

Dearest members and disciples of hockey,

I come to you in the twilight of my son's minor hockey career. As I sit here reflecting on my son's hockey journey and pilgrimage, it has been some roller coaster ride. There will never be enough videos and pictures of your son's or daughter's playing the game they love, so take lots and cherish those memories.

I was fortunate to see both sides of minor hockey in Richmond and Seafair: the good, the bad and the ugly. And with the merger, I had hoped, in my heart, that the current "keepers" of our game would rekindle the spirit and give new meaning and guidance to hockey in Richmond. But shadows and the darkness of the old that was, still remain.

I believe in the Religion and Culture of Hockey "1247365"

Words such as honour, humility, integrity, sportsmanship, and teamwork have not always been conveyed, but lost. It's been sometimes hard looking into our children's eyes, struggling and searching for answers, "why they can't play" or have lost "the magic," "the twinkle" and "the passion" for the game I dearly love.

It's truly the time to find new breath, and preach the game of hockey and all the good that empowers it. Teach them well and what it means to battle hard, play fair with integrity, and above all else, be respectful to the coaches, officials, opponents and foremost, to the game. And with that being ingrained into the children's minds, the parents will support and be involved for all the right reasons.

A time for oversight is needed to safe guard and protect the values of the sport. We need a mechanism that encourages the kids and parents too just ask "why?"

A time of openness and acceptance. Transparency, a word spoken of but never brought forth all these years. This has to change, this needs to change for the kids, the association and the community.

A time to listen , speak "your two bits," and then listen again. And maybe realize and recognize the mistakes we made and "OWN UP". To whom... our kids, the players, our customers, our future.

A promise...a vow...

...to my religion (hockey that is). I do not claim to have all the answers, and sometimes we just don't know. But I will stand up, turn around and ask, as always for the kids. Seek and search for the answers from traditions past to hopefully bring forth a new start and future as Richmond Jets. And TOGETHER we will search for hockey's perfection...

..."A perfect backhand saucer ("the sauce") pass, over 3 sticks and defenders to my teammate, scoring top corner , bar down. "

If anything, PLEASE VOTE and try to make your little voice be heard. IF NOT FOR ME, please, for someone who truly believes in the betterment of the game, embodying the values and traditions that hockey has to offer. It all starts with a smile, 2 sticks and a puck.

P.S.

My sincerest apologies to all the goalies. We tend to neglect them in all of the coaches' practice plans.

In search of hockey's perfection..."staring down a 3-0 , stopping the first shot and the rebound with a stretch slide and beautiful kick save. When everything looks bleak, ...down and out ...the stretch of the body, the reach of our goal stick , to knock that puck out of mid air and then off the goalline."

I wish us well as we embark on our future... TOGETHER.