

2017-2018

President's Report

I would like to start off by thanking the incredibly dedicated people that I had the pleasure of sitting on the Board of Directors with; Kyle Kellgren (Vice President), Jason Teniuk (Past President), Amanda Buchko (Treasurer), Mandy Lehman (Secretary), Wes Dust (IP Director), Ali Kramer (Novice Director), Chris Browne (Atom Director), Jason Hawkes (Peewee Director), Barb Heidt (Bantam Director), Michelle Lascelle (Midget Director), Scott Florence (Representative Director), Patricia Meiklejohn (Female Director), Sheldon Revet (Referee Director), Bruce Yockey (AAA Stars Director), and Dave Amson (AAA Sharks Director). I also want to acknowledge the hardworking staff of BMHA; Kelly Strain (Office Manager) and Kerilee Tady (Ice Scheduler, Officials Assignor, and Equipment Manager). Each and every one of these individuals is necessary to ensure that BMHA runs smoothly & organized. In addition, I cannot forget to mention our volunteer Coaches, Staff, Parents and Players; without you, we would not have an Association.

I am very proud to say that 2017-2018 has been one of the most successful years that we have had in a very long time. I would like to take the time to acknowledge some of our League accomplishments:

Novice Division: one of our teams made it to the semi final round and our team led by Jordan Solomko, Branden Lyschshyn, and Chris Gerstenhofer won the Hiway 14 League final.

Atom Division: one team made it to semi finals and our other League team came up short in the Hiway 14 final.

Peewee Division: It was great to see our 2 Step League teams battle it out in the B side final which also resulted in overtime play by two very evenly matched teams.

Bantam Division: In Step League, one Bantam team made it to semi final play and our other team played in the League final.

Midget Division: Our Midget team also made it to the Step League final.

And a BIG Congratulations to our Bantam Provincial team on their successes to the provincial final. The team, led by Brendan Kramer, Trevor Scherman and Darrel Brandle brought home the first provincial title since the 2009-2010 season. This team set their goal from day one, showed up to every morning practice, has a disciplined approach and came out on top.

A big success this year was investment in development. We were able to secure Trach Powerskating this year. Jordan's powerskating and Blake's skill development were instrumental in the successes we seen this year. We have already secured their return for the 2018-2019 season and it is our hopes that we will be able to offer this program to all of our players in some way. We are going to start by putting our coaches through the program at the beginning of the season so they can immediately start to incorporate it into their practice plans. Again this season, we supplemented the Mind the Net program for goalies to further their development. We have received great feedback from the players and parents and their development is proven with their successes on ice.

I think one of the things I am most proud of is our referee development. Sheldon Revet has been working very hard on developing our referees. We have been able to provide them with some powerskating, on ice sessions with mock games and mentorship, and some real behind the scenes support. We have become leaders in the Province for our referee program and it is being noticed by a lot of other organizations.

First shift was hosted by BMHA for a fourth year headed by Greg Cameron. Thank you so much for all the hard work you do for these newcomers to hockey. We have had many children join mainstream hockey from this program and do consider it to be a great success.

Hockey Canada has mandated half ice for the Novice division in the 2019-2020 season. It differs from the IP cross ice in that the players will be half ice length instead of cross ice width. Exactly how this is going to look for the whole season is still being determined by Hockey Canada and the Provincial Associations. They are discussing if this will run the full season or until Christmas. As of right now, we have not heard if SHA is making any changes to the 2018-2019 season.

Our female program is gaining strength each year and this is something that we are very proud of. Next year, we are on track to have full time female novice and/or atom teams. It is our hope in partnering that we can have teams in each division within the next two years. We will also be hosting one of 4 Female Festivals in the province. Dates are still being finalized with SHA.

One of the most notable differences in the office has been the addition of a part time employee. Kerilee has been instrumental in keeping everything organized in terms of scheduling our ice and officials and working hard in our equipment room. We purchased the arbiter program to schedule the refs and it has been a huge success in communicating and ensuring that we have officials at every event needed. Hiway 14 also does not require our association to track our officials because the program does it for us.

This year we also purchased 3 sets of Novice jerseys and will replace the other 3 sets in the 2018-2019 season. We also may look at having a "garage sale" to clear out some of our old jerseys and equipment.

We continue to strengthen our Barons brand with our universal set of clothing. It has been great seeing our players in the community easily identified as Barons. With Kyle's assistance, we were able to secure North Star season passes for all of our players and it was great to see the Barons logo greatly represented at all of their home games. A big thank you to the North Star organization for that!

This year we were also able to offer our players additional ice by partnering with some out of town communities to utilize their surfaces as well as being able to offer some morning ice in town.

We recognized that we were having increasingly frustrating issues with our website provider through their website and app platforms. We made the decision to return to our previous provider and it has been an amazing transition. Since making the move, we have not seen any significant issues arise.

Lastly, I want to mention a very special award that was given to one of our past Board members last June. John Jangula was named SHA's volunteer of the year. This was a very proud moment for BMHA because we recognize how very important all of our volunteers are. Sometimes volunteer work can seem like a thankless job but please know that the BMHA Board truly recognizes everything you guys do.

Jenni Wuttunee
President
Battlefords Minor Hockey

