

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

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**MAY 17, 2017 7:00 PM RAY FRIEL COMPLEX**

**Present:** Jen Vila, Jack Stalica, Sebastien Durand, Tanya Martin, Nadia Wolters, Susan Woodhouse, Darlene Pickup, Jeff Beaulac, Celine Leduc, Jen Kosak, Michelle Reis, John Biro, Rylee Batista, Marie Drolet, Matt Emery, Kristy Singleton, Jay Waxman, Franco Croatto, Josee Sabourin, Dave McHugh, Joanne Laskoski, Dave Glass, Allison McKelvey, Kelly Searle, Kim Leemhuis, Nathalie Altherr, Omar Nalley, Marc D'Aoust.

### **1. Call To Order**

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

### **2. Adoption of 2016 AGM Minutes**

**Action:** Motion that the minutes of 2016 AGM be adopted – Moved by Jay Waxman and seconded by Matt Emery. **Motion Carried.**

### **3. Treasurer's Report**

1. **Budget at May 16, 2017** Distributed. This is not a final budget as our year end is May 31<sup>st</sup>. At May 16, 2017, we are at a Net Income of \$36,453.93 but I anticipate remaining expenses to be between \$15,000 and \$25,000 (primarily ice and administrative costs). Keep in mind that the present budget also incorporates a cushion from our general account reserves of about \$20,000. The addition of Richcraft ice and the rising cost of City Ice are our major expense.

2. **Team and Player Sponsorships** This year, team and player sponsorships brought in \$15,247.00.

3. **Bernie Cockburn Fund** Three players took advantage of the Bernie Cockburn fund for full payment of their registration fees. One player received a partial registration and another player used the fund for a partial team fee. The Bernie Fund presently stands at only \$1,362.87 and at this point will only be able to help a few players next season.

4. **On Line Registrations** As you are all aware, we have been moving towards an almost exclusive process of on line registrations for everything within GCRA whether it is Season Registrations, Tryout Fees, GCRA Pant purchases, Clinics or Summer Camps. This was

implemented at the ongoing request of the membership and was made possible through countless hours of set-up by our webmaster, Jen Kosak. This modernization has certainly made signing up for things easier and overall takes less volunteer hours by the Registrar and the Treasurer. It has come with a financial cost of just over \$7,000.00. We presently pay 65 cents per on-line purchase/registration to our Website provider (GoalLine) and 2.99% per financial transaction to PayPal.

5. **GCRA Scholarships** There were two recipients of the GCRA Scholarship last Fall. Scholarships are awarded to GCRA players who are entering a post-secondary program and who have demonstrated a commitment to Ringette through playing and volunteering. Keely Martin and Alyssa Gaerke each received \$300.00 for their post-secondary education.

6. **Thank you** This was my last year sitting on the GCRA Executive. I started out as the VP Admin and held that position for only one year – then I was elected as Treasurer and held that position for an additional 10 years. I will definitely be a resource to the incoming Treasurer and I ask that you be patient with them while they are learning the ropes and as they make changes (I'm sure for the better) over their tenure.

It has been a great eleven years and I have thoroughly enjoyed working with such committed and passionate people over that time. These executive members and appointees, both past and present, put in countless volunteer hours so that all of our kids (about 400 of them) can enjoy this amazing sport each year. Most of us wear at least two hats (executive member and team manager / executive member and coach / executive member and tryout convenor / executive member and appointee)..... so, before complaining about how things are unfair or complaining that the Association should do more, do different, do better, please remember that each of you ARE the Association and I encourage you to come forward to propose solutions, not make criticisms and to offer up your time to make this association even better.

From the moment my daughter stepped on the ice as a Junior Bunny, GCRA has been an integral part of our family. Thanks for everything!

Susan Woodhouse

GCRA Treasurer (outgoing)

Susan Woodhouse presented the financial statement (see attached) as of May16, 2017

**Action:** Motion to approve the Budget/Financial Report to May 16, 2017 moved by Sebastien Durand and Seconded by Kim Leehmuis. **Motion Carried.**

## 4. Executive Member's Reports

### 4.1 President's Report - John Biro

- Overall it was a very good and interesting season.
- GCRA registration was down from previous season (451) to 380 Devils. Less Bunnies this season.
  - Full spectrum of Provincial teams
  - Full spectrum of Regional teams
- GCRA Tournament was very successful and hosted teams from near and far.
- Member Town-hall: Team selection, Try-outs and sort out processes
- Participated in Welcome Year
  - Evolved to GCRA Player's Choice proposal (**approved by ERRA**)
    - Work has started for National Capital Region boundary review, GCRA is at the table
- Hosting inaugural GCRA Golf Tournament, June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017
  - All proceeds directed to GCRA Bernie Cockburn Benevolence Fund
    - Funds less fortunate families for registration and/or team fees on case by case
- Hosting AA Provincial Championships in 2018

**Action:** Motion to accept the President's Report moved by Josee Sabourin and Seconded by Jay Waxman - **Motion Carried.**

### 4.2 VP Administration- Michelle Reis

VP Administration AGM report 2016 – 2017 Season

This season was my second in the position of VP administration, it continued to be a year of learning for me and not without a few hiccups. 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.

In the month of November several GCRA teams attended the 67's Ringette Night. Our association sold close to 500 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

One of the duties of the VP Administration is to chair the Discipline committee. Unfortunately this past season was not without incidents involving some GCRA members. 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 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.

Early in the spring I was asked to organize and host an evening where our members could come together and brain storm ideas of how to grow our sport. We had 15 members come and offer many great ideas. This is an area within our association where we could really use some help. The position of promotions and publicity remains empty and we have some really great ideas as well as a group of helpers, we just need someone who is willing to take the lead and run with it.

I did tackle one of the great suggestions:

On April 1<sup>st</sup> we hosted our first Bring a friend event, This was an opportunity for our current players to invite and bring a friend to come and tryout our sport. We had 46 young people ranging in age form 3 to 15 come that day. I was thrilled with the turnout and participation of our members. This is an event that we will definitely try to host again in the fall prior to our sort outs.

Registration for the 2016 – 2017 season has not yet been opened up but will be on the GCRA website very soon.

Given the increase in costs and the increase in city ice fees it is once again necessary for us to increase our registration fees.

We have gone paperless, all registrations will be completed online this season. With the Goaline website the process should be much more user friendly!

We are continuing to offer discounts to families with 3 or more players.

As the season was coming to an end, it was time for me to organize and host the annual volunteer appreciation evening. I would like to thank Anita Ayoub for helping me organize the evening. 75 volunteers attended Stanley's restaurant on Friday evening, May 12th. 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 Executive this past year. I have learned a ton and look forward to the upcoming season. Thank you.

**Action:** Motion to accept the VP Administration Report moved by Franco Croatto  
Seconded by Dave McHugh - **Motion Carried.**

#### **4.3 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:**

##### *A. Sort-outs*

Regional sort-outs took place over a 3-week time frame in September, with about 130+ players evaluated. A special thank you to the evaluators, parents at the check-in desks and referees that

helped with this process. Player scores were based on 4 sessions. Depending on the age group, players were ranked on various aspects of skating, game sense, positional play and ring-handling. Level of play (B/C) and teams are compiled based on those rankings. The NCRRL determined the composition of the various leagues based on player evaluation, team composite scores from each association.

Further complicating matters:

- *Request for players to 'play up' an age division;*  
Our intent is to have regional players play their proper age group. Players can only “move up” if there is a deficit at one level and a surplus at another; if it affects GCRA ability to ice a team at that level and must be ORA approved. All regional players of an age group must be accommodated first. Players can only “move down” only if approved by NCRRL and Eastern Region Sports Development.
- *Friend requests;*  
GCRA cannot accommodate “Friend requests” given the balanced nature of icing teams at a particular age and skill level.
- *South end players*  
GCRA does try to keep *south-end players* together for carpooling reasons.

In the end, there were 8 GCRA Regional teams formed: two balanced U12 teams conforming to LTAD principles adopted by NCRRL; U14C; U14B; U16C, 2 balanced U16B teams and U19B. Overall, the feedback on the teams was quite positive. There were some grumblings but those came from less than 3% of our membership. Most complaints were around U12 teams conforming to LTAD principles adopted by NCRRL; the request for an additional U16A team; and about playing up with siblings or friends.

#### B. Re-seeding 2016-17

At mid-season, the NCRRL meets to re-assess the teams in each division. "The goal is to have every team playing meaningful, competitive games against teams of equivalent skill." My responsibility is to represent the best interests of our GCRA teams to the NCRRL. Coaches provide their input regarding their team and teams in their division.

Divisions are sometimes split as weaker or stronger teams emerge. Some teams may request to play at a higher or lower level. Some teams are happy with the results of re-seeding while others have been, well, not so happy. Each association gets one vote. All associations vote even if they do not have a team in that Division.

In general, the feedback from re-seeding was positive (exception was U14C). The U12 Division - initially made up of 17 teams - was split into Blue and Red. The U14B league was split in two. There was no restructuring at the U16 or U19 level.

#### C. NCRRL Year-end Tournament

This year was the inaugural NCRRL Year-end Tournament. The tournament replaced the old playoff format and was designed to mirror the “Provincials”. From all accounts, the weekend was a success.

## **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. There were 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 29 registered players - two balanced U12 Regional teams were created in accordance with NCRRL policy - coached by Chris Cavers and Chris Lecompte. Late registrants pushed those numbers up – by the end of the season, there were about 16-17 players per team. Both teams struggled in the first half of the season. As a result, both U12 teams were re-seeded to the Red Division.

Both teams dominated the Red Division – with Team Cavers team inching out Team Lecompte in the regular season for first place. But Team Lecompte responded by defeating Team Cavers in the gold medal game in GCRA tournament and in the NCRRL year-end tournament. Team Lecompte added to their medal haul with a silver in Arnprior and a gold in Whitby.

### **U14**

The sort-out process for the U14 level was challenging. There were 30 players registered and there were no identified U14 goalies at the time of evaluations. In the end, two teams were created – U14C coached by Jeff Howe and U14B coached by Kristina Heaslip-Chestnut. The Clarence-Rockland Association folded their team the day after the league announced the Divisions causing a scramble to accommodate potential players. A rookie goalie from Rockland was placed on the U14C team.

After going undefeated in the first half of the season, the U14C team was re-seeded to the Red Division of U14B. Some parents expressed concern regarding the level of play and the fact that UOV and Kingston were part of their new Division. The parents were informed that these decisions are made at the NCRRL level, with each association receiving one vote. While the team was 0-10 after the second half, many games were decided by a one or two-goal differential. Many families decided not to participate in their two-away games in Kingston. Other GCRA families stepped up to fill the bench so the games could be played. The year-end feedback was not positive – directed at GCRA and not coaching staff.

The U14B Chestnut team had a successful season. Starting the season with no designated goalie (thank you to the goalies that were called-in), they managed to earn silver in Pierrefonds tournament. After a chance encounter, a goalie was finally placed on the team in late January. The team earned silver in GCRA tournament and 3<sup>rd</sup> overall in NCRRL standings. The team took advantage of NRL players to improve their “skills and drills” and as one of their team bonding sessions, Coach Kris organized an inspirational talk with world champion Kayla Maduk.

## **U16**

There were 46 players registered for U16 Regional at the start of the season. There were calls from parents that GCRA should ice an additional U16A team similar to the arguments made in the 2015-16 season. GCRA Executive decided that only one U16A team would be iced for the 2016-17 season.

The U16C team – coached by Andy Monteiro – clearly were top of their league, ranking first in both halves of the season. In the year-end tournament, the team finished second in the round robin and lost to Gatineau in the finals.

There were two balanced U16B teams – coached by Chris Leslie and Dave Matschke. U16 Leslie won gold in the Pointe Claire tournament. U16 Matschke won gold in Nepean, Mississauga and GCRA tournaments. In the NCRRL Year-end tournament, U16B Team Leslie finished with two ties and a loss. Team Matschke were first place after the round robin portion with three wins. The team easily won their semi-final against CORA and earned silver in a heartbreaking 3-4 loss to Nepean in the finals.

## **U19**

The U19B was coached by Mark Seguin. In the NCRRL playoff, the team finished the round robin in first place. They earned gold shutting out Clarence-Rockland 5-0. There are five members of this team that have played together since bunnies and coach Mark put them on the ice together to finish the game.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### **1. Town-Hall**

GCRA held a “Town Hall” meeting to discuss the *evaluation process*. The meeting produced 4 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 in the 2016-17 season. Any concerns are addressed at this point.

- b. Recommendation: Make a 'stronger' team at a particular age level  
The NCRRL has adopted the Long-term Athlete Development model (LTAD). All associations must abide by this model. At the U12 Regional level, there is no tiering. At other levels, say U16, Associations are required to ice "balanced" teams if there are more than one team at the age and skill level.
- c. Recommendation: Use Coach evaluation of player from previous season  
This item has been brought to informal discussion among GCRA Executive.
- d. 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.

## 2. Other general comments / recommendations

- a. Skills clinics offered to Regional players similar to competitive players (i.e. throughout season and not just at end; not conflicting with tournament schedule and expecting payment, etc).
- b. Teams were "too big" this season.  
Feedback from older levels: larger number of players was ok since rarely had a full team due to injuries, illnesses and other personal reasons.  
Feedback from younger levels: parents complained about ice time
- c. Goalie issue  
Lack of goalies at the regional level. As an association, there is a need to attract and retain players interested in the position
- d. Coach Mentors  
Many regional coaches do not have a ringette background and would benefit from a mentorship program with more experienced ringette coaches.

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

#### **4.4 VP Competitive – Jeff Beaulac**

The 2016-17 season saw GCRA ice teams in all 8 competitive divisions with over 140 players in the program while we continued to support the NRL Gloucester Devils. The U19AA and U16AA once again participated in the LERQ while the U19A and U16A and U14AA teams participated in the LRQ. Feedback for the A teams participation in the Quebec league remains positive and we do not anticipate any changes for the upcoming season. For the fourth consecutive year, GCRA was represented in all competitive divisions at provincials. The U14 AA team finished 4<sup>th</sup> at Provincials and the U12 Provincial Leduc team won gold at the U12 Event.

During the season we obtained feedback from the membership on the competitive program and some changes were implemented in our spring sessions. This included the development of an information package for evaluators and new evaluation forms amongst other changes.

GCRA had three players selected to participate in the Eastern Region AAA program for the upcoming season. In addition, one of the assistant coaches is a product of our program while another is a member of the NRL Devils.

As in years past, we offered both mid and end of season coaching feedback to all competitive teams. We are still in the process of providing the end of season feedback to the teams.

We have recently completed our coaching and player selections for the U16 and U14 AA and A teams for the upcoming season. The U16AA and U14AA teams have 14 skaters and 2 goalies. The U16A team has 14 skaters and 1 goaltender. The U14A team has 13 skaters and 1 goaltender. We have an injured player to be evaluated at the U14 AA/A levels, 1 goalie and 1 skater to evaluate at the U14A level. The U14A team will ultimately have 14 skaters once a decision is made on the injured players.

This is the first year we will be holding our U19 AA and A tryouts in the spring. They commence next week.

Our U12 Provincial selections will be conducted in the fall as usual.

On another note, GCRA have stepped up to host the ORA 2018 AA Provincials. We were an emergency replacement for Cambridge as they were unable to secure ice. We are still in the process of finalizing ice contracts with the city. All competitive teams will be required to volunteer and we will be looking for volunteers to be members of the organizing committee.

**Action:** Motion to accept the VP Competitive Report moved by Dave McHugh,  
Seconded by Jack Stalica - **Motion Carried.**

#### **4.5 VP Operations – Jennifer Kosak**

Operationally, we have had a smooth and steady year. The tournament was successful, coaching and volunteer requirements were met, we introduced new GCRA pants which we are selling internally, and the new website has been stabilized.

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

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

**Website:** The website has stabilized, feedback has been positive from our membership. From an Association perspective we have seen significant process improvements in the following areas:

- Registrations – all of our programming is now online
- Payments were all online with one optional exception for annual membership
- Player/person management has been significantly improved with respect to overall management and tracking of our membership, team formations, and communications
- Scheduling – the tool has provided a great platform for the association to communicate schedules and for membership to subscribe to their team schedules as needed

From a team management perspective Goalline did not compare to other tools currently on the market, and at this time the GL platform – although free to our membership - is not robust enough at this time to meet the team communication requirements. We will continue to monitor their development progress and if we feel they have a mobile solution comparable to others on the market we will communicate to our membership at that time.

#### **Referee in Chief (Eve Berthelot):**

In the 2016/17 season, 5 new referees joined GCRA, 4 new Referees and 1 who transferred in after moving to Ottawa to attend university.

Several referees advanced from level 1 to level 2, and a few from level 2 to 3, including 1 (Melanie Labelle) who successfully completed the Provincial Officiating Development (POD) program. We currently have one other referee who started the POD program and will continue in the assessment process next season.

GCRA refs had some representation at all provincial events, some as on-ice officials and some as supervisors.

Eve Berthelot will maintain her position as Referee in Chief for the 2017/18 season.

**Volunteer (Coach) Coordinator (Tracy Bray):**

Tracy Bray stepped up this season to act as the Volunteer and Coach Coordinator. I'd like to Thank Tracy for her dedication this year and look forward to her continuing on as Coach coordinator next year *and PRC checker if I can convince her to continue in that regard* - we all know that chasing people down for their Police Checks is no easy task. On the plus side, you clearly get to meet a lot of people you would not otherwise meet!

In 2016/17 we had a total of 174 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 (Darlene Pickup):**

Darlene Pickup has completed her 9<sup>th</sup> successful year as Ice Scheduler for GCRA. This season marks Darlene's final year as Scheduler for GCRA. She has been a wonderful asset to our association over the years, and we would like to thank her for her dedication to our scheduling needs. We have appointed Jay Waxman as Ice Scheduler for the 2017/18 Season. During this year, Jay will head the scheduling and reporting aspects of the role and Darlene will provide mentoring as needed to Jay for the scheduling component as well as continue for all ice acquisition requirements.

Darlene has provided the following blurb for me to report:

As my ninth and final year of Ice Scheduler draws to an end, I would like to thank all coaches and managers that have helped make this past season so successful. I know that we don't always get the ice when we want and where we want but that is the reality of being just one of countless sporting association vying for ice in Ottawa. We have worked well with the City, with Richcraft and with each other to ensure our players were on the ice for practices, clinics, summer programs, the GCRA tournament, games, tryouts, evaluations and special events.

Thank you Darlene, and Welcome aboard Jay!

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

*Serge Robichaud* and *Nathalie Altherr* co-chaired the GCRA tournament this year, and will continue on in this role for the 2017/18 season.

Nathalie Altherr reported another successful year for our tournament with more competitive teams than last year. There were approximately 1,479 players that participated in the tournament. Teams came from all over including New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Alberta. A contract has been signed with HTG for 3 years. Looking for a new registrar for next season. will read the Tournament Chair report.

**Equipment Manager (Franco Croatto):**

*Franco Croatto* has been our Equipment Manager for 2016/17, and will continue in this role for 2017/2018.

Jerseys came back in better shape than in previous year. Franco is requesting one member per team to contact him for jerseys, rings and ring bags as well as sticks.

**Statistician (Denis Lacroix):**

*Denis Lacroix* has been our Statistician for 2016/17, and will continue in this role for 2017/2018.

**Action:** Motion to accept the VP Operations Report moved by Jay Waxman, Seconded by Franco Croatto - **Motion Carried.**

#### **4.6 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 to be displayed at the ORC in our display cabinet.

This year 2017 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 2016**

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

The Recreation camp, hosted at Potvin Arena, had 49 campers which saw an operational loss of \$567.

The Competitive camp, ran out of Barrett Arena had 59 campers and experienced a profit of over \$4200.

Overall, with administrative overhead, the overall profit was \$1600.

Both camps experienced positive feedback. The board discussed at quite some length the future of the camps and despite the potential for loss of revenue, agreed to continue to offer both recreational and competitive camps for the summer of 2017. However, it was agreed to review the administrative processes for the coming year.

## **Summer Camp 2017**

GCRA will run a week of both recreational and competitive camps the week of August 14<sup>th</sup>. This is due to the first Monday in August will be the 7<sup>th</sup> which is a holiday.

Camps will be run out of Potvin and Barret arenas once again.

Competitive Camp has always seen many requests for exceptions for girls to attend that are underage. This year, we have opened up Competitive Camp by one birth year. Competitive camp will no longer entertain any requests for exceptions when it comes to birth year. This practice was time consuming and creates an perceived favouritism among our ringette community.

Recreational camp this year is looking at potentially offering an hour or so a day at the HEO Performance Centre under the guidance of a certified trainer to provide an alternative to an hour of craft time. This is still being discussed with all parties but it is in an effort to offer recreational campers a little something more.

Upon review and approval from the Board, there is no central administrative position for the camps this year; but rather administrative duties have been divided between the Director at Large and the camp coordinators. This is cost savings of \$1200.

This year, all applications for the counsellor jobs and the volunteer positions were required to submit resumes in which a hiring committee of 3 executive members rated the resumes against standard pre-determined rubrics. The top scored resumes were passed onto the camp coordinators for final interviews and decisions. The selected candidates will be provided by the Camp Coordinator 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 \$6000. In 2017, we will offer the same the week of August 21<sup>st</sup>.

## **U16 Mentorship Pilot**

Last year, part way through the season, a mentorship pilot was executed. The U16AA's was matched with a U10 regional team. 2-3 older girls volunteered weekly to go to the U10's practice. They were not coaching, but rather mentoring. The older girls were in full equipment, did drill with the U10's, followed the instructions of the coaches and worked one on one with some of the kids. During the year, the U10's

were invited on the U16 practice and the favour was returned at the end of the year with a mixed scrimmage.

This pilot program was extremely well accepted by all parents at both age groups. It provided an opportunity for the older girls (if they wanted) to give back to the ringette community and have some volunteer experience while for the younger there was encouragement and excellent role models.

**Action:** Motion to accept the Director at Large Report moved by Kim Leehmuis.  
Seconded by Kelly Searle- **Motion Carried.**

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

**The Novice and Bunny Divisions**

Thank you to all the parents who came out to the AGM.

The Novice division had 6 teams: 2 at U8, 2 at U9 and 2 at U10 for a total of 73 players.

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. All teams played hard, and one of our U9 teams won the silver in the tournament.

The coaches felt that they had much success and the parents' feedback indicates that the children improved in their skills and knowledge of ringette.

What was notable this year was that it was the first year that we were able to accommodate our south end residents to a certain degree with the formation of both a U8 and U10 south end team. The feedback we received has been very positive and we will continue with this, contingent on registration numbers and ice allocation.

The Bunny program ran three different groups: one in Blackburn, one at Ray Friel and one at Barrett. We had 53 boys and girls registered for our learn-to-skate program. This number was lower than previous years, and we are 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 CORA.

I would like to take this time to thank Val Cavers who was essentially the convenor for the Bunny program and ran the senior bunnies. Val ensured that there was communication to all our players and that the new coaches in the south end were well supported. She is enthusiastic and wants all our bunnies to be lifelong players.

I'd like to thank the U8 convenor Kelley Perreault, the U9 convenor Sebastien Durand and the U10 convenor Marc D'Aoust for volunteering this year.

Lastly I want to thank all the fantastic coaches & trainers at the bunny and novice levels, who give their time, knowledge and enthusiasm to coaching our young players and instill in them a love of the sport.

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

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

This was our first year having with the position of Director of Player Development. Our goal this year was to offer programs to both the regional and provincial players with an emphasis on our younger players at a no cost to the association. This was our first attempt at this type of programming and we have done lots of learning throughout the year.

We ran a variety of programs:

Novice Power Skating and Novice Skills Sessions. Both programs were very well attended and received very good feedback. We hired Amanda Gour, NRL player to lead the sessions. 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. This program was offered earlier in the year as teams were selected and ready to go.

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. These sessions ended with a fair turnout. We had hired NRL girls but they were unable to fulfill as the dates conflicted with other commitments. We hired



Madison Jones who ran the sessions with coach volunteers. This program ran in the later part of the year as many parents had mentioned that the girls needed more ice time in the later part not only for their final tournament but to level the playing field as try outs are in the spring.

U16/U19 Competitive and Regional Programs:

We attempted to run a three series program for both of these groups. We hired Kaitlyn Youldon, NRL and Team Canada player to run the sessions. However registration was very limited with 1 registration in one program and 3 in the other. Both these programs were cancelled.

Goalie Clinics:

We ran goalie clinics for our girls throughout the season. A huge thank you to Heather Guy who worked with Goaler U and all of the coaches in order to organize goalie clinics. We had great feedback from this program.

Four on Four for U12 and U14:

This program ran in the spring and was sold out. 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 also like to thank Jen Kosack who helped organize the on line registration. Having on-line registration facilitated an equal opportunity to registration and reduced a great number of man/woman power hours.

Good:

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. Many families are also interested in spring sessions such as 4 on 4. Continue to have programs for U14 and under. Having on line registration facilitates the process.

Areas of improvement:

We need to hire more people and count less on the volunteers as we are stretching our volunteers. We need to find a way to attract our Regional Players to our sessions. Review if U19 and U16 should have programs. Need to review the facility we use and the available night.

**Action:** Motion to accept the Director of Player Development Report moved by Dave McHugh. Seconded by Marc D'Aoust- **Motion Carried.**

5. **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

**VP Administration**

**Michelle Reis**

Nominated by Darlene Pickup

Seconded by Rylee Batista

**Acclaimed**

**VP Competitive**

**Jeff Beaulac**

Nominated by Susan Woodhouse

Seconded by Jay Waxman

**Acclaimed**

**VP Novice and Bunnies**

**Jen Vila**

Nominated by Celine Leduc

Seconded by Jay Waxman

**Acclaimed**

**Treasurer**

**Nadia Wolters**

Nominated by Susan Woodhouse

Seconded by Nathalie Altherr

**Acclaimed**

## 6. NEW BUSINESS

Jack Stalica came forward with concerns regarding re-seedings being done with NCRRL teams for the 2nd half of the season. Parents recommend an information session being done for them to better understand the process.

Kim Leemhuis has come forward to help Celine Leduc with the powerskating clinics for the upcoming season.

Joanne Laskoski has been appointed our new Promotion Co-ordinator

All Executive positions are volunteers and they are not paid positions.

**Congratulations** to our Door Prize Winner:

Mark D'Aoust – \$100.00 off a Player Registration for the 2017-2018 season.

## 7. ADJOURNMENT

**Action:** Motion to adjourn the meeting - Moved by Susan Woodhouse and seconded by Franco Croatto. **Motion Carried.**