

## **WRRR AGM Meeting – April 15, 2015**

### **WRRR President's Report**

This marks the end of the second year of my term as WRRR President. My main objective at the beginning of the year was to make improvements from previous years and from my perspective I believe that objective was met.

First, we had perfect attendance from all Associations at each of the WRRR meetings we held. This has been critical to our success this past year in order to ensure that each Association is fully aware of the requirements to make our season run smoothly.

Second, we had 2 very important meetings this year that led to a season with very few issues to resolve. The second half re-seeding meeting in December was instrumental in ensuring that there was more competitive play among teams of equal skill. While this can never be 100% accurate due to the number of teams, location, etc, the equality of competition was usually much better in the second half.

Further, the most important meeting of the WRRR year was held in Dorchester on March 10. All Association reps and a member from each WRRR team's bench staff were invited to this Regionals tournament seeding meeting. Out of 87 U8 to U19 teams in Western Region there was approximately 70 bench staffs represented. The seeding for the Regionals tournament was done efficiently and cooperatively. To date, there have been no complaints regarding the pool seeding at the tournament and so this was a great improvement over previous years. However, the critical aspect of this meeting was a pre-Regionals tournament presentation by Nancy Nicolson-Houghtling regarding the ORA/Western Region Code of Conduct zero tolerance policy. This was done to pre-empt any issues among all participants on and off the ice and the main objective was to protect our officials with the hope of avoiding events that happened during the 2014 tournament. Other than a discussion with a U9 coach and a couple player incidents at U19, the level of respect and sportsmanship displayed throughout the tournament was stellar. Great job everyone!

At the end of the 2013/2014 season WRRR we discussed the need to increase our player enrollment across Western Region. I don't think it can be argued that all Associations would like to have more children playing and particularly at the house league level to help ensure Associations can remain alive which in turn will help diminish the amount of travel required. An ad-hoc group led by Wanda McHarg of Hanover met once and this project continues to inch along. Several associations have embarked on aggressive plans to grow the sport locally. There has also been discussion around re-starting the sport in towns where ringette used to thrive or even new towns where there are facilities and youth available. We must realize that all of this is a long term project and won't be achieved overnight. Western Region must continue to work together in many aspects to grow the sport.

Finally, I want to thank everyone in front of and behind the scenes in Western Region that help bring this great sport of ringette to our youth. We need more adults (young and mature) to participate at all aspects, from bench staff personnel to tournament helpers in order to spread out the work load. Yes, the biggest problem with minor sport is the parents but conversely, without them none of this would work.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Brian Woolley - WRRR President**