



Vancouver Thunderbird Minor Hockey Association

2023 Annual Report

Wednesday, June 21, 2023

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

**UBC Golf Course
(5185 University Blvd.)**

V T M H A

www.vancouvertbirds.ca



President Report

We emerged from a global pandemic to experience a more typical hockey season this past year. The arenas were filled with people and players were participating in “regular” practices and games – social distancing and restrictions were in the rear view. Travel occurred and tournaments were once again a highlight for many of our families. In addition, our membership grew as we welcomed over 60 new players to TBirds which brought us to our highest number of participants in over seven years.

Unfortunately, the excitement of getting back to normal was overshadowed by the Hockey Canada scandal which brought a dark cloud over our game. Our national game was under the microscope and change was demanded. An independent third party was established to deal with complaints within the game and an unprecedented number of complaints were registered this past season. Progress has been made, change is occurring, and there is and will continue to be a focus nationally and provincially on creating a diverse, inclusive, and welcoming environment that is a safe space for everyone who wants to play.

At TBirds we are fortunate to have so many great people within our organization that are willing to help with the season. I am grateful to everyone that assisted in providing a positive and safe experience for our players. Thank you to our coaches, assistant coaches, managers, safety people and all other volunteers that shared their time and passion this past season – we couldn’t do it without you. Thank you.

Some highlights of our 2022-2023 season: U6-U9 Fun Days, Rogers Arena skates, Canucks Nite Out, U18 A1, U15 A1, and U13 A2 representing TBirds at BC Hockey Provincials, Championship Days for our recreational teams, Scotiabank sponsorship, support for our U6-U9 skill groups (Matt Brown), HP programming and rep skills for U11-U13 (Derek Popke), UBC coaches leading skill development for our U15/U18 rep teams (Mike Sommer, Jackson Playfair), recreational support provided through in practice visits to all teams (Mike Todd), goaltender support and training delivered by Pro-Formance (Rob Fuchs), coach mentoring (Stan Sibert), our best in class officiating program (Trevor Boudreau), introducing youth new to hockey through the First Shift program, hosting a U18 C Joe Morellato Scholarship game, our very popular Family Day Tournament, and the recognition of our Grade 12 players at our graduating U18 event. Our Career Mentorship evening, Players Giving Back Program, and Equipment Drive continue to grow and provide opportunities for players to connect, learn, and grow within our community. We are very proud of our TBird players as they are developing into great hockey players and most importantly great people.





Thank you to Audrey White, Operations Manager, Ann Mukai, Ice Allocator, Taylor Philips, Communications, Oz Garip, Admin Assistant, Trevor Boudreau, Referee in Chief, Chris Eliopoulos, Equipment Manager, and Nandia Eliopoulos, Ref Assignor. Their commitment and involvement in our Association assists in the delivery of a positive hockey experience for our players.

In closing, I would like to acknowledge the dedication of our staff, the tireless work of our directors, the commitment of our players, the hard work of our volunteers, and the support and input from our families. It is incredible and very humbling to witness what people can accomplish together. Hockey is and will continue to be a great sport, the game and the environment will evolve, and we can all work together to create a community that is safe and where hockey truly is for everyone.

All the best,
Chantal Cotton
President

Finance Report

Tbirds continues to be in a strong financial position as we emerge from a multi-year global pandemic and have faced significant inflationary cost pressures. This past season's financial results were positive with revenues exceeding expenses by \$55 thousand or 2.7%. This was \$134 thousand better than our plan and was primarily driven by higher grant revenue, higher volunteer revenue, higher interest revenue, higher profit from our tournaments, and lower coaching costs. This was partially offset by higher referee costs which saw a significant increase this season.

Tbirds strong financial position has allowed us to keep registration fees the same in all age levels, except for a modest increase in U6 and U7 (which are significantly subsidized), for the upcoming season. This will be the 6th consecutive year with no increases in registration fees despite significant increases in inflation.

We are also proud of our successful fundraising events during the year. Our Thunderball event raised \$23 thousand for our bursary program to help Tbird families in financial need with registration fees. Our Purdy's fundraising event raised \$19 thousand which directly benefits all Tbirds families by offsetting our costs. We were also able to issue \$7,500 in scholarships to graduating players from the Dale Cheney Memorial Scholarship Fund.

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www.vancouverbirds.ca



We'd like to thank all members this year for their support and a special thank-you to our President (Chantal Cotton) who stepped up significantly in the absence of an Executive Director for most of the season. Can't wait for next season!

Kevin Gibson, Treasurer/Secretary
Mike Kaufmann, Associate Director, Finance

U6-U9 Report

The U6-U9 Divisions had a fun-filled season! It started with Fun Days, led by Graham Thomas and volunteers from the UBC Women's Hockey Team, Tim Horton's Minor Hockey Day at Rogers Arena, U6-U9 Canucks Nite Out, all of our teams participated in our best ever TBirds Family Day Tournament and some ended the season with a Skate at Roger's Arena!

Our youngest players benefited from the coaching of Derek Popke and Matt Brown of Vancouver Hockey School and Rob Fuchs of Pro-Formance Goalie School. Our parent volunteer coaches were supported by Jeff Churchill and Stan Sibert.

A heartfelt THANK YOU to our amazing Division Ambassadors, Head Coaches, Assistant Coaches, Team Managers, On Ice Volunteers, Skills Managers, and Safety Persons who went above and beyond.

This past season would not have been possible without the collective care and effort of all our families.

We look forward to seeing you at the rink next season.

Rhiannon Wong, Director, U6-U9
Cecilia Rosner, Associate Director, U6-U9

Recreational Hockey Report

Our Recreation Division this season was comprised of eight U11 teams, eight U13 teams, six U15 teams, nine U18 teams and one U21 team for a total of 32 teams. Each of these teams had a volunteer coaching staff, manager, safety people plus other volunteer parents who helped contribute to their team's experience.

Our players are so fortunate to have this great group of volunteers who dedicated countless hours of their time to ensure our players had a memorable hockey season.



Our Recreational Division was also very fortunate to have the following keen and hardworking Division Ambassadors:

U11 - Yuki Namekawa and Joanne Sharples

U13 - Harvey Quan and Eric Shum

U15 - Amber Bethell and Devon Rutherford

U18 - Dian Moon and Kalpna Dhanda

Recreational Achievements

Congratulations to this year's winner's, including:

League winners:

- U11 C1, U13 C2, U13 C7, U15 C2, U18 C2, U18 C6

Playoff Banner winners:

- U13 C2, U13 C6, U15 C5, U15 C6, U18 C1, U18 C6

Team Achievement Awards:

- U11 C4, U18 C6

Teams that made Championship Day:

- U11 C8
- U13 C2, U13 C3, U13 C6
- U15 C4, U15 C5, U15 C6
- U18 C1, U18 C6, U18 C9

PCAHA Scholarship Winners:

- Jonah Lazar, Damon Scharfe

President's C League Joe Morellato U18 C Scholarship Tournament Bursaries:

- Noah Bakonyi, Tanner Barnett, Maxwell Cook, Aaron Guralnick, Nico Storelli, Noah Werner, Justin Wong

Thank you to all of our Recreational players and families for making this a successful season and can't wait to see everyone back on the ice next year!

Peter Tolensky - Director Recreational

Alvin Zhao - Associate Director Recreational





Rep Hockey Report

Thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make this a great season. Thunderbird coaches, parents and guardians, and supporters all put in a lot of time and effort so the players could have a positive hockey experience.

Many teams had successful seasons including 3 who were playing for BC Provincial Championships. We are proud of their accomplishments and how they represented TBirds on and off the ice.

Rep Achievements:

League Winners – U11 A2 (GVC Flight 2)

Final Four Participants: U18 A1, U15 A1, U13 A2, U11 A1, U11 A2, U11 A3

Presidents Series Winners – U13 A1, U13 A3, U11 A4

PCAHA Champions: U18 A1 (Runner Up), U15 A1 (Champion), U13 A2 (Runner Up)

Final 4 Host: U18 Tier 1, U11 GVC Flight 2

BC Hockey Provincial Championships: U18 A1, U15 A1 (Silver), U13 A2

Orland Kurtenbach Scholarship (Canucks Alumni Association)

- Luke Atkins

U18 A Scholarship Tournament Bursaries

- Justin Yee

We look forward to seeing everyone back at the rink!

Bruce Gregg
Steve Gully

Director Rep
Associate Director Rep





Projects Report

Tournaments:

TBirds hosted two successful tournaments last year. The U11C tournament took place on Remembrance Day, while the U6-U9 tournament was held on Family Day. With a total of 30 TBird teams comprising approximately 510 players, we warmly welcomed 36 visiting teams and approximately 610 visiting players. Despite facing challenges due to a lack of available city ice, which compelled us to limit the number of visiting teams and incur higher expenses for ice rental, we still managed to achieve a profit of \$9,000. This was particularly impressive considering our FY2021 budget aimed for breakeven. We extend our heartfelt appreciation to Betty Chuck, our invaluable sponsors, dedicated parents, hardworking TBird volunteers, enthusiastic Midget players, and the diligent TBird staff. Thanks to their collective efforts, our tournaments were a resounding success and provided a fun experience for all the kids involved.

Bursaries:

Our bursary program continues to make a positive impact on children and families who require financial assistance. Last year, we were able to support 14 deserving kids through bursaries, totaling \$18,000. We would like to express our gratitude to all those who participated in Thunder No-Ball and made contributions during registration. It is through your generous support that we managed to secure \$23,000 in funding for this year's program. We eagerly look forward to the opportunity of providing assistance to more families in need next year.

Clothing:

We are thrilled to announce that our partnership with Cyclone Taylor will be expanding even further in the upcoming year. As a result, the store will feature an increased stock of merchandise to cater to our members' needs. In addition, we have enlisted the services of two new embroidery suppliers, which will significantly expedite the customization process. To enhance convenience for our members, we are also developing an online version of the store, enabling easier access to our merchandise.

Steve Gully
Director Projects



Fundraising Update

In the 2022/23 season, we participated in 4 great fundraisers, of which 3 of them we have been part of for a few years.

1) FlipGive – 100% of all online purchases from participating stores though team families went back to the team.

2) Purdy's – This season, the Thunderbirds made \$19,622.14 from participating in the Purdy's Fundraiser. What an incredible team effort to support our organization!

It takes many volunteers, plus the T-Birds staff to make this Fundraiser successful. I'd like to thank Courtney Vye for her continued support on the day of Chocolate Pick-Up and our T-Bird staff members Audrey White and Oz Garip for all their efforts during the promotion of this fundraiser until all the way to the end of it!

3) Thunder-No-Ball – 100% of Thunder-No-Ball's profit goes to support our T-Birds Bursary Program which allows underprivileged kids to get on the ice and have their dream of playing the sport they love - Hockey, come true!

Thunder-No-Ball 2023 was such a fun event, due to each team's support. Besides the donations asked from our teams, many families stepped up and donated extra items to the auction. It is incredible to see how much our community cares to make this event successful.

This was year #3 of the Online Silent Auction and Take-Out Dinner Night. We were fortunate to partner with UBC Biercraft as well as Community Taps & Pizza on Commercial Dive again.

A very special thank you goes to Brenda Goehring and Christine Briggs who organized all the wine baskets for the auction and all the volunteer drivers who helped getting dinner orders from the restaurants to participating families.

I'd like to express another very special thank you to parent volunteer Jody Yau, who helped immensely with Thunder-No-Ball this year.

\$21,239 were raised through both, the Silent Auction & Dinner orders!

4) M&M Food Markets

This was a first off – we were contacted by M&M Food Markets to participate in this one-day fundraiser. 100% of the net proceeds of all purchases placed in-store and online on May 12th, were given to our organization.





I'd like to sincerely thank everyone in our organization who contributed to this year's success raising a total of \$41,561.14 for the Vancouver Thunderbirds! Whether it was volunteering during the fundraising events or participating in the various fundraisers by purchasing through FlipGive, ordering from Purdy's, bidding on one of our 111 Auction Items or purchasing food from M&M Foods this year.

Patricia Tait
Director of Fundraising

Officiating Update

New Officials

- 32 Officials attended our "Try it" ice session for players wanting to see what officiating is all about with no commitment.
- New officials' clinics held Oct 15 certifying 44 new officials!

Supervisions & Shadows

- 114 games supervised – An outstanding achievement to get this many in.
- 46 games shadowed – An improvement over last year, targeting more for next year.

On Ice Training Sessions

- Weekly ice session split between a try-it session, carding clinic, new official sessions, returning official sessions, and 3 High Performance Program sessions

High Performance (HP) Program – 3 Sessions

- Nov 26 – Early Season Preparation & Rules Knowledge
- Jan 14 – Expectations & Qualities of a HP Official, Professionalism
- March 4 – Playoff Hockey, Summer Preparation, Fitness Testing
- 12 Participants from the T-Birds and surrounding associations attended.

Trevor Boudreau
Referee in Chief





Vancouver Thunderbirds Hockey Annual Awards

Congratulations to the 2022/2023 Vancouver Thunderbirds Hockey Annual Award Winners.

- Brad Addison Award – Blair Casey
- U11/U13 Coach of the Year – Shawn McQuistin
- U15/U18 Coach of the Year – Nat Fernandez
- William Staiger Award – Harrison Brown
- Don Currie Award – Paul Dhaliwal and Jon Lazar
- Manager of the Year Award – Hareesh Sara
- President's Service Award – Danny Hildebrand
- Eliopoulos Outstanding Service Award – Gary Hunter
- Junior Referee of the Year – Aiden Park
- Senior Referee of the Year – Abiram Yogeshwaran

Dale Cheney Grade 12 Scholarship Winners

- Luke Atkins
- Chase Dodek
- Jacob Edy
- Morgan Fairweather
- Ethan Fung
- Patrick Gregg
- Calvin Gully
- Thomas Haldenby
- Joshua Jordan
- Jonah Lazar
- Matthew Lee
- Malcolm Liang
- Zac Peter
- Adam Rusch
- Teegan Sara
- Damon Scharfe
- Nico Storelli
- Jake Toffoli
- Sidney Tolensky
- Justin Wong
- Justin Yee