acadia about the 3rd week of September

In closing I must say I have enjoyed working with various people over my roughly 25 years plus

I made a lot of friends and expect I will not be a stranger around the rink

Yours on the Ice

RIC - WHMHA

Dan MacLeod

## **Fundraising**

Team Fundraising:

Fundraising looked quite different in all aspects this year with the Covid restrictions in place. Teams were encouraged at the beginning of the year, when budgets were submitted, to not over-fundraise as expenses were expected to be much lower this season. There were only a few teams who had leftover funds at the end of the season. The funds were sent to our treasurer and will be divided amongst the players on those teams to apply toward fall registration.

Birthplace Tournament:

It was disappointing that we were unable to hold our Birthplace of Hockey Tournament for the second year in a row. We are prepared with lots of supplies from last year's tournament that was cancelled only days before it was scheduled due to covid shut down. Those supplies will carryover and continue to be on hand to use if we are able to hold the tournament in the coming season.

50-50:

Our weekly 50-50 program was run by the Scotia Minor League this season. All in all I think it was a huge success! I believe our members we're happy with the choice to participate or not with no penalty. We will receive a player account spreadsheet and cheque from the league by August. These funds will be applied toward fall registration. The only downfall I see from joining the League's fundraiser, as opposed to running our own private 50-50, was that our association lost the chance at making a small revenue to contribute to our development programs. The league was planning to run this fundraiser monthly through the summer; however, a new lottery license needs to be acquired. I've also learned from talking to a league representative that they plan to run the program next year as well but that it will be a monthly draw as opposed to a weekly.

Hayley MacAusland

Fundraising Coordinator

## **Publicity Chair**

Another COVID Protocol season meant there was a lot of changing information to communicate and coordinate through Minor Hockey teams.

Working with the staff at both arenas to be able to communicate their operating plans under COVID Guidelines was made possible with the collaborative effort of the Safety Reps for our teams.

TeamSnap has proven to be a great tool for communicating both broadly to the Association and specifically for each team.

The opening of the West Hants Sports Complex was a much anticipated event that was tempered with COVID gathering limits. Even through this we managed to run an almost complete season for teams with the exception of two that were sidelined for a few weeks due to cross over numbers with our Mount Uniacke Families.

We hosted our first Female Jamboree to our in-house female members to coincide with International Womens' Day. The event was well attended and our feedback was very positive. The event was guest hosted by Dal Alumni Abi Shearer and sponsored by Hockey Gurl.

Our 50/50 fundraiser was moved to a shared draw with the entire League participating. The live draws were shared with our association though our social media account.

For the second year in a row our Graduating Players ceremony was tempered by COVID 19 restrictions. We were able to highlight each of our Warriors in a social media post with photos of their years in hockey, plans for the future, and our congratulations.

Respectfully,

Erin Naugler, Publicity Coordinator

## Registrar

I have served 4 years as Registrar for West Hants Minor Hockey Association and will not be putting my name forward this season. Last season was the third year for online registration and each season has been better than the one before with continual updates and improvements to the overall system. Phase two was introduced the season before and allowed me to validate rosters right from TeamSnap without having to recreate the teams in HCR for Approval. Last season I was able to have participants once registered, go directly to the appropriate divisions to allow for a more streamlined registration process.

I participated in monthly or sometimes bi-weekly Working Group calls made up of the head of IT for TeamSnap together with Hockey Ontario, Hockey Alberta, BC Hockey, Hockey Nova Scotia and a handful of Registrars from MHAs within these Provinces. There have been many updates, which continue to simplify how we manage not only registration and participant validation but payments, team communication and membership communication. TeamSnap also provided us with Health Check this season which made tracking and clearing players and coaches for games and practices easy. It also cut down on paperwork and put the onus on the player to give proper COVID related information so that team safety reps had it at a glance. Many updates are still being implemented as well on the accounting side of things.

Part of my duties as Registrar is to attend monthly board meetings, have discussions about the registration process and help set fees. I also work directly with team managers throughout the year to add bench staff to rosters as requested. I complete reconciliation sheets for HNS in relation to fees and insurances for both players and volunteers. I also keep everything up-to-date in TeamSnap and HCR.

We had a total of 316 players registered for our 2020-21 season (which was up from 312) of which 43 (up from 36) were female. This resulted in us being able to ice 16 teams again including an extremely successful Recreation Program for the second year. We had a combined total of 84 coaches, on-ice volunteers and team managers of which 15 were female. We once again were able to offer the goalie discount for any goalies that were registered the previous year as a goalie.

It was a privilege to work beside some amazing volunteers over these past 4 seasons as registrar and will miss my fellow board members, coaches, managers, players, families and friends I have made over the

past number of seasons. It all started with my oldest son back in 2004 when he joined skills and I managed many a team over those years but rest assured although I am stepping aside as Registrar, I won't be far from the game itself!

Respectively submitted,

Melissa Richard

Registrar WHMHA

## Equipment Manager

Equipment Manager Position was vacated during the year, we thanks Chris and Courtney Smith for all their hard work over the last two years and welcome Rob Davies to the Role in 2021-2022.

Sorry I'm unavailable for the AGM. Here is some of the pertinent information to pass along. Jerseys can be returned to Brooklyn rink September 13,14, 16. Between the hours of 6-7:30. Rob will be out there collecting. I'd ask managers to place both player's jerseys on ONE hanger. White on the bottom, blue on top. For those teams with only one jersey, each one should have into own hanger. Please return the list of jerseys returned with the player's name and number indicated so we can chase after anyone for missing or damaged jerseys. Those missing or damaged will result in a charge applied directly to the player's account.

We will be in the process of gutting the equipment room in Brooklyn in September, moving some of what we have to our cage in Windsor.

We will be looking at setting up a gear swap in Brooklyn for players in need of equipment. People with leftover gear may donate if they so desire and players who need something can help themselves.

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A couple of thoughts.

I would like to see bagged ice available at each of our association rinks in case of injury or emergency.

Is it possible to have a set of designated warm up pucks for both the home and away team that will be left at each rink. Just one less thing for coaches to worry about as they arrive at the rink. These could also be used for practices if needed.

We could perhaps look at enhancing the first aid kits of the older teams. Pressure bandages, splint, etc. Maybe this is something the rinks would each look after, having a large first aid kit available for more significant injuries.

Coaching boards provided for coaches with white board markers. Brooklyn has one on the glass. Perhaps Windsor would mount one too. The boards are great to have on benches for games. Just a thought. I know most have their own. But some don't.

Wondering if we would also purchase some coaching aids. Pass triangles, stick handling obstacles to have at each rink.

If every team paid an association fee of say 75-100 dollars it could be used to purchase the boards, aids etc and would be available for all to use. I have two pass triangles at Brooklyn that I have for the Middle School that we would happily share for use by MH.

Perhaps we can hire a few students to come in in September to lug and toss items when we clean out the equipment room. I'm sure some would even happily volunteer their time for a slice of pizza.

Rob Davies