**GLOUCESTER-CUMBERLAND RINGETTE ASSOCIATION (GCRA)**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**MAY 16, 2018 7:00 PM RAY FRIEL COMPLEX**

**Present:** Jen Vila, Sebastien Durand, Nadia Wolters, Darlene Pickup, Jeff Beaulac, Celine Leduc, Jen Kosak, Michelle Reis, John Biro, Rylee Batista, Marie Drolet, Matt Emery, Jay Waxman, Franco Croatto, Josee Sabourin, Kelly Searle, Kim Leemhuis, Serge Robichaud, Monique Robichaud, Dana Nalley, Omar Nalley, Cathy Doucet, Lidia DiBiase, Dan Altherr, Rick Burchill, Lyne Desmarais, Pam Gray, Tracy Bray, Andrew Thompson, Tess Maheux, Heather Guy, Amy Grosset, Dave Mainwood, Terri-Lyn Campbell, James Huget, Dave Gagne, Lesley Ireton, Krista Forrest, Philip Marsh, Kelley Perreault, Pauline Wong, Darren Wheeler, Marc Lalonde, Pete Sullivan, Phil Clement.

**1. Call To Order**

John Biro called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**2. Adoption of 2017 AGM Minutes**

**Action:** Motion that the minutes of 2017 AGM be adopted – Moved by Jay Waxman and seconded by Franco Croatto. **Motion Carried.**

**3. Treasurer’s Report**

1. This is my first year on GCRA’s Executive. As it is for anyone joining, the learning curve has been huge. The rules and regulations for running a ringette association are vast and varied, and at times complex. I would like to thank everyone on the Executive for their knowledge, advice, skill, and most of all patience as I assumed my role on the Executive and took over the financial management of GCRA. I’ve asked a lot of questions, and Executive members have always been happy to help and provide support. Also, I would like to make a special thank you to Susan Woodhouse, GCRA’s past Treasurer. Susan spent much time teaching me about how GCRA’s finances were managed. She has always been happy to answer any questions I had through out the entire year. So, thank you, Susan. I couldn’t have done it without you.

2. Budget as of April 30, 2018 – Copies of the budget to April 30, 2018 are available for review. This is not a final income statement as our year end is May 31st. Our net income as at April 30th is approximately $20,000. Almost all revenue for the year has been received; expenses are still coming in. At this point, I’m anticipating another $10-$15k in expenses, mostly for volunteer appreciation, some equipment costs, final ERRA and referee invoices, and other administrative costs. This being my first year creating a budget, I was off in some of the figures, especially for some of the expenses. In some areas we were significantly under budget, in others, we exceeded estimates. Total revenue, while less than last year, is more than expected. Expenses are expected to be lower. Due to some major efforts on the part of Jay Waxman, our scheduler, we were able to spend less on ice this year than we did last year; that being said, ice to run specific programs are now allocated to those programs, giving a more accurate picture of the cost . As a result, for example, the line item Goalie Development shows significantly higher than budgeted because it includes the cost for ice as well as all other expenses. With any luck, we will not have to dip into our reserves to cover any shortfall this year. Our biggest expense remains cost for ice. City ice has increased again this year, by almost 6%.

3. Team and Player Sponsorships – GCRA teams and players received a total of $16,540.30 in Team and Player sponsorships.

4. Bernie Cockburn Fund – This year was a challenging year for managing the Bernie Cockburn Fund. A record of 10 players applied to the fund. In our desire to ensure that no player chose to not play due to financial constraints, the Executive decided to put the fund in a deficit position, knowing that external funding sources might be available to the association. Unfortunately, the external funding did not materialize, and the fund remains in a deficit position of approximately $2,700. Wanting to ensure the future viability of the fund, changes have been made to the policy and registration process, including information about funding resources outside GCRA.

5. GCRA scholarships – There were no applications for GCRA scholarships, therefore no funds granted.

Nadia Wolters presented the financial statement (see attached) as of April 30, 2018

 **Action:** Motion to approve the Budget/Financial Report to May 16, 2017 moved by Josee Sabourin and Seconded by Jay Waxman. **Motion Carried.**

**4. Executive Member’s Reports**

 **4.1 President’s Report - John Biro**

GCRA President’s 2017-2018 Report

\* Overall it was a very good and interesting season.

\* GCRA registration was consistent with last season

o Full spectrum of Provincial teams

o Full spectrum of Regional teams

\* Continued to guild bridges and work with other ringette associations

\* GCRA Tournament was very successful and hosted teams from near and far.

\* GCRA NRL team folded, very unfortunate

o Coach/manager did not select enough players from draft resulting is too few players to field a team

\* The GCRA community proudly supported our families when faced with tragedy

\* GCRA Players Choice initiative report

o 7 players used it in 2017

o 1 currently registered for 18-19

\* Hosted AA provincial championships

\* Have 5 volunteers to receive Come Try Ringette training (trained by June 2018)

 **Action:** Motion to accept the President's Report moved by Sebastien Durand and Seconded Monique Robichaud - **Motion Carried.**

**4.2 VP Competitive - Jeff Beaulac**

 2017-18 Competitive Program

 This past season saw the association ice teams in all 8 competitive divisions with over 120 players in the program. Teams continued to compete in the LERQ and LRQ at the U19, U16 and U14 AA divisions while the U14A and U12 Provincial teams participated in the NCRRL. For the 5th consecutive year, our association was represented at each division at Provincials with the U14AA and U14 A teams capturing Provincial gold. In addition, the U12 Provincial Blue team won their division at the U12 Provincial Event.

 Unfortunately the 17-18 season saw the conclusion of our participation in the National Ringette League. The Gloucester Devils had been one of the founding franchises and despite our best efforts, we were not able to ice a team for the season. As such, our franchise was folded with players dispersed between the remaining area franchises in Ottawa and Gatineau.

 We have recently completed our U16 and U14 competitive tryouts for the upcoming season with the U19 scheduled to be completed over the next 3 weeks. Our remaining competitive division, the U12 Provincial teams will be completed in the fall.

 The association also replaced Cambridge as hosts of the 2018 AA Provincial Championships. The association, thanks to the efforts of our members, was able to host another first class event. We are still in the processing the final bills with ORA however we anticipate a profit of over $8,000.00 for the event, which will be reinvested in the association.

 **Action:** Motion to accept the VP Competitive Report moved by Kim Leemhuis Seconded by Kelly Searle - **Motion Carried.**

**4.3 Director At Large - Rylee Batista**

 Team Photos

 GCRA hired the services of In Action Photography and set up times with every team at the Orleans Recreation Complex. Every team photo was put in a GCRA banner.

 This year (2018) GCRA will hire In Action Photography once again and will have a predetermined date for all teams to attend a photo session. This date will be provided in the fall once all teams are formed.

 Summer Camp 2017

 GCRA ran one week of recreational camp and one week of competitive camp in August during the same week.

 The Recreation camp, hosted at Potvin Arena, had 51 campers which saw an operational loss of $1,694.15. This loss was mostly due to increase ice cost and a re-evaluation of pay for staff.

 The Competitive camp, ran out of Barrett Arena had 57 campers and experienced a profit of over $868.13. This was due solely to the cost of ice despite an effort to return unused ice during camp hours.

 Overall, even with the reduction of administrative costs, there was a net loss of the two summer camps.

 Both camps experienced positive feedback. The board discussed at quite some length the future of the camps and despite the loss of revenue, agreed to continue to offer both recreational and competitive camps for the summer of 2018.

 Summer Camp 2017

 GCRA will run a week of both recreational and competitive camps the week of August 13th at Potvin arena and Barret.

 Competitive Camp has always seen many requests for exceptions for girls to attend that are underage. This year we continue to open up Competitive Camp by one birth year which will include 9 year olds. Competitive camp will no longer entertain any requests for exceptions when it comes to birth year. This practice was time consuming and creates a perceived favoritism among our ringette community.

 In addition, at no additional cost, a Pre-Season Half Day Camp is being offered to Junior and Belle age players. This will bring revenue to our camps while allowing us to serve the older members of our ringette community. This camp will offer an hour off ice warm up/cool down with instruction and an hour to an hour and a half of on ice instruction.

 Kelly Searle has indicated this is her last year of coordinating GCRA’s Recreational Camp. To plan for this change, we have asked the Competitive Camp Coordinator, Jessica Mainwood, to run both camps in the summer of 2019. To do this, our camps will run separate weeks, however, we anticipate an overall cost saving by having the camps coordinated in conjunction.

 This year, all applications for the counsellor jobs and the volunteer positions were required to submit resumes in which a rubic will be applied by each camp coordinator. The top scored resumes will be called for final interviews and decisions. The selected candidates will be provided by the Camp Coordinators and confirmed by the Board of Directors.

 Power Skating:

 GCRA offered one-week session of power skating in late August (4 nights, 3 hours each night) to prepare our players for the upcoming season. Registrations yielded close to $4000, however, this was down from 2016 when we received $6000 in registrations. Overall, for 2017 our net profit after the cost of ice was $230.00. The summer of 2018, we will offer the same program the week of August 20th.

 **Action:** Motion to accept the Director at Large Report moved by Franco Croatto Seconded by Phil Marsh - **Motion Carried.**

 **4.4 VP Regional – Marie Drolet**

 The main responsibility of VP Regional is operations of the Regional teams at U12 – U19. This includes the coordination of the sort-out or evaluation process, selection of coaches for approval of the Executive, player placement, team composition, communicating with the NCRRL, point of contact for resolving parent-coach-player issues, provide guidance and support to coaches, representing regional perspective at Executive meetings, year-end coach evaluations, and representing GCRA Regional on the Discipline, Harassment and Appeals Committee.

GENERAL OVERVIEW OF THE SEASON:

Pre-season

\* NCRRL meets in June and August to start work for next season.

\* Meetings with ice scheduler in July to plan for regional evaluation nights.

\* GCRA provides team projections in August to NCRRL.

\* GCRA recommendation to NCRRL: one-team associations to play exhibition games to better determine their level of play.

Sort-outs: September

\* Regional sort-outs took place over a 3-week period in September.

\* About 130+ players evaluated. Player scores are based on 4 sessions; depending on the age group, players ranked on skating, game sense, positional play and ring-handling.

\* A special thank you to the evaluators, parents at the check-in desks and referees.

\* The NCRRL determines the composition of the various leagues based on player evaluation, team composite scores from each association.

Complications:

> Request for players to ‘play up’/ “play down” an age division;

> Friend requests;

> South end players

Eight GCRA Regional teams formed: two balanced U12 teams conforming to LTAD principles adopted by NCRRL; U14C; U14B; U16C, U16B teams and 2 balanced U19B.

\* Most complaints were around U12 teams conforming to LTAD principles;

\* Lively discussions around U16 B-C split.

Re-seeding November 2017-18

\* Feedback from re-seeding was positive.

\* The U12 Division - initially made up of 17 teams - was split into Blue and Red. Both GCRA U12 teams were placed in the lower pool.

\* U19 played a skewed schedule in second half, with lower ranked teams playing mostly lower ranked

NCRRL Year-end Tournament

\* From all accounts, the weekend was a success.

\* The divisions used for tournament generally come from the re-seeded divisions.

REGIONAL TEAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

I would like to thank the regional coaches, managers, other bench staff and parents for their efforts and commitment this past season. These sentiments were reflected in the year-end evaluations. In general, the majority of parents and players enjoyed their ringette experience this season. Following-up on some recommendations and suggestions for both coaches and the association. I will share those individually with the coach and those pertaining to GCRA are included below.

U12

The year started with about 28 registered players - coached by Julie Jamieson and Marc D’Aoust.

Team D’Aoust won GOLD in the BKRA tournament and GOLD in the NCRRL Championships. Team Jamieson won Gold in Pierrefonds-DDO Ringette Tournament; first in NCRRL standings at year-end; Silver at NCRRL End Of Year (U12 R Red).

U14

The U14B team – coached by Penny MacMillan - finished 1st in NCRRL play; the team went the finals of every tournament winning silver in Nepean, BKRA and NCRRL and gold in WORA.

The U14C team – coached by Chris Lecompte – won gold in Nepean; Silver in West Ottawa and gold in NCRRL championship.

U16

There were about 27 players registered for U16 Regional at the start of the season. Late registrants pushed that number up slightly.

The U16C team – coached by Andy Monteiro – ranked 2nd in NCRRL play; won silver in NCRRL championship; placed 1st in West Ottawa tournament (versus Nova Scotia) and 2nd in Pierrefonds. The bench staff noted that the team dynamic was great and that the players worked well together.

The U16B team – coached by Chris Leslie – ranked 5th in NCRRL play. The team beat archrivals Ottawa in overtime to win GOLD at the GCRA tournament.

U19

There were two balanced U19B team – coached by Fiona Campbell and Tim Fletcher. The Fletcher team finished 5th and the Campbell team finished 10th of 12 teams. U19B-Fletcher won Silver at the Whitby tournament and Gold at the NCRRL year-end tournament (Red Division).

OTHER BUSINESS

GCRA held a “Town Hall” meeting (previous seaaon) to discuss the evaluation process. The meeting produced recommendations for Regional evaluations.

a. Recommendation: Coach involvement in selection process

Once evaluations are complete, ‘draft’ of balanced teams were circulated among the coaches at the level in question for their feedback. Any concerns are addressed at this point.

b. Recommendation: Ensure that players are adequately randomized during scrimmages/exhibition game

Avoid potential bias in scores created by playing with teammates with known plays etc.

c. Recommendation: Avoid re-assigning players after teams are formed

Every attempt is made to avoid re-assigning players. In the past two years, there has been 2 players re-assigned at the U16 level.

Other general comments / recommendations

a. Skills clinics open to interested Regional players (received positive feedback from those attending).

b. Goalie issue

Lack of goalies at the regional level was problematic in previous years. This year, lack of goalies at the U12 level. As an association, there is a need to attract and retain players interested in the position.

c. Coach Mentors

Many regional coaches do not have a ringette background and would benefit from a mentorship program with more experienced ringette coaches.

d. Clarify call-up rules and access through GCRA website

e. Lack of evaluators at Regional sort-outs

f. Create a "curriculum" of incremental drill and plays that coaches teach girls at each level of play. This would leave coaches not having to teach everything from scratch each year.

g. Applications for Referee Clinics denied by GCRA – bring to attention to VP Operations.

**Action:** Motion to accept the VP Regional Report moved by Rick Burchill, Seconded by Jay Waxman - **Motion Carried.**

 **4.5 VP Administration – Michelle Reis**

 Ringette, like no other sport I have been involved in, supports each other like family. I am so thankful to be a part of such an amazing community.

 I have been in the role of VP Administration for 3 years now and it continues to be a learning process for me and not without a few hiccups. So I once again thank everyone for your patience with me.

 In the month of November I helped coordinate the Ringette night at the 67's game where several of our GCRA teams attended. Our association sold close to 700 tickets for the event and we had 14 teams in attendance. This continues to be a very popular event and fundraiser for many of our teams. It is organized by a volunteer at ERRA who has indicated that last years would be his last, so, if anyone is interested in continuing this amazing tradition, Eastern region is looking for someone.

 One of the duties of the VP Administration is to chair the Discipline committee. Unfortunately this past season was not without incident. So I would like to take this opportunity to remind all that there is a Code of Conduct that all members are required to adhere to. I encourage everyone to review the code of conduct, and a gentle reminder that they are children and we are volunteers.

 The Gloucester-Cumberland Ringette Association (GCRA) is committed to providing a sport environment which is athlete-centered, and characterized by open and clear communication, honesty, fairness and mutual respect.

 We continue to try and grow our sport and introduce as many young people to Ringette as we can. During the spring of 2017 we hosted a Bring a friend event. This spring we co hosted a Come try Ringette event with MDRA and we currently have an amazing group organizing another Come try Ringette event taking place in the next few weeks. We are always looking for new volunteers and new ideas and this is a great area to become involved in! Share you love of the sport and help introduce it to some young ones.

 Registration for the 2018– 2019 season has not yet been opened up but will be available on the GCRA website very shortly.

 Given the increase in costs and the increase in city ice fees it is once again necessary for us to increase our registration fees. The early bird registration fee will be $625 and we are continuing to offer discounts to families with 3 or more players.

 We have gone paperless, all registrations will be completed online for the second year. With the Goaline website the process is much more user friendly!

 We continued to try and fine tune the online registration as well as the online payment process. There were definitely lots of improvements and we continue to strive for simplicity and excellence.

 As the 2017 - 2018 season was coming to an end, it was time for me to organize and host the annual volunteer appreciation evening. We had more than 75 volunteers attended Stanley’s restaurant on Friday evening, May 4th. I was thrilled to see everyone and hope all enjoyed themselves...I think it was a great success.

 It has been my pleasure to be part of the GCRA executive this past year. I have learned a ton and look forward to the upcoming

 **Action:** Motion to accept the VP Administration Report moved by Josee Sabourin, Seconded by Jay Waxman - **Motion Carried.**

 **4.6 VP Operations – Jennifer Kosak**

 As VP of Operations, I oversee operational aspects for the association. Reporting to Operations are the following appointed volunteer positions:

Ice Scheduler, Equipment Manager, Referee in Chief, Tournament Chair, Coaching / Volunteer Coordinator, and Statistician.

Operationally GCRA has had another steady season:

\* The tournament was again a big success, after much hard work by our great tournament committee.

\* We closely monitored coaching and volunteer requirements

\* All required equipment was allocated for tryouts/sortouts and to teams for the season – within budget

\* We trained both new and returning referees, and saw movement within these ranks

\* All game stats were tracked on the NCRRL site

\* Membership became very accustomed to using our website for news, information and easy registrations, and

\* Scheduling was completed which in the end saw our teams on the ice for practices and games, allowing GCRA to be as successful as possible in competition.

Website: This has been steady. Most kinks have been ironed out (they still appear on occasion but they are now few and far between). I am very happy to see our membership have adapted to the online registration functionality which enables fast, easy and reliable registrations and reporting. This functionality combined with the great support of our Registrar (shout out to Phil Clement!) has really taken a lot of burden off my shoulders this season – which is fantastic given that with GCRA we are all volunteers, and all have day jobs to attend to that pay our family bills.

Referee in Chief (Eve Berthelot):

Eve is unable to attend this evening but has provided me with the following report:

This was another positive season for GCRA referees. Many of our refs continued to work their way up the levels, and we had several who were invited to the u12, A, and AA provincial events as on-ice officials and as off-ice supervisors. We also had a ref who attended the Eastern championships.

Unfortunately, abuse of officials has been a problem that is increasing, not only in ringette but in many other sports. I’d like to take this opportunity to remind our association that GCRA takes pride in its excellent sportsmanship – and that includes the way we treat all refs. Most of GCRA's coaches, players, and fans are fantastic, so please continue to keep in mind that every ref is a person who loves the game too.

I’ve already been contacted by a few people who are interested in becoming referees for the 18-19 season. If anyone (or anyone’s child) is interested in refereeing next year, please contact me via email (info on GCRA website) in June or July as the application process begins in August. This is a strong competition in GCRA as there are often more people interested than entry-level spots available.

Eve Berthelot will maintain her position as Referee in Chief for the 2018/19 season and is looking at recruiting and working with a co-Ref-In-Chief.

Coach /Volunteer Coordinator (Me):

With a seemingly endless amount of new training requirements mandated by our governing bodies (ORA and RC), monitoring coach training requirements has been challenging these past few years. In preparation for many current coach certifications now expiring in January 2019 there was a big push to educate and promote methods of earning Professional Development Units. These PDU’s are needed to maintain certifications. We will continue to work closely with the region next year to improve communication on what is required when, all the while ensuring our coaches can keep doing what they do best – Coach! We appreciate all of your patience as we absorb the new training requirements and implement new methods of acquiring PDU’s.

This season we had a total of 165 volunteers which we tracked to ensure our compliance requirements were met for coaching and police record checks. Not included in these numbers are the many other people who continue to volunteer their time to help our association run smoothly from year to year by stepping up for various ad hoc committees and team needs. To all of our volunteers: thank you.

Ice Scheduler (Jay Waxman):

Scheduling is a huge job, and without this none of our teams would see ice, and without ice… well what would we be? 2017/18 was Jay’s first year as Ice Scheduler, and we are excited to see him return for next year. This season he worked closely with Darlene Pickup who had been our scheduler for the past 9 years, and they shared the role with Jay managing everything scheduling and Darlene managing the ice acquisition with the city. Next year they have agreed to continue in this partnership, thank you both.

Jay will read the Scheduling report. – This was my first year as Ice Scheduler for GCRA after taking over from Darlene Pickup. Darlene was able to provide a depth of knowledge and support during my first year. Scheduling 22 teams for 1-2 practices each week as well as coordinating with 3 different leagues to schedule games is a challenging task especially when dealing with over 1000 hours of ice. In addition to normal practice and games were also able to coordinate 2 family skates through the year. Thank you to all the coaches and managers for all your support this year…. Jay Waxman.

Tournament Chair (Co Chairs: Nathalie Altherr /Serge Robichaud):

The Tournament Committee puts in a ton of work every year to ensure a very successful tournament. GCRA’s tournament is very well run and well respected, bringing in teams not only from Ontario but Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Calgary. I just want to give a special thank you to Nat and Serge and all of their team for stepping up and putting this together again this past season.

Serge Robichaud and Nathalie Altherr co-chaired the GCRA tournament this year, and will continue in this role for the 2018/19 season.

We (Nat and Serge) just want to take the time to thank everyone on the committee for their hard work during the year. We couldn't do it without you. Everyone brings a big contribution to the success of this tournament and we appreciate it a lot!!

With 108 teams attending our tournament in February 2018 you will see in the report that we made a profit of $10,600. Good job everyone!!!

Equipment Manager (Franco Croatto):

Franco Croatto has been our Equipment Manager for 2017/2018 – continuing even though his daughter was not playing for GCRA this past season. Thank you, Franco, for helping GCRA continue to smoothly by keeping our teams equipped! We are seeking a new equipment manager for the upcoming season.

Statistician (Denis Lacroix):

Denis Lacroix has been our Statistician for 2017/2018. We are seeking a new Statistician for next season.

All games were tracked in the proper time frame this season. The new NCRRL website has received very positive feedback.

This was the first year with the new website. We had a few glitches in the beginning but all and all, it went well and was more detailed. For the most part, game sheets were handed in the GCRA mailbox and entered on the NCRRL website in the proper time frame. Only a handful of reminders where sent out to a few teams. Therefore, I could verify all information with the League and send all original copies to them.

**Action:** Motion to accept the VP Operations Report moved by Tess Maheux. Seconded by Dave Gagne - **Motion Carried.**

 **4.7 VP NOVICE AND BUNNIES – Jen Vila**

 The Novice and Bunny Divisions

The Novice division had 6 teams: 2 at U8, 2 at U9 and 2 at U10 for a total of 80 players. The team assignment was a challenge this year due to numbers as well as late registrations. This caused some moves after players were assigned to a team, which is not ideal. We have a plan to mitigate that for next year. One of the issues that was identified to me at the beginning of the season was a lack of information for new parents. I’ve been working on a strategy to mitigate that which includes a parents’ manual as well as a pre-ice parent meeting which I am hoping to run prior to the first novice warm up.

The kids participated in the NCRRL. They also took part in some in town and out of town tournaments. Each team had a variety of successes both in the league play and in tournament play. The teams participated in the year-end NCRRL tournament as well. The coaches felt that they had much success throughout the season and the parents’ feedback indicates that the children improved in their skills and their knowledge of ringette.

Last year, we had the opportunity to field two south end teams which allowed us to accommodate our south end residents to a certain degree. This year, we were only able to field one south end team. We are assessing what we can do to maintain the south end contingent while not negatively impacting east end teams.

The Bunny program ran three different groups: one in Blackburn, one at Ray Friel and one at Barrett. We had 51 boys and girls registered for our learn-to-skate program. This number was much lower than previous years, and we are once again looking at strategies to increase our numbers for next season. Our bunnies participated in a once a week program. Some of the bunnies took part in exhibition games during the GCRA tournament. As well, all of the bunnies participated in Bunny Fest at the end of the year, which was hosted by Metcalfe.

We successfully ran a Come Try Ringette event with the Metcalfe Association; this may bring up registration numbers. We are also planning another Come Try Ringette event for June 16 2018. The information will be updated shortly on the website.

I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank Nancy and Marc D’Aoust. Our families attended the Orleans Parade of Lights together in 2016 and at that time we talked about how great it would be to have a GCRA float, and we decided to work on it together. As a result of Ottawa welcoming the Grey Cup this year, the parade was moved back a weekend, to a weekend where I was out of town for my daughter’s tournament. Nancy and Marc took up the challenge, along with few other people, prepped the float and ran it smoothly. Next year, we’ll take our lessons learned and apply them for a more successful event. It’s usually the last weekend of November, so save the date now!

I also want to thank Omar Nalley for all his efforts in promoting our events –specifically the Come Try Ringette event -through social media. A big thank you also goes to Marianne Utano who agreed to be our Come Try Ringette coordinator and was instrumental in making the April event a success.

I also want to thank Val Cavers, who is a Bunny champion, and has been over many years. Without her, our program would not be what it is, and she has provided some great ideas for improvements for next year.

I’d like to thank all our novice volunteers this year. From new coaches who stepped up to lead teams, to more seasoned coaches who coached again, to managers and trainers as well as parent volunteers, thank you. You give your time, knowledge and enthusiasm to coaching our young players and instilling in them a love of the sport.

**Action:** Motion to accept the VP Novice and Bunnies Report moved by Phil Marsh. Seconded by Jay Waxman- **Motion Carried**.

**4.8 DIRECTOR OF PLAYER DEVELOPMENT - Celine Leduc**

 Our programs:

Novice Power Skating and Novice Skills Sessions. Both programs were very well attended and received very good feedback. Kim Leehmuis was our head instructor and ran these sessions on a volunteer basis with no cost to the association. We also had many coaches and assistant coaches help out. This program ran throughout the season in order to support our players.

U12/U14 Provincial Skills Program:

This program was for our U12 and U14 Competitive players. They worked on skating, passing, stabbing, checking and shooting. These sessions were well attended and reached their maximum registration rate. Volunteers ran the sessions at no cost to the association. The head instructor was Celine Leduc. This program was offered throughout the year.

U12/U14 Regional Skills Program:

This program was for our U12 and U14 regional players. They worked on a variety of skills such as skating, passing, stabbing, checking and shooting. Using the feedback received from last year, these sessions were also ran throughout the season. As well, we wanted to ensure that these sessions were full and that we did not need to cancel the programs. In order to do so we did a joint venture with CORA and allowed 12 of their players to register in our sessions. By doing so the sessions reached their maximum registration. These sessions were also ran by volunteers both from GRCA and CORA. The head instructor was Celine Leduc. It was a very successful program and CORA will be introducing our program to ERRA.

U14/U16 Competitive Power Skating

We ran a program early in the season for the U14 and U16 Competitive players prior to the U12 Competitive and Regional teams and the U14 and U16 Regional team sort outs. This program was ran by APEX instructors and the focus was on Power Skating and Agility Skating.

Goalie Clinics:

We ran goalie clinics for our girls throughout the season. These clinics were ran by Goaler U and GCRA volunteers.

Four on Four for U12 and U14:

This program ran in the spring and was sold out within hours of being posted. It was very popular. Volunteers ran the program.

I would like to acknowledge the many volunteers who helped with both the on and off ice components of these programs: working the welcome table, dressing rooms, doors, timeclock, on ice helpers, main instructors. Without the support of volunteers we could not run these programs or make them cost efficient. I would ask that all helpers who are present here this evening to please stand up. Round of applause.

I would also like to thank Phil Clement who helped organize the on line registration. Having on-line registration facilitated an equal opportunity to registration and reduced a great number of volunteer hours.

I would also like to thank Jay Waxman who was able to purchase ice on a regular night of the week to run the clinics. This was also an improvement made based on the feedback received from the parents of the participants. The thought behind it would be that Monday nights were clinic nights for GCRA.

Good:

It is felt that with the feedback of last year we were able to improve in all areas of the Player Development Programs. We ran approximately 44 additional sessions for our ringette players over the course of this season. Young players (families) are very interested in having Power Skating and Skill sessions. U12 and U14 Provincial players and goalies also have a high interest for sessions. Having a joint venture with CORA allowed GCRA players an opportunity to attend skill sessions. Many families are also interested in spring sessions such as 4 on 4. It is evident that the need continues to be to have programs for U14 and under. Having on line registration facilitates the process. Having a set night for clinics also helps families and helps with registration and attendance of programs. Changing the night from Friday to Monday also allowed more participants as there are no conflicts with tournaments. We also have a great pool of volunteers that spend a significant number of hours to ensure that these clinics run smoothly.

Areas of improvement:

We need to do a review of our Goalie Clinics to make them more cost efficient. Every clinic with the exception of Goalie clinics broke even or made a bit of money. The Goalie clinics are quite expensive to run in the fashion we are presently doing them.

Create a bank of volunteers at the beginning of the season. This would allow people to sign up with their interest and areas of expertise.

 **Action:** Motion to accept the Director of Player Development Report moved by Kim Leehmuis. Seconded by Sebastien Durand- **Motion Carried**.

**5. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

**President Jennifer Kosak** Nominated by Nadia Wolters Seconded by Tess Maheux

 **Rick Burchill**  Nominated by John Biro Seconded by Lyne Desmarais **Rick Burchill Voted In**

**VP Regional Marie Drolet**  Nominated by Darlene Pickup Seconded by Jay Waxman **Acclaimed**

**Director At Large Kelley Perreault** Nominated by Amy Crossen Seconded by Jay Waxman **Acclaimed**

**Secretary Darlene Pickup** Nominated by Jay Waxman Seconded by Celine Leduc **Acclaimed**

**Director of Player Development Celine Leduc** Nominated by Franco Croatto Seconded by Krista Cooper **Acclaimed**

**VP Operations Jennifer Kosak** Nominated by Celine Leduc Seconded by Michele Reis **Acclaimed**

**NEW BUSINESS**

U19 Tryouts - GCRA is committed to working with CORA and Nepean to make sure that we field as many teams at caliber for the U19 division. ERRA is supportive.

John will reach out to other associations with contact information - all associations to share data as required to meet the objective.

Discussion on process of tryouts regarding underage players.

Parent of underage spoke about how their family and the athlete felt about the experience they had during tryouts.

Rick (president elect) committed that GCRA would investigate this issue and provide the membership with answers.

 **7. ADJOURNMENT**

 **Action:** Motion to adjourn the meeting - Moved by Rick Burhill and seconded by Phil Marsh. **Motion Carried.**