

VP Report – 2007/08 Competitive Season Update – Chebucto Minor Hockey

At the beginning of the 2007/08 season much discussion was placed on where to start our teams for categorization. The Executive made the decision to start our teams at the following levels:

Atom AAA, Atom B, Pee Wee AA, Pee Wee B, Bantam AAA, Bantam B, Midget AAA, Midget B.

This decision was met with varying degrees of success depending upon which division you look at. In the Atom division the teams were better than competitive. In fact the B team won everything there is to win in that level and the AAA played all year in the upper 3rd of the league. In the Pee Wee level we had a AA team that played in the upper 3rd of the league and had success outside of the province in tournament play. At the B level the team struggled to be competitive with the larger associations. This team did play in 2 tournament finals when playing outside of the zone. Also, CMHF allowed the Bedford Association to place 2 teams at B this year. Both were powerhouse teams that were the 2 best in the league. At the Bantam level our AAA team did struggle to be competitive. There was much discussion on where to place this team at the start of the season and in the end HNS left us no choice but to play at this level. The B team played in the upper 3rd of the league as well and had a good year. The Midget level had an interesting year. We had just enough kids to have 2 teams. The AAA team struggled to ice a consistent lineup and as a result struggled to be competitive at that level. The B team was the provincial champs and played in the upper end of the league all season.

This season was a banner year for our competitive teams as a whole. When I use the term banner I use it in the literal sense. Our teams combined for the following banners

- 2 provincial banners (Midget B and Atom B)
- 1 CMHF League Champions (Atom B)
- 1 CMHF Playoff Champs (Atom B)
- Joe Lamontagne (Atom B)
- Lancaster Subway (Atom B)
- SEDMHA Odyssey (Atom B)
- Vetrans Memorial of PEI (Pee Wee AA)
- SEDMHA Civic (Pee Wee BB)

In addition to winning these tournaments many of the teams enjoyed success as well. We had a number of second place finishes across the board.

Attracting coaches for our teams is critical to the success of our programs. This past season we were lucky to have non-parent coaches for 5 out of 8 of our teams. When the season began we were still recruiting coaches for the Atom B team and the Pee Wee B team. Overall, the number of applicants for positions was underwhelming to say the

least. We only had one team where there were multiple applications and even at that there were only two. By starting the process much earlier this year I am hopeful that we will see an increase in the number of people who apply. I must say a huge thank you to the following people who stepped up and coached our kids this season:

Steve Lowden, Gardiner Budden, Mike Archibald
Chris Driscoll, Adam Pellerine, David Walsh,
Craig Messervey, Jared Glazebrook, Steve Anderson,
John Furey, Kevin Slaunwhite, Jack Graham
Randy Morgan, Corey Benedict, Jason Stabback,
Greg Budden, Sandy MacLellan
Steve Stairs, Glen Dunbar, Chris Desilets
Eric Caines, Don Neatt, Kirk Atwood
Don Crawley

Once again the tryout sessions proved to be challenging. For the first time in a few years we were able to hold the entire session in our own rink. This made the logistics much easier to handle. As in previous seasons the NSST results were used as a portion of the evaluation for the Atom and Pee Wee kids. I do believe that the NSST is a valuable tool that should be carried on into the future. The results achieved by the Novice, Atom and Pee Wee groups as a whole prove that our focus on skill development is having a positive impact in our kids ability to learn the game and compete at all levels. It cannot be understated how many volunteers it takes to work the tryout sessions. There are too many to list so I will say thank you to all who assisted. I am sure the incoming VP will be contacting you soon as I have provided him the list.

Going forward into 2008/09 I am hopeful that all of teams be competitive at all levels. With the exception of our top level Midget an Bantam teams I believe all of our teams played at their competency levels. I am not sure that we are at the AAA levels for next season with the exception being the Atom team. Once again, I know the incoming executive will spend plenty of time discussing this matter.

Finally, I want to thank everyone who I worked with this past season for making my first year on the executive an enjoyable experience especially the 2007/08 executive. It is my hope that I will be able to return to the executive in a few years time when my little ones are ready to take up the game.

Garry Crotty