Female Director’s Report – 2019

 This year, SHA brought into effect it’s female development model. Information about this program can be found on SHA’s website. One of the fundamental goals of SHA was to ensure that the girls are playing age appropriate (bantam on a bantam team -not a midget team) In order to support this, the decision was made to reduce the AAA league by one team and to assign the centers who would be allowed to host AA teams. Accordingly, this year began with significant work with the STEP League and the AAA Sharks. Together with the STEP League we negotiated and entered into an association for the growth and development of female hockey in the North West. This included steps to ensure that every girl who wanted to, had the opportunity to play on an all-female team.

 SHA required that all AAA female teams re-apply to keep their franchise as SHA planned to reduce the league by one AAA female team. In order to be a successful applicant, the community / region needed to provide proof of the fact they had the numbers and the programming for all levels of female hockey. We joined together with the STEP League and nearly every community within the North West Part of the province to submit this application. We were successful in keeping our AAA Sharks. In addition, the North West was awarded a Bantam AA team and a Midget AA team.

 For the first time we had an all-female atom team. This is credited to the program that Mandy Lehman had spearheaded in the years previous and the strong support of the parents of the atom female team. The team was large, 18 players. They had a very good season playing primarily in the atom house league. I can not thank the parents and coaches enough for the support of a female hockey program in the Battlefords. It appears we will have both an atom and pee wee female team for the 2019 – 2020 season.

 Our midget AA team had players from all over the north west this year. The team travelled to Calgary for Wickfest. They played in the Sask Female Hockey League – North Division. Our team made it into playoffs and lost to Debden after 3 games. There are several graduating players. We wish you the best in your future endeavors.

 BMHA is proud of the development of female hockey to date and we will strive to continue to improve in future.

 We are currently looking for coaches for the AA teams (Bantam and Midget).

 Once spring registration is complete, we will be working, together with the North West association to have North West Female teams in every age category.

Patricia Meiklejohn