



Vancouver Thunderbird Minor Hockey Association

2018 Annual Report

Monday, June 4, 2018

**Registration: 6:30 pm
Call to Order: 7:00 pm**

UBC Golf Club

5185 University Boulevard, Vancouver, BC

V T M H A

www.vancouvertbirds.ca



President Report

On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff, I would like to thank the many members that take on leadership roles within our organization - coaches, assistant coaches, managers, safety people, appointed members, committee volunteers, tournament volunteers, fundraising coordinators, equipment managers, and everyone who helps out in order to allow our players to play and experience the great game of hockey. Your willingness to positively support the Vancouver Thunderbirds community ensures that our children are able to play the sport of hockey to the best of their ability, make long lasting memories, and learn many valuable life skills.

Considerable change was involved in the delivery of the 2017-2018 season. Our website and our ability to communicate with members improved significantly with the August launch of a new website integrated with TeamSnap, a support network for our team managers was implemented (TMSN), a new sponsorship program was initiated, all graduating TBird players were recognized for their involvement with the Association, new skills providers were engaged for initiation/novice (Robin Deitch, Leslie Global Sports Group) and rep (Derek Popke), Mike Todd refreshed the recreational skills programming, a new rep tryout process was implemented, a pilot program for coach support was tested, and after consulting with our division managers and coaches, we are preparing to launch an improved balancing process in initiation and recreational for the 2018/2019 season.

As per our ongoing governance initiatives, the nominating committee with a mandate of assessing board skill sets and then recruiting high performing directors to round out areas of expertise has proved invaluable with the continual improvement of the overall functionality and effectiveness of the Board. Our finance committee continues to review, recommend, and implement sound financial processes. The quality and depth of analysis of our financial information has positively impacted the ability of the Board to make well informed financial decisions. An annual audit of our financial statements continues which is a consistent practice with our governing bodies of PCAHA and BC Hockey.



Tanya Foley, our Executive Director joined us on May 1, 2017 and has been integral in the changes we have seen this past year.

Natasha Breland left our Association at the end of March 2018 to pursue other opportunities. I would like to acknowledge and thank Tasha for her many years of contribution to the Thunderbirds Association.

As a result of Tasha's departure, Tanya revised the structure of administrative support and Audrey White joined the Thunderbirds in May 2018 in the role of Membership and Events Coordinator. Audrey has extensive experience within the hockey world both at the Association and PCAHA level and we are excited for her to be a part of the Thunderbird family.

As we look ahead to the 2018/2019 season, we continue to focus on improving our operations which will enhance the experience for our players, improve the support for our coaches and volunteers, and ultimately strengthen our community. I would also like to acknowledge the dedication of our current staff (Tanya Foley, Mike Todd, Katie Mak), the hard work of our Directors; the commitment of our players; the tireless work of our volunteers, and the support and input from our families. The combined efforts of everyone ensures that our children are able to Skate, Shoot, and Soar!

All the best,
Chantal Cotton
President



Secretary/Treasurer Report

The past season has solidified the financial stability of our association, with net assets increasing to almost \$200,000.

Total Revenues decreased 8% from the previous season from \$1.62 million to \$1.5 million, primarily from decreased registration numbers and a reduction in fundraising revenues. With decreasing registration numbers, the association made a conscious effort to reduce costs where possible, while still providing our members with a quality product on and off the ice.

Total expenses were reduced by 14% from the previous year, which more than offset the reduction in revenues. Ice costs were managed very effectively, with a decrease in those costs from the previous year, despite dealing with an increase in hourly rates. More effective controls were put in place to reduce the cost of referees, summer camp and paid skills sessions.

The Finance Committee continued in its second year, with the composition of the committee including 5 designated CPAs, 2 of who were non-Board members. This allowed us to strengthen the committee's objectivity in providing financial oversight to the organization.

Bank accounts were set up for our 13 Rep teams, allowing us to more efficiently transfer funds between the association and teams. A direct deposit system was utilized to pay our staff, including our paid coaches, on a timely basis.

I'd like to thank my fellow board members and staff that helped me this season, as well as all the members who provided their support.

Regards,
Frank Nishi
Secretary/Treasurer



Director of Policy Report

The Director of Policy was a new position created in 2017 to task a board member with the responsibility to oversee Vancouver Thunderbird's policies and to assist with policy changes initiated by the board.

At the start of the season, the board was focussed on locker room behaviour and player safety and the Two Deep Rule was clarified and communicated to membership. Shortly thereafter, a new **Policy 16 - Recognition and Prevention of Bullying, Harassment and Abuse** as well as a new **Policy 15 - Communication and Social Media Policy** and a new **Policy 21 - Dressing Room & Two Deep Policy** were adopted by the board.

Other policies that were revised and/or updated during the 2017/18 season were:

- **Policy 5 - Jerseys and Equipment Supplied By the VTMHA** (Revised so that third jerseys are no longer permitted for games)
- **Policy 7 - Extra-Association Activities** (Revised to permit Vancouver Thunderbirds to promote information on programs operated by our partners and/or sponsors that are not in conflict with our operated programs. However, Vancouver Thunderbirds shall not sponsor or sanction any spring or summer hockey teams.)
- **Policy 10 – Coach Selection and Policy 12 – Coach Duties and Responsibility** (Revised to reflect newly constituted Coach Selection Task Group, including its mandate to (i) recommend, for approval by the board, nominees to serve as head coaches of Initiation, Recreational, and Rep teams; and (ii) appoint assistant coaches of Initiation, Recreational, and Rep teams)
- **Policy 14 – Codes of Conduct** (Revised to clarify that vaping and the use of electronic cigarettes are not permitted during any Vancouver Thunderbird activities)

Peter Tolensky
Director of Policy



Initiation Report

This past year was a busy and successful year for our Initiation Program. More than 260 players registered in Initiation Hockey.

We would like to thank our Division Managers, Patricia Tait (H1), Christy Donnelly (H2), Jody Yau (H3) and Angela Diomis (H4) for all their dedication and hard work in facilitating the balancing process, forming teams within their divisions, and providing ongoing communication to coaches/managers and families. Further, we would like to recognize Johanna Webber for volunteering as Team Manager for the two Intro 3 & 4 teams.

We would also like to thank all our Coaches, Assistant Coaches and Safety Officers. The Thunderbirds are very grateful for their efforts in helping our young players learn the skills of hockey, become good team mates and have fun along the way.

The Leslie Global Sports Group with Nate Leslie and Ben MacKay provided skill sessions throughout the season that were well received by our Initiation players. We are excited that Derek Popke has joined the Vancouver Thunderbird's as Hockey Advisor for the 2018-2019 season. Derek will be leading the on-ice skill development program for all Hockey 1-4 teams.

In H1, we continued the transition to our new skill development focused program that started last season with the change to cross-ice hockey. We experienced a few growing pains and would like to thank our skill provider Robin Deitch for supporting the kids on the ice during the season in addition to all the parent coaches.

Our Initiation Tournament took place over the Family Day Weekend and it continues to be a highlight for Initiation families. Thank you to the entire committee (Angela Diomis, Brenda Goehring, Grant Gibson, Jude Andrews, Kristen Dosen, and Patricia Tait) for their tireless effort in putting together a very successful tournament. In addition, thanks to all the parent volunteers who made the tournament a success. The Tournament has become a very popular event – with over 21 teams



from all over the Lower Mainland in addition to our 20 Thunderbirds teams.

We were also fortunate to have our Initiation teams participate in two Vancouver Canucks mini-intermission games and five UBC Men's Thunderbirds mini-intermission games.

Angelique Blunk
Grant Gibson

Director Initiation
Associate Director Initiation

Recreational Hockey Report

A lot of fun was had in the 2017/2018 recreational hockey season. Thunderbirds rec hockey has always offered our players an environment where they can "skate, shoot and soar!" – this past season was no exception.

Importantly, recreational hockey is run almost entirely by volunteers, who put in countless hours on and off the ice.

A huge thank you and acknowledgment to the Division Managers (DMs) who worked incredibly hard to organize their divisions and keep them running smoothly. DMs this year included: Dian Moon and Joyce Gillespie in Atom; Jenny Langley and Joyce Gillespie in PeeWee; Baukje Edamura and Joanne Busser in Bantam; and Vicky Harris and Tim Dow in Midget.

Kudos and thank you also go to all the volunteers who stepped up to manage teams, coach, and act as the designated safety people. Without their tireless efforts, our kids' hockey season would not have been possible. Finally, thank-you to all the people who helped in other ways by running score clocks, score keeping, overseeing dressing rooms, making tournament or event arrangements, and lending a helping hand in countless other ways.





It is only with our volunteers' support that we can succeed at delivering a quality hockey experience for our young athletes. Thank-you for your time, effort, and commitment.

Coaching and skills development

Following change in the 2016/17, we continued to make positive changes this past season with respect to coaching and skills development. Our Director of Player and Coach Development, Mike Todd, delivered a solid platform of coach and skills development throughout the season. This included two pre-season coach training sessions and visits to 90 practices. Mike also delivered 80 on-ice skill sessions and two shooting clinics. This year, Steel Goaltending training was integrated into 90 weekly skills sessions.

Successes in 2017/2018

Our rec teams and players achieved great results during the regular recreational season and the rec championship days:

- Atom C3 – Blue Playoff Winner
- Atom C5 – Green Playoff Runner-up
- Atom C6 – Gold League Winner
- Atom C7 – Green League Winner
- Atom C7 – Orange Playoff Winner
- Atom C8 – Red Playoff Winner

- PeeWee C2 – Gold Playoff Runner-Up
- PeeWee C3 – Gold League Winner
- PeeWee C3 – Blue Playoff Runner-Up

- PeeWee C4 – Gold Playoff Winner
- PeeWee C5 – Blue Playoff Winner
- PeeWee C6 – Green Playoff Runner-Up

- Bantam C1 – Orange Playoff Runner-Up

- Midget C1 – White Playoff Runner-Up
- Midget C3 – Orange Playoff Runner-Up
- Midget C6 – Orange Playoff Winner





- Midget C8 – Red Playoff Runner-Up

PCAHA hosts an annual tournament called the PCAHA Midget “C” Joe Morellato Scholarship Tournament for Recreational Midget players in their graduating year. This year we want to recognize our very own Aaron Casseres, who won a \$500 scholarship. Well done Aaron!

3-on-3 tournament

A special thank-you to Tom Joa who put together a 3-on-3 tournament for Atom and Peewee players this past March. The tournament was a lot of fun for players and their families and was very well received. Thank you Tom!

Pond Hockey

This coming season, we will pilot a “Pond Hockey” program at the Midget level. Pond Hockey is ideal for players who want to continue to play hockey with their friends but who no longer may have enough time to commit to a practice, home game, and away game to travel to each week. The exact details of the program are still being solidified but the general idea is that Pond Hockey will allow kids to play hockey with their friends once per week.

Balancing

We’re pleased to share with you that after consulting with DMs and coaches in March and April, Thunderbirds will be rolling out a new balancing process for our recreational teams this coming season. This was a key objective of the board this year and we look forward to delivering more balanced and competitive teams through a more inclusive and transparent balancing process. Coaches and DMs will now come together at the start of the season to assemble teams through a double-blind draft process. More information will be made available to all players, families and volunteers as we get closer to the start of the 2018/2018 season.

Enjoy your summer – we look forward to seeing you in September!

A big thank you to all of the recreational families for a successful 2017/2018 hockey season.





We look forward to seeing everyone in the rink and back on the ice in September, ready for another exciting season of Thunderbirds hockey.

Michael Goehring
Baukje Edamura

Director Recreational
Associate Director Recreational

Rep Hockey Report

The 2017/2018 Season was another successful season for the Vancouver Thunderbirds, with several Rep Teams across all age groups performing very well. While we are encouraged to measure ourselves by the on-ice achievements of our various Rep Teams, we are also very cognizant that our Rep Program operates as part of a broader community hockey association where balancing competitiveness and fun for all those competing (the majority of whom do so in our Recreational Program) is still of paramount importance.

In 2016-17 we had five of our thirteen rep teams qualify for Final Four, while in 2017-18 we had six teams qualify for Final Four, and three of these teams qualified for Provincials. Our Midget A1 team won the Flight 1 League and went on to win the Tier 1 banner in an incredibly close tie-breaker game at Hillcrest against Burnaby Minor. Both teams travelled to Fort St. John where our Midget A1 team won the Provincial Championships.

We would also like to extend congratulations to the following Thunderbird Rep teams for notable playoff achievements:

- Atom A1 – Flight 1 Final Four Participant
- Atom A2 – GVC Series 2 Winner
- Atom A3 – Flight 2 Final Four Champion
- Atom A4 – Flight 4 Final Four Participant
- PeeWee A1 –GVC Series 8 Winner
- PeeWee A3 –Tier 3 Final Four Participant, Provincial Qualifier
- PeeWee A4 - Tier 4 Final Four Champion, Provincial Qualifier

We would like to express our thanks to Dan Tung and the other volunteers of Midget A1 who hosted the Midget Tier 1 Final Four this season.





We are continuing to fine-tune our Rep Tryout Process and align it with Hockey Canada's recommendations. As part of an ongoing rep tryout process review, our Executive Director has met with individuals involved in the T-Birds rep tryout process as well as obtaining and reviewing surveys of the past season's tryouts. This process is very much a continuous improvement philosophy and we will continue to implement improvements as we go forward. The refinements to the Rep Tryout Process will include end-of-season feedback from the past season's coaches, as well as allowing coaches to run practices in addition to exhibition games prior to making final selections.

We will also be expanding our skills development program to increase the number of sessions with Derek Popke of Vancouver Hockey School who will work closely with our coaches and assist in their development. As well, we are adding a goaltender skill development program led by Rob Fuchs from Pro Formance Goalie School.

At this time, we would like to take the opportunity to acknowledge the incredible contribution from Staff as well as volunteers to our Rep Program. We tremendously value our parent volunteers who serve as Coaches and Team Managers and those who support our Managers with all the team related tasks. We certainly encourage as many people as possible to step forward to contribute to the Association again this coming season!

Stephen Yan-Klassen Director Rep
Bruce Gregg Associate Director Rep

Special Projects Report

Four tournaments were held by TBirds last year: Initiation, Atom A1, Atom A4, and Peewee A4. Our 19 TBird teams (about 300 players) hosted 26 visiting teams and about 400 visiting players. We raised a net of about \$15,000 (FY2018 budget: \$2,500, FY2017 actual: about \$9,000), primarily due to a significant effort in controlling expenses. Thanks to all the volunteers on the tournament committees and the





volunteer Midget players for making them run smoothly. For next year we have made an application to the city for significant ice on the Remembrance Day long weekend to host a tournament for all Atom teams in both Rep and Rec divisions. It is not materially more effort to host such a large tournament than it is to host the two Atom A tournaments. Plus we would get tournament action for our other ten Atom teams. If this works out well, and we make a significant profit, we will try and expand it to a Peewee-wide tournament the following year.

We continue to study and try different techniques to slow and reverse our declining enrolment in H1/H2/Intro. Last year the introduction to hockey equipment package that we initiated at Cyclone Taylor was sold out... we will continue to work to produce a compelling and inexpensive package for new players next year.

Steve Gully

Director Special Projects

Vancouver Thunderbirds Hockey Annual Awards

Congratulations to the 2017/18 Vancouver Thunderbirds Hockey Annual Award Winners.

- Brad Addison Award – Dave Issar
- William Staiger Award – Mike Nardi
- Don Currie Award – Jeff Churchill
- Manager of the Year Award – Kalpna Dhanda
- President's Service Award – Gary Hunter
- Jr. Official of the Year Award – Nolan Tenniscoe
- Sr. Official of the Year Award – Ryan Skalenda
- Eliopoulos Outstanding Service Award – Chris & Nandia Eliopoulos

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