



Cumberland Minor Hockey Association "The CMHA Chronicle"

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From the Desk of the President

By Dan Guerin

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Welcome to the inaugural edition of the **CMHA Chronicle**. With an association of our size, one of the biggest challenges we have is to cascade information to the membership in a timely fashion. Through our website and the use of email, we are able to convey most information out to the membership in a timely fashion, but at times that is not enough. With the introduction of this newsletter, we want to keep you up to date on the happenings within the CMHA that either impact you directly or just be a source of reference.

The articles throughout this communiqué are from various members of the CMHA Executive Board, and it gives them another outlet to communicate directly to you. Also included are various policy changes that are happening and high lights from our development program.

As this is our first edition, we would be interested in your feedback on what you would like to hear from us on a regular basis. Our plan is to put out two more editions this year, one in February and another in April. Feedback can be submitted via email to cmhainfo@cumberlandminorhockey.ca

I hope that you enjoy reading this edition as it is a new milestone for us towards communicating with our membership.

In closing, I want to wish you and your family a wonderful holiday season.

Operations Update

By Kelly Lafranchise

The teams are set and balanced, the schedules are underway and the rinks are full. At this point in the season it is now time to see how the teams are doing and begin to reflect on what we need to tweak for next year as part of our start up.

A special thank you to all the volunteers who spent countless hours at the beginning of the season to help with the evaluations. This is such a key element to our team's successes and making sure that our Cumberland teams are balanced against other Cumberland teams.

New this year in the Gloucester Hockey Association is that they have pooled certain levels within divisions. For example at Novice "B", the eight teams from Cumberland have been split across two pools within the GHA League. As this is the first year for this, we are looking at the pros and cons to our teams.

Happy Holidays.

Administration Update

By Tim MacPherson

Being new to the position of VP Administration, there was a huge learning curve of the amount of work that was required to start up the season and keep it running. There is still much to learn.

This season has seen some very new policy changes with respect to team budgets and number of tournaments a team can participate in. Across the association we are trying to apply a better fiscal policy at all levels and these were two of the key areas to address first.

As an association, we place players on teams to have balanced teams with in the CMHA, as such, it should not cost you the parent more to play on one team then another. Thus, from a budget perspective we have combined the on-ice and off-ice budgets into one and capped them at \$5000 for the 2009-2010 season.

We know that tournaments, especially those out of town, can cause hardship on a family not only financially for hotels and meals away from home, but logistically when coordinating other family obligations. For these reasons, the board has implemented a policy on tournament participation.

We have started to better log motions that directly impact either the By-Laws or Policies and Procedures of the CMHA and a few of these are highlighted at the end of this newsletter.

New for this season, we have successfully received sponsorship from Lowe's at the Atom level. This means we currently have three levels being sponsored with in the CHMA and we are hoping to have more in the near future.

Player Development

By Jeff Toll



This season we have taken a conscious decision to really focus and dedicate time and resources to player development. Over the course of the season we will be holding three blocks of development ice for both players and goalies. Two blocks have been completed and the third is scheduled for early in the new year.

So far we have had 200 player positions filled from Novice, Atom and Peewee and 49 goalie positions filled. For more information, or to register please visit: <http://development.cumberlandminorhockey.ca>

Financial Status

By Fred Jones



For the past couple of years we have registered approximately 1,760 players through District 12. Of those, 350 will migrate to the competitive teams under the Jr Grads & AAA Wild leagues, while another 50 will quit throughout the first few months for one reason or another. This leaves house league with approximately 1,360 players which form our 90 teams.

Our main cost 'drivers' are ice time allotted from the city, referees, player insurance to the ODMHA, and membership fees to the GHA. We have other administrative and general expenses covering evaluations, our website, equipment maintenance and / or purchase, etc.

To date we are forecasting to be on budget, as player registrations, driver costs, and your response to our development programs have transpired as planned.

The only significant change this year was our ice, which as expected, increased hourly rates on average 11% over last year. To offset this we accordingly increased player 'registration fees', but were able to limit the increase to between 1.1 and 4.2% depending on the level.

As was disclosed at last May's Annual General Meeting (AGM), we have been able to sufficiently maintain a contingency reserve which will be used for two purposes: first as a safeguard against mitigating circumstances which will cause significant loss, the second as a hedge against large cost escalations and / or the hope that we can continue to maintain static or marginal player rate increases, the cost to you, for years to come.

Convenor's Corner Novice

By Chris Cote & Paul Lever



Registration at Novice this season has exceeded previous year's registration numbers. We have 16 teams for a total of over 250 players.

At the Novice level we have seen strong participation in the CMHA Player Development Ice sessions. Our players are benefitting greatly from this and these sessions have been a catalyst at the "B" level where we have created and implemented a goalie program. This program is an effort to support those players interested in continuing with the position in the years to come. Goalie coaches are invited to the development sessions to bring these drills back to the team level.

New this Christmas will be a Novice CMHA Tournament for the "B" and "C" levels in conjunction with the Novice "A" tournament.

Peewee

By Sharon Br & John B

The Peewee season is approaching the half-way point, marked by the Peewee B and C CMHA tournament on Dec 27th to 29th. The Peewee division will have 4 B teams and 2 C teams participating this year. In addition to this, the Development sessions for Peewee are running on Wednesday evenings from 8 to 9 pm at Ray Friel with 23 skaters and 6 goalies participating in the skills development program established by the Player Development team.

With the evaluations and team balancing finished, we're actively participating in the process of improving the evaluation and team balancing process as the CMHA pushes forward to form its own independent league in the next year or two. We will be participating in the committee that is looking into the feasibility of the new league as well as seeking out input from the parents about the direction that the CMHA should take in the near future. We welcome any type of input that you have to help make Peewee and the CMHA more successful.

Bantam

By Sue Evans & David Keelty

Oh, what a difference a year can make! At present, Bantam hockey has 8 of its 14 teams playing 500% or better hockey. Every team has a minimum of 2 victories this year and only one team is 2 points below the 500% level. Compared to last year when only 1 team played 500% hockey and the last team to notch a win was in February. Please, nobody feel sorry for that coach.....he was moved to "A" this year. Of our 14 teams, 11 teams are within a 3 point range of playing 500% hockey. Last year, all 8 of our "B" teams finished in the last 10 in the league. This year, not a single team is currently in the bottom 5. So great job to all of you in "B" hockey this year! We appreciate the coaches and managers that were supportive in the efforts to ensure that the best possible job of balancing the Bantam division was done this year. We hope that we can continue with this initial success for the remainder of the year and build on our early achievements.

Midget

By Pierre Lalonde & Rick Montroy

At Midget this year, we have roughly 225 players on 16 teams. The split of teams, determined by the GHA, is 6 A teams and 10 B teams. The evaluation process in Midget is different than at the other levels given that the various juniors teams (especially junior B and C) must make their teams first before the various competitive teams can be finalized. This in turns delays the process in House League, and since the GHA mandates the start of the season, we are faced with doing evaluations in a shorter period of time.

Despite this, it appears early in the season that the CMHA teams are balanced within the CMHA. Compared to the GHA teams, we are competitive at the A level, but because we are forced to go with 6 A teams, this dilutes the talent available for the B teams, and as such, the CMHA teams in Midget B are almost all at the bottom of the standings.

Discipline issues were a little higher than normal at the start of the season, but this appears to be levelling off at this point.

Finding volunteers continues to be one of the major challenges facing the Midget level.

Policy Changes



Motion 0910-001

Police Checks good for two years in CMHA

All volunteers within CMHA require a valid police check for service with the vulnerable sector. A volunteer is any member of the executive board in CMHA, any member of the membership that is in direct contact with a player in a position of authority and or trust. (e.g. head coach, assistant coach, manager, trainer, on ice helper, etc.)

A police checked will be deemed valid for a period of 2 years from the certified date on the application form once returned by police services and will not expire prior to May 31st of the upcoming season.

A police check is valid as long as the following two conditions are met:

- a) the police check is for service with the vulnerable sector; and
- b) the certification date is clear on the application form and not more then 2 years old.

In the absence of a valid police check while the application is being processed, a copy of the receipt from police services will be forwarded to the appropriate executive board. This receipt will be good for a period of 90 days or until a valid police check is successfully returned and forwarded to the appropriate executive board. In the event that the 90 day period expires, the member will no longer be able to volunteer in any capacity until a valid police check is received. It will be the responsibility of the member to follow up and expedite the police check.

Motion 0910-003

Team Tournaments / Out of Town Activities

Teams within the CMHA HL will be permitted to register in up to a maximum of 4 tournaments within any given season. Of which a maximum of 2 out of town tournaments will be permitted. If a team opts for an out of town activity during the season, it is to be counted the same as an out of town tournament.

Motion 0910-005

Definition of Out of Town

Out of Town is defined as a one way straight line distance from Ray Friel and exceeds 150 kms.

Motion 0910-013

Young Adult on Ice Helpers

Allow minor on ice helpers 14 years of age and older to wear minimal equipment while aiding in player development. (skates, helmets (full mask), neck guard and gloves)

Note: Players must be registered with the ODHA for insurance purposes. Check with your coach or convenor before minor aged helpers step on the ice for more details.

Support CBC Kraft Hockeyville in Navan

Efforts to see Navan recognized as Hockeyville are kicking into high gear with a special “Navan is Hockeyville” Day set to take place on Sunday, Dec. 13.

There will be free public skating from 1-2:20 p.m. at Navan Memorial Centre followed by a Cumberland Grads Jr. ‘A’ contest against the Kanata Stallions at 3 p.m. For more information, please use this link.

<http://www.cbc.ca/sports/hockey/hockeyville/community/227/en/>

Memorandum on Relationship with the Gloucester Hockey Association

Dear Members,

You may or may not be aware, last year the most controversial issue which affected our association centered around leaving the Gloucester Hockey Association. The decision, the reactions, and subsequent discussions were, and are still part of our future. As a precursor to future discussions on this topic, we would like to simply review and briefly inform you of the history and thoughts which led to where we are today.

Our hockey roots began with the constituency which covers part of Orleans, and the outlying areas of Cumberland, Sarsfield, Vars, and Navan. However it was not considered as the separate hockey entity as it is today, originally, our players were part of the now named 'Lower Ottawa Valley' (District 3) and played against the areas of Casselman, Clarence, Embrun, Rockland, etc. The Cumberland Township Minor Hockey Association (CTMHA) was eventually created, albeit through legal means, thus forming our current constituency, District 12. The name was eventually changed to the now CMHA, to align with 'city' and not 'township' status. Although our independence was sought for various reasons, the most obvious allowed for convenience and less travel, however, our relative size still limited competition. The solution, the Gloucester Hockey Association, our closest neighbor and competitor, now became our 'bedfellow' which (from that point until now) has allowed for healthy competition within tighter limits.

The GHA is its own district (District 9), as we, the CMHA are our own district (District 12), and it is up to us to request to play in their league each year, to date, they have accepted each time. This 'arrangement' represents a formidable area and number of players from eastern Ottawa. As for size, our portion of teams at all levels, equate to approximately 34% of all teams 216, in all levels in the GHA house league system. Each district in the Ottawa area receive ice allotments based on each district's demographics, but to accommodate game scheduling and alignment between their teams / arenas and ours, we hand over our ice allotment to the GHA each year. Once the game playing schedule has been completed, our remaining ice (from our original allotment) is returned so that we can arrange the equitable practice schedules for our teams.

There are a few concerns which have 'dogged' league executives for many years. For those of you who are near or at the end of your journey through the minor systems, you will be aware of these. For those of you who have younger children, here is what we know:

- as disclosed above, we are told of our ice availability by the GHA, this does not always allow for equitable scheduling for all levels (games and / or practices),
- continued growth, new housing in both south Ottawa / Leitrim, and Cumberland / Orleans,
- availability, hours slotted to minor hockey 15 on each weekend day, 4 hours on each week night, so approximately 50 hours per week per arena, with no new arenas being planned,
- complexity and manageability, at some point, we, CMHA will not be accepted as guests to play in the GHA due to the sheer size of this combined area,
- if nothing else, we have to be prepared for that day.



Memorandum on Relationship with the Gloucester Hockey Association, continued

In February of 2009 your elected board voted in favour of leaving the GHA to pursue our own league, solely due to the aforementioned concerns.

The decision, although not done outside of the board's authority, did meet with considerable backlash from you. The membership was invited to attend an impromptu information session which we hoped would dispel your concerns and properly portray our rationale for making the decision. This was not the case as reaction, although mixed, sided against our initial decision. You were heard, and further discussion led to an amendment to the original motion, that put a one year moratorium in place to re-look at the original motion.

Here we stand today, and by way of this brief communiqué are informing you of our next steps in light of the amendment to the motion. We are in the process of gathering facts about the initial decision, and will delve more deeply into investigating all options available to us. We will portray both 'pros' and 'cons' pertaining to the decision and all potential options, and convey ALL of this information to ALL of our membership as it becomes available in an informative and timely manner.

Finally, our message to you, we, the elected board, acted in what we thought was the best interest of the membership at that time and subsequently, we realized that due not only the magnitude of the decision, but the lack of recurring communication between you and ourselves that we may not have held the true pulse of your concerns / thoughts on the issue. By way of this initial newsletter, we hope to assure you that the lack of communication will not be an issue again and regret that it took something of this nature to make it happen. Our research on the future relationship with the GHA is underway, and will continue over the next number of months, and as mentioned, the information gathered will be disseminated to you in subsequent emails / newsletters.

As always, your comments / feedback are both welcomed and encouraged on all areas of our association.

CMHA Tournaments

Christmas Tournament - December 27,28 & 29, 2009
Novice A, B, C and Peewee B, C

Winter Tournament - January 29, 30 & 31, 2010
Bantam A,B and Midget A,B

March Break IP Fun Days - March 15,16 & 17, 2010
IP 5yr and IP 6yr

<http://tournaments.cumberlandminorhockey.ca/>



Useful Links

GHA Team Standings & CMHA Team Schedules
<http://www.gloucesterhockey.ottawa.on.ca/main.asp>

CMHA Ice Exchange System
<http://ice.cumberlandminorhockey.ca/>

Ottawa District Hockey Association
<http://www.odha.com/>

Ottawa District Minor Hockey Association
<http://www.odmha.on.ca/>

Hockey Canada
<http://www.hockeycanada.ca/>