

Chester Minor Hockey Association AGM Agenda

Thursday, April 23, 2025

6:00-9:00 pm

1. **Call to Order @ 7:00 pm.**
2. **Motion to review and approve the AGM Minutes from May 2024** made by Rayna Preston. Seconded by, Vanessa Stevens. Motion Approved.
3. **Presidents Report: Dan Board**
 - Thanks to V. Stevens on all her efforts in her new role with the Church Park Rink; especially to allow our teams to have a longer season and rink opening
 - CMHA looks forward to work with Vanessa and Church Park to open the rink early next season.
 - CMHA had great success in fundraising this year:
 - i. The Al Nunn Memorial Golf tournament raised \$17,491; these funds go directly into our operating costs and represents a savings of about \$150 for each kid registered in the association. Thanks to Joey Barss for all his help and critical role he plays each year in making this fundraiser our primary one a success.
 - ii. Nobel Nunez fundraiser was also very successful this year. We raised over \$8000 raised for local hockey families who are dealing with a cancer diagnosis.
 - Our total registration numbers were about 120 this year; given the demographic shifts happening in our community we are looking to grow this over the next few years to over 150 kids.
 - Church Memorial Park commissioned a study to determine the future for our rink - the report determined that the current facility useable for next few years but will need lots of upgrades. The final report is available on the Church Park website for anyone to read. The Board recently voted to recommend the construction of a new rink and recreational facility in Chester. A municipal committee has been struck to support the development of this new facility and CMHA will have representation.
 - Ivan Fitch will represent Chester Minor on this municipal committee for the new rink project.
 - All of CMHA's competitive teams were incredibly successful. Combined in regular season play, they amassed 59 wins - 8 losses - 2 ties. All three teams finished in first place in their leagues. U11 & U15 defended their league championship banners. U15 won the Joe tournament, a north south conference banner and went to provincial day of champions.
 - A big contributor to our competitive teams success was our Development Coaches and program this year. A big thanks to Rufus and Rob for volunteering their time to run our program.
 - We also saw success in our goalie development program which attracted

goalies from CMHA as well as Forest Heights and the Western Hurricanes.

- Our Timbits had a great season. Our U9s started out with a development and intermediate team. Our intermediate team graduated to playing some advancing teams part way through their season; a first for Chester Minor. We have a strong group of players coming up over the next few years to feed our competitive teams.
- Our U7s were coached by Travis and Tim and also had a very fun and successful season.
- A big thanks and congrats to everyone who helped with all of our teams and had a hand in their success and learning. We are small association that runs on the labour of volunteers.
- Today we say goodbye to three of our board members - Rufus Sweet, Joey Barss and Dana Hatt - I want to thank them for all their hard work over the last number of years. And a special thanks to all of our other volunteers - the canteens sellers, 50/50 sellers, fog/music/DJs, coaches, trainers and managers.

4. Financial Report: Denise Burgess

- Our fiscal year is not complete but we used all our funds plus a bit of our surplus from last year.
- We have just over \$17K left in the bank account with a few bills still remaining. .
- Our largest expenditures were for HNS player and coaches insurance, ice rentals (nearly \$80,000), and coaching courses/training and supports.

5. Development Directors Report: Rufus Sweet & Rob Newcombe

- 2024-24 brought a huge increase in attendance and numbers; the move from Friday to Wed evening was a really big factor in increasing attendance
- The development program provides an extra hour of ice every second week for our U9-U15 groups.
- The program tends to focus on skating fundamentals, turns, mechanics ... often the things that are less fun to cover in team based practices.
- This year Rufus is stepping away from the role of Development coordinator and coach and CMHA is looking for new ppl to get involved to help us continue to offer this program.
- Rufus is happy to help when and where he can; to support a new development coordinator.

6. Director's Reports:

- **U7 Director's Report - Delivered by Amber Fiander**

This season U7-1 started with a group of 15 children and 11 players remained until the end. The group did very well. They learned a lot about the game and

developed lots of new skills that will hopefully lead them into next season. The head coach for our group was Stephen Anderson. We also had 3 other coaching staff, Tyler Greening, Dana Retieffe, and Jeff Pronko who helped out with our group. The 4 coaches made every practice fun and inviting for the children. This year the U7-1s participated in the Liverpool Jamboree. We split our team with the U7-2 group to coincide with the other participating teams. The children had an amazing time competing. Although very nervous, the first-year players persevered and took to the ice. Our U7-1 players learned a lot while sharing the ice with the U7-2 players this year. We also played in the Noble Nunez Tournament. The children were much more comfortable on the ice for these games. They got to play against other U7-1 children of similar skill level and this helped their confidence soar. We saw many children in our group use the skills they learned in practices to pass the puck and even score goals. There were no major incidents or issues this season in U7-1 for our group.

○ **U9 Director's Report - Delivered by Dan Board**

This year's U9 Ravens had an exciting season with lots of fun and great competition! The team consisted of 24 players in total. 12 on a Development team and 12 on an Intermediate team. We practiced together and competed as one team for our half ice games from the start of the season, Dec 1st until the end of January. Highlights included our first game being the Mini Moose game at the Scotiabank Centre vs the Queens County Cougars, followed by taking in a Mooseheads game as a team. We also participated in our first tournament of the season, the Kyle Hennebury Memorial in Spryfield, over the Christmas break. Once full ice games began on February 1st, the teams continued practices together but faced opponents in their respective divisions. The Development team, lead by coaches Tyler Greening, Matthew Giles & Drake Countway, took on teams from across the region including South Shore Lumberjacks, western valley, Acadia, queens & west hants. They also competed in the Gary Wentzell Tournament in Bridgewater over March Break. The Intermediate team, lead by coaches Trent Tingley, Joey Barss & Randi Gosbee, faced off against teams including South Shore, Shelburne, Acadia, Western Valley, Chebucto & Dartmouth. They also tested their skills against the Yarmouth, TASA and South Shore Advancing teams. They were lucky to land a coveted spot in the Joe Lamontagne Tournament in Cole Harbour over March Break. The teams reunited to play together in the Annual Noble Nunez tournament, vs the TASA U9 Huskies, in honour of Max. Our year end celebration was as held on March 30th at the Chester rink. An epic parents (even some grandparents!) vs kids game took place, with lots of laughs, followed by a pizza party and treats in the Ravens Roost. We had supportive parents, and passionate players that really made for a fun and exciting season of hockey, and watching the kids develop their skills on the ice!

U11 Director's Report - Delivered by Ivan Fitch

The U11 B team started with 18 players, but ended with 17. We lost one to his love of another sport, we were very sad to see him leave. Our coaches, led by head coach Dan Board, were Donnie Preston, Josh Richardson and BJ Brown. Team manager this year was Kelly Coolen. The U11 B Ravens played in two tournaments this year; the Kyle Henneberry in Halifax and Spryfield, and The Joe in Dartmouth and Cole Harbour. The team was a strong team and improved greatly throughout the season. We started our season with one goalie and ended with three! We played against three other teams during regular league play, and held exhibition games against other teams when possible. We finished our regular season in first place. We played against Queens Cougars and won the Scotia Minor South League banner at home. The team advanced to a Conference final, but unfortunately lost that game against the Truro Bearcats at home which ended the team's Provincial run. We did not have any player or coaches suspensions during our season. A highlight for the season was being invited to play a game against each of the Antigonish teams. The team were able to have an overnight stay in New Glasgow with a pizza for supper, lots of pool time and hallway mini sticks! We are looking forward to closing out our season celebrations in early May with a team party.

- **U13 Director's Report - Delivered by Rayna Preston**

The U13 Ravens coached by Shawn Langille, and assisted by Jaime Hatt, Joe Peckford and Seana Langille had a season to remember with 15 wins and 1 loss. The team had 16 skaters and one goalie who showed up for every single game this season with no backup! From the first puck drop in October to the last whistle, the team played with heart, grit, and undeniable chemistry. Game after game, they proved they were a force to be reckoned with, outskating, outscoring, and outlasting their opponents. But sometimes, the game isn't fair. At the Scotia Minor Day of Champions — with everything on the line, the team fell just one goal short to the Queens County Cougars who took the league banner. This team was never defined by one game though. Instead, they were defined by their resilience, by their unity, and by a season that lit up the rink. The team had no notable events during the season, no major injuries, and no player or coach suspensions. Congrats to all players and for those moving on and up to U15 teams next year.

- **U15 Director's Report - Delivered by Denise Burgess**

The U15 A Ravens had another very successful and electric season in 2024-2025. Coach Ivan returned for a second year and kicked things off by hosting a pre-season camp in September, 2024 to support the player's transition to checking hockey which helped raise start-up money for the U15 team account. In early September a tryout call was made. In the end, a total of 18 skaters returned to play in Chester this year plus one goalie. The Raven's reached out to TASA to pick up a second U15 goalie to round out the roster and

the team was named without a tryout being required. The team was coached by Ivan Fitch with help from assistant coaches, Al Bezanson, Corey Senior, and Donnie Preston, with support from the team's trainer Dana Hatt and Manager, Rayna Preston. The team made up of Chester Ravens, former Queens County Cougars and one former Tasa Duck consisted of 11 second year and 9 first years players. The team fundraised over \$10,000 to help offset the extra ice time, exhibition games, tournament and other team costs through a mix of jersey sponsorships, corporate sponsors from Mitshubisi, All Out Doors and Payless Fuels, private donations, weekly 50/50 draws and a grand in the hand fundraiser. Throughout the season the team was competitive in league, exhibition and tournament play. The Ravens played 10 exhibition games against teams primarily out of Central Minor, went 17-1 in regular season play, 4-0 in playoffs, eventually going on to earn the Scotia Minor South League banner defeating the Yarmouth Mariners 8-2. The team went on to win the North vs Southern League Conference banner defeating the Pictou County Crushers in an exciting 5-4 game decided in overtime. The team advanced to Provincial Day of Champion's playing Bedford Blue. It was a hard fought game but the players came up a goal short in regulation time with a 3-4 loss earning them a second place in the Province and silver medal overall for their age and division. The team also had excellent showings at all three tournaments defeating hometown Cole Harbour to capture gold at the Joe tournament in March and finished top four at the Pictou County Memorial Tournament and the Mariner's Classic in Yarmouth. Notably, center forward, Jacob Santo was also named to the Pictou County Memorial Tournament All-Stars for his electric performance during the tournament. The team faced two suspensions which occurred during the Pictou County tournament; no coaching suspensions were given this season. No major injuries due to CMHA hockey were reported this season. Highlights of the season included a hotel stay in Yarmouth, with perhaps a little too much pool time, a mini-sticks tournament and a pizza party; there was also a special team trip to the Museum of Industry in Pictou organized by Coach Ivan; playing in this year's Nobel Nunez exhibition game and a special team celebration meal for 60 people in Truro after our Provincial DoC game. A final team party is planned for June. Congratulations on an amazing season to all of our U15 Raven's who are moving on to high school, trying out for U16, U18 and other teams next year!

7. Open Call for Nominations for CMHA Executive Roles

- Executive Board Terms Expiring:
 - i. President - Dan Board (re-offering)

Motion to nominate Dan by Amanda Gwynne-Timothy; Joy Kelland seconded

Dan accepts nomination

No other nominations on the floor

Elected by acclamation

ii. Secretary - Rayna Preston (re-offering)

Motion to nominate Rayna by Vanessa Stevens; Rufus Sweet seconded

Rayna accepted nomination
No other nominations on the floor
Elected by acclamation.

iii. Development Coordinator - Current: Rufus Sweet (not reoffering)

Ivan Fitch has offered to step into the role.

Motion to nominate Ivan Fitch by Dan Board; Dana Hatt seconded

Ivan accepted nomination
Elected by acclamation.

o Executive Positions Vacated:

i. Vice-President - Joey Barss (resigning)

Motion to nominate Angela Taylor by Vanessa Stevens; seconded by Amber Fiander.

Angela accepted the nomination.
No other nominations on the floor.
Elected by acclamation.

ii. Risk Management Coordinator - Dana Hatt (resigning)

Motion to nominate Amber Fiander by Rayna Preston, Seconded by Vanessa Stevens.

Amber accepted the nomination.
No other nominations on the floor.
Elected by acclamation.

8. Open Call for Nominations for CMHA Board Members at Large (5-8 needed).

- o After the meeting, come see Rayna at the front to leave your contact information phone and email so we can connect and invite you to our shared workspaces and meetings.

9. Election of Members at Large

- o Kelly Coolen - Nominated by Vanessa Stevens. Seconded by Ivan Fitch, Elected.
- o Corey Senior - Nominated by Ivan Fitch; Seconded by Joy Kelland. Elected.
- o Shawn Langille - Nominated by Jaime Hatt; Seconded by Ivan Fitch. Elected.

- Joe Peckford - Nominated by Jaime Hatt; Seconded by Dana Retieffe. Elected.
- Saleem Sode - Nominated by Dan Board; Saleem declines.
- Alisha Broome - Nominated by Amanda Gwynne-Timothy; Seconded by Joy Kelland. Elected.
- Dana Retieffe - Nominated by Denise Burgess; Seconded by Lora Hill. Elected.
- JR Perry - Nominated by Vanessa Stevens; Seconded by Lora Hill. Elected.
- Andrew Publicover. Nominated by Pam Publicover. Seconded by Ivan Fitch. Elected.

10. CMHA Association Awards:

- Ripple Effect - Chris GT - All Outdoors & GTSN - Amanda
- Special Recognition - Renamed our Coach of the Year Award - the "Rufus Sweet Coach to the Year Award"
- Coach of the Year - Ivan Fitch
- Friend of Minor Hockey - Payless Fuels
- The Nobel Heart Award - The Preston
- Fair Play Award - George Burchell
- Love of the Game Award - Kian Sode
- Terry Clooney Goaltender Award - Luc Boutilier
- OT Houghton Defensive Forward - Ollie Wentzel
- Up and Coming Goalie - Brianna Langille
- Above and Beyond Award - Dan Board
- Volunteer of Year Award - Rayna Preston
- Official of the Year - Sebbby Hatt
- Mentor of the Year - Callium Burgess
- The Alex Normore Award (Female Player of the Year) - Alex Fitch
- The Most Exciting U13 Player Award - Ainsley Burgess
- Defenseman of the Year - Max Fitch

11. U11, U13 and U15 Team Awards (Coaching Staff to Present)

U11

- Best Offensive: Kian Sode
- Playmaker of the Year: Simon Kaizer
- Best Defensive: Declan Peckford
- Best all around player: Landon Kaizer

U13

- Most Dedicated - Jake Langille
- Grinder Award - Drayden Boutilier
- Most Improved Player - Jasper Scott
- Best offensive Player - Nick Slaunwhite
- Best defensive player - Casey MacDonald

- Best all around player - Donovan Davis
- Playmaker of the season - Ethan Nauss Pearson

U15

- Most dedicated player - Arkin Tester
- Playmaker of the year - Eli Sparkes
- Best offensive player - Jacob Santo
- Most improved player - Matty Bezanson.
- Most valuable player - Owen Gwynne-Timothy
- Best defensive player - Caleb Westhaver

12. Questions From the Floor and New Business

- May 26th first meeting of our new board; Zoom online call from 8- 9:30 pm

13. Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn the meeting by Amber Finader; Seconded by Angela Taylor. Meeting adjourned at 8:30