

FREDERICTON YOUTH HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2011-12

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT, BY KEVIN FERGUSON

One only needs to walk through Willie O'Ree Place, York Arena or the LBR to see what the sport of hockey means in Fredericton. Boys and girls, young women and men, from little more than 3 feet tall to well over 6 feet... entering dressing rooms with eager grins and game faces, in anticipation of what awaits them in the hour to come... or leaving the ice, satisfied that their job well done, marked by sweat and flushed cheeks, has earned the juice box in mom's bag or the keys to drive the car home. Make no mistake about it; this is for them.

Sometimes, we become so engrained in the minutia of running families and hockey teams that we forget why we're here. So rather than reviewing all the details of the 2011-12 season, I would simply like to extend my thanks, on behalf of the FYHA Board, to all those that contribute to the experience of our players.

Firstly, I would like to thank all of the coaches, managers, and helpers from each and every team across all our divisions. As a parent or a player, you never really value a coaching staff until you experience a great one. And I've heard many stories this year about the tremendous job that our coaches, bench staff and team managers are doing here in the Fredericton area.

Next, thank you to all the volunteers who have given of their time throughout the year off the ice, from evaluations in October to the Boston Bruins alumni game to the Capital Invitational tournament, to FYHA Board meetings, and everything in between. In a community association such as FYHA, volunteers truly make everything happen.

To our sponsors, I extend heartfelt thanks for your commitment to youth hockey in Fredericton. Many of you have been supporting our programs for years and others are recent additions. Without your support, it would be impossible to make it all work.

To the families, friends, guardians and entire support network of each of the 1000 kids who play hockey in Fredericton, a big thank you. Sometimes your children may forget to say it but it means so much to them. Because of you, they're able to play the sport they love.

Finally, I'd like to give a shout out to all the players... from Timbits to Midget, Recreation to Competitive AA, girls and boys. You play hard, exhibit sportsmanship, and have lots of fun. I hope you are able to look back on the year and see that you've improved your hockey skills while making some good friends along the way. As I said at the top of my report... this Association is for you. Great effort in 2011-12... I hope you'll be back next year.

As I depart the FYHA Board, I can tell you there are lots of positives happening across this Association. Best wishes to the new board in continuing the good work already underway.

Kevin Ferguson
President

INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT, BY SCOTT LOCKHART

REGISTRATION

FYHA registered 1033 players in the 2011-12 season. Our total number for the 2010-11 season was 1066. The following chart shows the comparison of the last two years:

<u>Division</u>	2010-11	2011-12
Initiation (Timbits)	135	126
Novice	185	186
Atom	219	213
Peewee	189	168
Bantam	172	188
Midget	163	152
TOTAL	1063	1036

In 2010-11 we had 77 female players registered. In 2011-12 we had 83.

Approximately 720 (69%) players were registered through our online process.

NEW POLICIES

The 2011-12 season saw many new policies introduced, as well as many changes to some of our operational guidelines.

A few of the key changes were:

Coach Selections – Coaches were pre-approved, but not assigned to competitive teams until the player evaluation process was complete. If a parent of a player trying out had applied to coach, their child had to meet a minimum ranking in the player draft in order for the parent to be named as a coach of a particular team. If the player did not meet the minimum ranking required (for a particular team, or group of teams), then the parent was not selected to coach at that level.

Coach Rebates – A coach rebate was introduced this season. A maximum of two coaches per team would receive a \$25 thank you gift from FYHA (providing they had a registered child on the team).

Safety – All players playing body contact levels of hockey are now required to wear mouth guards.

Dressing Rooms – A new policy was adopted regarding the use of electronic devices in locker rooms. Devices capable of taking pictures are no longer permitted to be used in the rooms.

ICE SCHEDULES AND COSTS FOR 2012-13

The addition of the new Grant-Harvey Center will bring new opportunities for ice time in the 2012-13 season. FYHA has held preliminary meetings with the City of Fredericton Recreation Dept, and we have submitted our requests for the amount of ice times that would best meet our needs.

We are hoping that our requests will result in better times for our Initiation (Timbits) and Novice groups.

We are also hoping to be able to increase the amount of practice times for our competitive teams, resulting in a better development opportunity for players. The addition of new ice should also drastically reduce the amount of travel required to outside facilities for practices and games (with the exception of regular district game schedules for competitive teams). Confirmation has not been received from the City as of yet.

Costs for 2012-13

We have been made aware by the City of Fredericton that all ice users will be subject to a \$20 per hour increase beginning in the Fall of 2012. This is a considerable increase to FYHA.

It will need to be determined prior to 2012 registration if this will lead to an increase in player registration cost.

WEB SITE UPGRADE

We have recently upgraded to the "Pro" version of our web site. This has brought many new features and benefits!

COACH CERTIFICATIONS

The new certification rules from Hockey Canada were the cause of some trying times early on, but in the end we had a large number of coaches and volunteers complete the necessary training. FYHA spent substantial funds the new training requirements for our volunteers.

NEW COACH SURVEY

A more user friendly coach survey, which allows parents and players to provide feedback, was introduced this year.

This survey is intended to provide feedback to our volunteers to help them understand where they are succeeding and where they can further develop. It can also be a valuable tool to our coach selection committee. We had hoped the introduction of this new format would allow us to collect much more responses than prior years, and we are very pleased to say that this was the case! A total of 271 responses were collected. An 800% increase!

Thank you very much to everyone who took the time to complete the survey.

SUMMER LEAGUE INTRO

Starting July 2, 2012, FYHA will be offering a summer hockey league for the very first time. This program is being designed to bring together players of both recreational and competitive calibers to play in a relaxed, safe, and FUN hockey environment. All teams will play 10 games over a 7 week period. Registration has gone very well so far, and there are waiting lists in several age groups.

BOSTON PIZZA FAIR PLAY PROGRAM

Boston Pizza and FYHA partnered again this year for Boston Pizza's Fair Play program. Coupons were supplied for individual players awards for "Fair Play Player of the Game" and teams prizes for pizza parties.

FUNDRAISING EVENTS

I am very pleased to say that we had considerable success with association fundraising efforts this season.

Capital Invitational Tournament – Due to a lot of restructuring on the operation and expenses, our annual tournament turned a net surplus of approximately \$12,000. This is a drastic improvement over the last few years.

Boston Bruins Alumni Game – This one day event was a tremendous success! There was a lot of buzz around the city leading up to the event, and we raised almost \$15,000. Indications suggest that this was the largest fundraiser for our association in many years!

FYHA Summer Hockey League – Results of this fundraising program are to be determined.

SPONSORSHIPS

We were fortunate to have the following new sponsors come on board this year. Each of these companies contributed to FYHA in different ways.

SkateTech
Delta Fredericton
Bates Custom Laminating
Club Fred

FUTURE FUNDRAISING & SPONSORSHIPS

Fundraising and the acquiring of corporate sponsor efforts are ongoing.

We have recently been given approval to sell advertising on the Zambonis at Willie O'Ree Place. The proposal package is currently being finalized, and will go out to potential sponsors soon.

Preliminary talks have also taken place on how we can be involved in other joint fundraising efforts with the Nashwaaksis Y's Men at Willie O'Ree Place.

Other fundraising and sponsorship projects are also in the planning stages.

DISCIPLINE

The discipline committee did have to meet on a few incidents this season. Suspensions and sanctions were imposed upon players, coaches, and parents. Overall, it seemed as though the number of incidents were down over prior years.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Moving forward, I would recommend that the Board look at the following for ways to improve:

- Registrations – ensure that our registration numbers are limited to having a set number of teams with full rosters. Registrations should only be accepted from the waiting list if there are players who unregister, or if there are enough names on the wait list to add another team (with a full roster) in a particular division.

This has been the policy of FYHA in the past, and we have gotten away from in the past few years. It causes many problems when not adhered to.

- Have the officials group have more accountability. This may mean having penalties in place for no-shows, games not fully assigned, delays in submitting incident reports, etc.
- Continue to emphasize fair Play policies with coaches, players and parents.
- Be more involved and pro-active at ensuring balance among teams at the Recreation levels.
- Have a clear process in place on how registrations are handled for those requiring financial assistance. This may mean consulting with organizations such as KidSport or Brendan Oreto Foundation.
- Continue to look for opportunities and ways to offer player skill development

THANK YOU

The FYHA Board started out the 2011-12 season with many new faces and volunteers. It was the involvement of each and every one of these folks that contributed to many improvements of our association. Because of the quality of these people, 2011-12 was one of the most enjoyable years that I have had at FYHA.

I would like to express appreciation to all the coaches and many other volunteers involved in our association. Thank you for all that you do!

DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS REPORT BY SCOTT LOCKHART

Operational topics covered in Interim Executive Director report.

TREASURER REPORT, BY JEFF HANSON

Please Note: As we are currently in the process of having our 2011-12 audit completed and ensuring any late 2011-12 transactions are recorded, references in this report are preliminary and subject to change. Final numbers and audited financial statements will be posted at a later date.

Another busy and exciting hockey year has come to an end. Through the efforts of many, the Fredericton Youth Hockey Association was able to finish the year with an operating surplus of approximately \$40 thousand. The current year operating surplus will assist in facing the challenges and financial pressures of 2012-13 and future years.

Major factors contributing to the surplus were

- Bruins alumni game – net surplus of \$15 thousand
- Capital invitational tournament – net surplus of \$12 thousand

We would also like to express our appreciation and gratitude to our corporate sponsors who have donated money, uniforms and other resources. As well, we would like to thank other organizations who have assisted financially. These organizations include

- Jumpstart
- Kids Sport
- Brendan Oreto Foundation

After completion of our annual audit, more detailed financial information will be posted.

DIRECTOR OF COACHING REPORT, BY STERLING BROWN

INTRODUCTION

On behalf of the FYHA I would like to thank all the volunteers, coaches, team managers and on-ice helpers that took the time this past season to help our young hockey players develop in a fun and safe environment. Coaches are the ones that can contribute the most to ensuring a great hockey experience for our youth. Many of you were required to make some personal sacrifices, arrangements with your employers and other family members in order to make the commitment to coach or volunteer. I hope that you enjoyed the experience as well and will consider coaching again next season.

COACHING CERTIFICATIONS

The FYHA made coaching certifications a priority this season. The reason for this was two-fold; coach development and compliance with Hockey New Brunswick's - NB Minor Hockey Operations Manual directives. Our goal was to ensure all our coaching staff had or achieved the required certifications prior to the December 15, 2011 deadline. HNB supported our association by directing certification courses in a classroom setting for 124 of our coaches and bench staff:

Hockey Canada Safety Program - 16 certified
Introduction to Coaching – 26 certified
Coach Stream – 47 certified
Speak-out – 35 certified

In addition to these certifications, we had 51 FYHA coaches or volunteers successfully complete the on-line version of Speak-out called Respect-In-Sport bringing the total number of certifications completed to 175 for 2011-12. As a result, it will be easier going forward to comply with HNB directives regarding coaching certifications and to retain coaches and encourage further development.

The FYHA has made it very clear to our membership this year that to volunteer with our association you must formally apply through the Volunteer Application process. The FYHA, along with HNB will continue to monitor closely to ensure all our coaches and bench staff are properly certified and have met the requirements outlined. The FYHA will also continue to support any individual that meets the requirements and wants to volunteer and become certified.

COACH SELECTION PROCESS

The FYHA had 72 teams and 180 rostered coaches (Head Coaches/Assistant Coaches) approved by a committee comprised of the FYHA Director of Coaching, Executive Director and Director of Operations. Volunteer Applications and Criminal Background Checks were received by the Executive Director prior to the start of the season and certification credentials were verified. The committee met to initially select the Head Coaches for each division based on the requirements being met, coaching experience and previous disciplinary infractions. Assistant coaches, in most divisions were submitted for approval in a second phase of the selection process. Division Coordinators were given an opportunity to provide input into the selection process as well.

A master list of coaches/volunteers was developed at the start of the season to track volunteers in our association on an on-going basis and to facilitate the application process for future seasons. For the upcoming season, it is recommended that we advertise and begin the volunteer application/recruitment process earlier. This will allow us to identify newcomers as well as returnees and be timelier in terms of planning for each division. We have had problems recruiting coaches for the

Initiation Program, Bantam and Midget divisions in the past and we usually don't realize we are in need until after player registration.

OVERALL ASSESSMENT

The 2011-12 season was successful for our association in terms of coach development and the number of volunteers that participated. There were only a few negative incidents reported involving coaches and they were dealt with accordingly. Also, there were some very positive reports sent by our membership about our coaches and some good stories that exemplify the commitment and leadership qualities of the majority of our coaches.

Our coaching group this season included several younger coaches that are not parents but had a desire to coach minor hockey. These individuals performed very well and as an association, we recognize the benefits of attracting and retaining more of these coaches in the future.

NEW COACH EVALUATION SURVEY

At the end of the season, the Interim Executive Director developed and made available a web based evaluation survey to our membership to provide feedback to the association about the coaching as it pertains to the hockey experience over the season. This survey tool allows our membership access to a more user-friendly means to provide the association with feedback. Results were not complete at the time of this report.

DIRECTOR OF PROPERTY & EQUIPMENT REPORT, BY RAYMOND CURTIS

EQUIPMENT

- Ordered new pucks for a total of \$3,390.00
- Purchased new jerseys for a total of \$11,745.37
- Purchased goalie gear for Atom & Novice for a total of \$2,380.91
- Purchased pylons for Timbits for a total of \$100.00

UNIFORMS

- The year started out with the replacement of socks for most teams, for a total of \$4,185.52
- Timbits received 4 new sets of jerseys
- Novice received 2 new sets of jerseys
- Atom received 1 new set of jerseys (Atom Comp)
- Bantam received 2 new sets of jerseys

Jersey replacements were provided via sponsorships from Tim Hortons, Wendy's, Nashwaaksis Y's Men, and Scotiabank.

The total spent this year for property and equipment was \$21,801.80. With sponsorships coming in at \$11,000.00, the net cost to FYHA was \$10,801.80.

We will be looking at replacing the rest of the Novice goalie gear and additional jersey sets again for next season – budget expectations for Property & Equipment will be approximately \$25,000 to \$30,000.

Thanks,

Raymond Curtis

TIMBITS COORDINATOR REPORT, BY DARREN SHAKOTKO

It was a great year for Timbit hockey in FYHA. Timbits operated out of the three arenas - Willie O'Ree 1 & 2 and the York. Registration numbers were very good. A break down as follows:

Willie O'Ree 1 – 45 Players / 13 Coaches

Willie O'Ree 2 – 43 Players / 15 Coaches

York Arena - 43 Players / 11 Coaches

Total 131 Players / 39 Coaches

A big thank you to all the coaches/volunteers for the countless hours they committed to being on the ice and working with our 5 & 6 year olds. Without them, Timbits would not be the success it was.

Our weekly schedule consisted of two ice times per week, every Wednesday and Saturday. All Wednesday ice times were practice sessions with every Saturday being practice sessions until December 15th when we switched to a rotational modified game structure.

We also followed the LTPD Model and guidelines as mandated by Minor Council for all our practices and games. Our game structure consisted of the modified games in that all games were played on half ice, no goalies, no score, no refs, no face-offs, and the use of more than one puck. This worked great in that the players received lots of ice time during the games, they learned to play together, and with the use of more than one puck, more players had the opportunity to have more puck touches. I strongly recommend that this structure remain in place to keep promoting the "Fun"amentals, development and fun.

Again, I can't thank the volunteers and the mom & dads or grandparents for all the time spent at the rink, helping on the ice or being there to help with equipment and tying of skates. So thank you!

This is my last year as Timbit Coordinator, I enjoyed my time with this program and look forward to being involved in another capacity. Thanks

Darren Shakotko

NOVICE COORDINATOR REPORT, BY LORI JACKSON

Overall, the FYHA Novice Division had another great season. Thank you to the volunteers that stepped up to coach or help on the ice. The season went by with very few issues or problems.

There were 194 players divided into Novice minor (1st year - 109 players) and Novice major (2nd year - 85 players). In cases where parents, coaches and the coordinator were in agreement, players in their first year of hockey or first time skaters were permitted to play down a division to support their development. There were 4 kids that were approved to play down this season.

The novice minor program had 6 teams with an average of 18 players per team while novice major had 6 teams with an average 14 players per team. This year we did not have an all girls novice team and all girls played with the boys. When teams were assigned, at least 2 girls were assigned per team – no girl was alone on a team. Weekly All-Female skills practices were conducted on Sunday mornings.

COACHING & DEVELOPMENT

In total, there were 28 volunteers that coached or helped out on the ice or bench. A coaches meeting was held prior to the start of the season to ensure all coaches understood the certification rules, knew the format for the year, how groups/teams would be selected, key timelines, etc.

This year we had a few full-time goalies and to try to get more kids interested, goalie clinics were conducted by Kirk Gormley. Coaches were encouraged to attend these clinics in order to conduct drills for the goalies during regular practices. I heard very positive feedback from those attending these clinics.

Novice minor and major teams followed the same format this year in terms of practice to games ratio. For the October and November ice-times, teams practiced and in December began playing games. The normal routine for December to March was to practice during the weekday ice-time and play a game on Saturday or Sunday. Some novice teams played in at least one novice jamboree outside the FYHA which gave them some more playing time as well. Referees were introduced in games starting in January for novice major teams and coaches spent some time in practices teaching the off-sides, positioning and some of the other basics in preparation of games.

Although the subject of modified ice was explained at the coaches meeting held in October, some Novice minor coaches were not always respecting the modified ice format for games. While it is understandable that parents and players want to play full ice games, the modified ice format exists for developmental reasons. The novice minor teams averaged about 18 players per team, so players would not get the same amount of ice-time under the full game format.

With the exception of one team, there was relatively good parity between all the Novice teams. Coaches were directed to rate the players by 3 skill-levels and then divide each group into two teams.

SCHEDULING & ICE TIMES

This year ran fairly smoothly and all 6 Novice groups (12 teams) ended up with relatively the same number of ice-times within one or two hours. Overall, we met our objective in terms of ice-times with each team averaging 2 ice-times per week and no teams went longer than 10 days without an ice-time. However, with several Friday/Saturday/Sunday ice times cancelled due to special events at the rinks, it was very challenging to meet this objective. For those teams who had Friday as their regular practice time, it was very difficult to provide a consistent schedule.

The Novice/Timbit Picture Day event at Kingswood which was hosted by McKinley's Open Ice and Nevin Magee helped replace the lost ice times for one weekend. I would also like to acknowledge that Scott Lockhart, Dir. of Operations, was very effective at providing extra-ice times to ensure we met our ice-time objectives for the season.

FYHA TIMBIT / NOVICE JAMBOREE

This year's jamboree was held March 23th to 25th and through the support of these major sponsors: Wendy's Restaurants of Fredericton, Canadian Tire Northside, Hostess-Frito Lay, Pepsico and Tim Horton's, the event was a huge success. This year 6 novice minor and 6 novice major teams from FYHA, as well as 6 novice major teams from out of town played 3 games each over the 3 days.

This year the pizza party took place at Nashwaaksis Middle School with the theatre being used for the presentation of the medals and prizes. Thank you to a number of parents who stepped up and volunteered their time at the pizza party. For next year, I would recommend a theatre setting for the medals presentation – I had a number of parents comment that they were able to see their kids receiving their medals up on stage. Also seeing the looks on the kids faces when they were walking across the stage to receive their medals, it was very special for them.

CONCLUSION

Overall it was a great season, however, I would recommend the following to ensure a successful season again next year:

- Ensure all groups/teams are as equal as possible in terms of skill-level – kids should not be assigned to groups based on their friends being in a particular group.
- The handling of special requests need to be reviewed as it would appear that this is being misused, potentially creating inequity between teams and adding unnecessary work to the volunteer coordinator.
- Jerseys & socks not be handed out to coaches until teams have been determined
- Continue to hold bi-weekly goalie clinics throughout the season.
- Have personnel from Hockey Canada or Hockey New Brunswick explain to the coaches the benefits of modified ice for novice minor games.
- Continue the weekly skills practices for girls only but to explore other possible ice times.

ATOM COORDINATOR REPORT, BY SHELLY RICKARD

The 2011-2012 Atom division was comprised of 9 atom recreational teams and 4 competitive teams. For the second year, Kevin Ferguson managed the competitive division and his report is included below.

COMPETITIVE DIVISION (Kevin Ferguson)

The Atom Competitive division had another very successful season in 2011-12. This season, we welcomed a new sponsor to Atom Comp as the Nashwaaksis Y's Men stepped up and replaced an aging set of Boston Pizza uniforms, thus retiring the Boston Pizza Pirates and ushering in the Na'sis Y's Men Wildcats. A big thanks to the Y's Men.

On the ice, FYHA had a solid campaign in the ten-team District 3 Atom Comp league. At season's end, all four of our teams – Devon Lumber Kings, DQ Blizzards, Lion's Club Lions, and Y's Men Wildcats – finished well enough to earn a spot in the Atom AA classification for playoffs. Congratulations to the DQ Blizzards who won the District 3 Atom AA championship over the Woodstock Slammers. Over the course of the season, several tournament banners were also awarded to FYHA Atom Competitive teams.

Off the ice, we were once again fortunate to have had very few concerns or issues raised in the Atom Comp division. Overall, it was a very good year for players, parents, and coaching staff on all four teams. Best of luck to the senior players who will make the jump to Peewee next year and we look forward to our rookie class back for the 2nd year in the fall.

In terms of areas of improvement for next season, I would raise the following for consideration by the 2012-13 FYHA Board:

1. Uniforms

In each of the past 3 seasons, sponsors have purchased new uniforms for the DQ Blizzards (2009-10), Lion's Club Lions (2010-11) and Na'sis Y's Men Wildcats (2011-12). The Kings' jerseys, which I believe are the oldest, are in need of replacement and this should be a priority in the Atom Comp division.

2. Officials

This season, coaches raised two issues in regard to officiating. The first had to do with the experience level of referees. Many times, a junior referee was scheduled and did not appear ready for the Atom Comp level of play. It is essential that young officials have the requisite experience and preparation to preside as referee. The second issue had to do with scheduling. In Atom Comp, we are supposed to have a 1 referee / 2 linesmen system. Often times, a two-man system was used, even in playoffs. I would submit that FYHA should raise both of these with the NBHOA.

On behalf of players, parents and the Association, I would like to thank the coaching staffs from all four teams for another great season of Atom Competitive hockey in Fredericton. It was a pleasure to work with each of them this year.

RECREATIONAL DIVISION

The recreational division teams were drafted and hitting the ice for team practices near the end of October. Regular season games started in early November and teams appeared to be reasonably balanced as the season got underway. Many teams travelled to tournaments in the early part of the season which is seen to be a very good team building initiative. The FYHA Christmas playoffs showed that there had already been significant development of players in a few short weeks. The DQ Avalanche

were successful in capturing the gold medal, with the DQ Leafs and the DQ Senators taking home silver and bronze medals respectively. During the FYHA year end playoffs, it was the DQ Flames who came out on top with a gold medal, while the DQ Canadians won silver and the DQ Stars were the proud winners of the bronze.

At this point in the season, there was considerable parity between teams and many games could have been won by either team. This I believe was the result of very dedicated coaches and assistant coaches who provided a great on-ice and off-ice experience for their teams.

I would recommend that the following issues be considered and/or addressed:

1. There were often issues with officials. The Christmas and Year end recreational tournaments posed problems when games were being held during regular practice times and officials could not get there on time. Many games during the regular season also had only 2 officials rather than the 3 that are recommended.
2. Moving from 8 teams to 9 teams at the start of the season was difficult due to a lack of goaltenders. This may balance out next year depending on the number of goaltenders coming in from the Novice division. An option discussed at the beginning of this season was to allow only one (1) rostered goaltender to each competitive team and then have each team affiliate a recreational goalie. This was decided against for the 2011-12 season, but could be considered if required.
3. On the same note, limiting registration to only 15 skaters per team allows for equal ice time for all players.
4. Although I believe there were only minor violations to the HNB Fair Play Policy I do feel that it is the ongoing responsibility of the FYHA Board members, coaches, managers, volunteers, parents and players to abide by these guidelines and continue to enforce them across all divisions.

Overall, as Atom Coordinator I believe it was a very successful year thanks to the dedication of volunteer coaches, assistant coaches, managers and parents who help to provide a safe and fun experience for all players in the FYHA.

Shelly Rickard
Atom Coordinator, FYHA

PEEWEE COORDINATOR REPORT, BY SHAWN QUINLAN

The hard work and determination of our volunteers defines the success of our organization. The commitment of these dedicated coaches, assistant coaches and managers was reflected in a season of safe and enjoyable hockey for our (7) nine Recreational teams and our (4) four competitive teams. As Coordinator It was particularly rewarding to see the expansion of the Competitive Division this year with several teams joining the Southern New Brunswick Minor Hockey League (SNBMHL) at the PeeWee level.

RECREATION DIVISION

The Christmas playoffs witnessed the Northumberland Dairy (ND) Kings capturing Gold, ND Canadiens claiming Silver, and the ND Avalanche winning Bronze. In the Year-End playoffs, the ND Avalanche took home the Gold with the ND Blue Jackets claiming Silver and the ND Capitals were proud recipients of the Bronze. Congratulations to the ND Kings who represented the FYHA and advanced to the District and Zone playoffs. Overall 5 of the 7 Recreation Division teams won an FYHA medal at some point this season. Thank you to Rick Shaw for stepping forward to handle the often challenging task of scheduling for the Recreation Division.

COMPETITIVE DIVISION

The FYHA PeeWee Competitive division experienced a very successful season in 2011-2012 which included a pilot project that expanded the division from 2 to 4 teams. The Coastal Graphics Ice Dogs represented FYHA as the PeeWee "AA" participants in the District 3 league and finished the season with an impressive record and also advanced to the Provincial Championships. As part of the SNBMHL, the Tommy's Flooring Flames competed at the "PeeWee A" level while the ND Rangers and ND Hawks participated at the "PeeWee B" level. The ND Rangers posted a strong regular season while the ND Hawks enjoyed playoff success and made it to the championship final where they skated to Silver. Overall, I have received a great deal of positive feedback regarding the Association's efforts to broaden competitive hockey in Fredericton and give additional players the opportunity to play at this level.

OVERALL

On the ice, we were fortunate to have a very uneventful year in terms of player conduct while several coach and parent items did arise that do cause me some off-ice concern.

I wish continued success to those players joining the Bantam Division next season and we look forward welcoming back our returning players for their 2nd year. On behalf of everyone involved, I wish you a great summer.

As Coordinator, I bring forward the following recommendations:

1. Continued emphasis on communicating the HNB Fair Play Policy to everyone involved
2. I encourage our FYHA Board communicate clearly defined expectations of parents
3. Increased practice time for our competitive teams
4. Greater emphasis on pre-season checking clinics for players aspiring to play competitive hockey

BANTAM COORDINATOR REPORT, BY JOE MACDONALD

TEAM MAKE UP

There were 180 players registered in bantam to start the season. As outlined in the NBMHC guidelines http://www.hnb.ca/images/stories/Provincial_Championship_Guidelines_2011-2012.pdf we were required to have three "AA" teams and two "A" teams. The "AA" teams played in the District league and the "A" teams played in the SNBMHL. Following the selection of the competitive teams there were approximately 100 players to fill 7 Recreational teams. (Link)

74 players including 8 goalies have 1997 birthdates and are eligible to move to Midget next season.

EVALUATIONS

There were about 80 players trying out for the 3 "AA" teams, 48 players (60%) were selected. Approximately 30% of the remaining players moved to the "A" try outs and 10% chose to go directly to recreational. The players who moved to the "A" tryouts joined 13 other players who chose to tryout just at the "A" level. 32 players or 85% were chosen for the "A" teams.

All players were scheduled for three evaluation games. The objective was to have 2 coach evaluators and 2 independent evaluators at each competitive evaluation game. The bantam division drew on a pool of knowledgeable hockey people who kindly volunteered to provide these evaluations. Recreation evaluations were completed by the recreation coaches.

The competitive evaluations were done without having the identity of the players revealed to the evaluators. The coaches were not particularly comfortable with this approach; the evaluation time for the coaches was less effective as some effort was spent in an attempt to identify the players. If future evaluations are done by coaches I would recommend that players be identified.

AA/A

The three teams playing in the District league were the Canadians, the Colpitts Canucks and the Devon Lumber Kings. Near the end of the regular season the league was segmented into groups for zone qualification play and for the district championship.

The Canucks qualified for the Bantam A zone tournament after winning a three team play off with the Kings and Canadiens. The Canadians lost a best of three to Oromocto in the "AA" District playoffs. The Kings lost a best of three to Nackawic in the "A" District playoffs.

There was some confusion during the playoff time due to the somewhat concurrent zone and district playoffs. It is recommended that in the future a weekend is blocked out of the schedule to allow for the zone qualification games.

A/B

As part of the FYHA/SNBMHL pilot project the bantam division entered two teams to play in Southern league. The league consists of teams from Saint John, Lancaster, Kennebecasis Valley, Sussex, Fundy, Hampton and St.Stephen. As noted above, the registration numbers in the bantam division resulted in the requirement for 3 "AA", 2 "A" teams. FYHA was the only association in this category, this resulted in a smaller pool of players to fill the A teams. To demonstrate the impact of this, Lancaster has 6 teams in total with one "AA", one "A" and one "B". With this make up they have about 16% of their players at the "AA" level while FYHA had 27% of players on "AA" teams.

The two FYHA teams started the season in the Bantam "A" division qualifying schedule in the SNBMHL. This schedule, which runs from October to just before Christmas is intended to rank the teams and reorganize the divisions based on performance. Based on their records, both FYHA teams were placed in the Bantam B division for the regular schedule. Both teams fit in well in the "B" division being quite competitive throughout the season. Even though there were some struggles with competitiveness early in the season while playing in the A division these teams showed great improvement and the opportunity to play in this league proved to be an excellent development opportunity for the players.

If the SNBMHL and FYHA choose to continue FYHA's involvement in the SNBMHL we should take all efforts to ensure our players are willing to join these teams. Part of this is to make sure the teams will face competition of similar ability. If registration numbers are such that we are required to ice only 2 "AA" teams there will certainly be positive impacts on the "A" teams. If our registration numbers are over that threshold and 3 "AA" teams are required I would recommend the FYHA petition the Southern league to allow our teams to directly enter the B division at the start of the season.

RECREATIONAL

The recreation league had 7 teams each consisting of 14 or 15 skaters. A few teams experienced long term player injuries and there were some players who chose to stop playing. Approximately 73% of games were decided by 3 goals or less, giving some indication of the parity in the league.

The playoff results were as follows:

Christmas – Flyers (Gold), Canadiens (Silver), Flames (Bronze)

End of Season – Canadiens (Gold), Bruins (Silver), Flames (Bronze)

As winners of the Christmas playoffs, the Flyers were selected to represent the FYHA in the zone qualifier. Unfortunately the Flyers lost two games in a best of three series to an Oromocto team. To ensure ease of scheduling there should be a weekend in late February identified for zone qualifying games.

The Bantam recreation teams collectively participated in a total of 20 tournaments. The Flyers and Devils each won a tournament, teams finished second 5 times and made the crossovers 4 other tournaments.

I would like to thank all coaches, managers and parents at the bantam level for your support and commitment throughout the season.

MIDGET DIVISION REPORT, BY AL UNDERHILL

First and foremost a big thank-you to all volunteer's for stepping up and committing there time over the past year. Without their support these programs would not be possible.

I would like to acknowledge all team officials for getting all required certifications required by FYHA to participate as a Team official for the 2011-2012 hockey seasons.

Midget began the season with one AA team and nine Recreational teams.

COMPETITIVE

Midget AA Lions had a total of 19 players and 4 Goalies in which to pick their team. The numbers were low due to the 3 High School teams and the addition of the Midget AAA Development Team taking up a lot of the players. The Midget AA Lions did well with the players they had. The coaching staff did a great job putting together a team that could compete in the first half of the year at the AA level. In January they were put back to the A level and competed very well missing out on the provincials but icing a team that showed promise for the upcoming year. Congratulation's go out to John Saunders and his coaching staff for completing the season with a positive outlook.

RECREATIONAL

Midget Recreation started off with nine teams. Some teams ended up with 14 and 13 players respectively with at least one team only having 12. In midget division with this age group it is not advisable for teams to go with less than 14 players per team for future reference.

Over the course of the first month it became apparent that not all teams were able to compete and ultimately one team had to be disbanded and those players distributed to the remaining 8 teams. Most player request from the 9th team, of playing with a particular team was honoured under this circumstance. The end result was a positive one. Players adapted well and teams were somewhat equal again.

There were some incidents that were handled with severe suspensions and handled very swiftly. These types of behaviour's are not acceptable nor wanted in any organized sport or society.

At Christmas the winner and the team to represent FYHA at the District level was the Tommy Flooring Flames. They played Stanley in the first round and took it to a 3rd game but were defeated. Great job Flames.

The recreational division showed parity in the second half of the season. All teams competed and outcomes of games could not be known on any given night. This is a positive for any division.

The year end was an interesting one. Teams who were low in the standings came in and played to their ability. This made for exciting playoff's to watch and play in. The end result saw the Number 1 play Number 8 in the finals. The result was Coast Tire Capitals winning Gold. Congratulations to all teams for making the year a success.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Midget teams to have a minimum of 14 players per team
- Coaching selections and training be done well in advance of season start
- Coaches have the ability within reason and just cause to sit players who disrupt the team environment

- If mistakes are made that require change, that this change being made be of a good understanding of the situation at hand not just a ruling that may or may not alter the outcome
- Rulings being leveled to any player or team official under any division be forwarded to that respective coordinator of that division for distribution to the effected party
- Allowing the coordinator's the ability to run their divisions within the FYHA guidelines but also with the ability to change and assess consequences based on the individual situations
- All board member positions be filled prior to start of the season and a concise outline of the year's expectations and direction of the association be defined and accepted by a unanimous vote

In conclusion I enjoyed the role of Midget Coordinator over the past year. I came in with the mindset that I was going to give all registered Midget Players a Fair-Safe-Fun place to play hockey. The stigma that this age group has had in the past of it just a breeding ground for trouble was my main focus of change. I want kids at this age group to learn respect for the game and respect for others and from this continue to play the game for the fun of playing the game!

DIRECTOR OF FEMALE DEVELOPMENT REPORT, BY MARK MOREHOUSE

This year we had approximately 83 girls registered in the FYHA. It was decided, due to lack of interest, to not have any all girls teams in any division this year. Instead we offered a weekly skills and drills session open to all girls within the FYH and then to surrounding areas when the numbers allowed. This started out very strong and then as the year progressed we found our numbers decreasing. This was mainly the older girls not coming. We had 10-15 girls showing up on regular basis throughout the year. Sometimes our numbers would reach the high 20's.

For these sessions we were fortunate enough to have Sara McCorkindale (former UNB player) to head this up and teach and encourage our girls. Lyse Rossingol (former STU player) was also faithful with helping out Sara with this. Much appreciation goes out to these outstanding young ladies.

Throughout the year we were able to have our novice girls and peewee girls get together and have scrimmages against other all-girls teams of their own age from surrounding areas. I believe that these were the highlights for our young girls. They were exciting to play and to watch. What a lot of energy and excitement at these scrimmages!

As a result of these events there is a very strong interest in possibly forming a female peewee team for the 2012-13 year and joining the Southern NB Female Hockey League.

This opportunity of forming female teams will again be offered at all levels next year in the FYHA.

Now that the year is done I can look back and have some hindsight. I would like to see a better timeslot to offer our skills and drills sessions, rather than Sunday morning at 10:30am. I would also like to see more scrimmage games set up for our girls.

Also, there seemed to be some interest in ringette players wanting to switch to hockey. They were looking for opportunities to tryout some hockey to see if they would like it. I plan on offering something like this in October.

It has been a great year and there always seems to be more that could be done. Overall I am happy with how things went. I see room for improvement but am excited over the female team interest at the end of the year and what it will lead to come fall.

Thanks to all who have helped out in every aspect, and thanks to the FYHA board to their ongoing support throughout the year.

Mark Morehouse