



Hockey West Island

Minutes from Annual General Meeting

Thursday, May 11, 2023, at 19:30

Centre nautique Baie-de-Valois

90 Chem. du Bord-du-Lac-Lakeshore,

Pointe-Claire, QC H9S 4H7

100 Attendance: Rick Ness, Mike Vallée, Christine Latreille, Evangeline Soriano, Lyne Sauvé, Paige O'Keefe, Catherine Martin, Eric Webber, Brittany O'Rourke, Mike Nyisztor, Kirk Moufflier, Tracy Palmer, Drew Renahan, Greg MacNeil, Eric Paradis

200 Adoption and Approval of the Agenda

Proposed by: Tracy Palmer

Second by: Paige O'Keefe

Motion to adopt and approve the agenda was passed.

Unanimously adopted

300 Reading and Adoption of the Minutes from the 2021-2022 Annual General Meeting

(Thursday May 12, 2022)

Proposed by: Rick Ness

Second by: Mike Vallée

Motion to adopt the Minutes from the 2022 Annual General Meeting held on May 12, 2022 was passed.

Unanimously adopted

400 Reading and adoption of any changes to the by-laws of Hockey West Island Inc.

No changes

500 Reports of the 2020-2021 Season

501 Treasurer/Accountant

Financial statements for 2022-2023 were presented by Geneviève Martin from Martin & Co.

Motion was put forth to accept the 2022-2023 Financial Report.

Proposed by: Tracy Palmer

Second by: Eric Webber

Unanimously adopted.

502 Secretary – VACANT

503 Vice President: Administration and Development - Christine Latreille

My second year as VP Admin was exciting as it was the first full year of hockey without interruptions, and we had some new initiatives and programs in place. There were however some difficulties.

TEAMSnap

HWI purchased the TeamSnap for Clubs and Leagues package which gave all of our teams a “free” team account. It was also used for clinics and group chats for managers and coaches, as well as a monthly newsletter to all of our members. The implementation and uploading of all of our members had a lot of headaches, but worked out. There are some glitches within TeamSnap itself which will hopefully be fixed by their team. HWI has renewed its TS contract for the 2023-2024 season.

CLINICS

Goalie clinics started in mid-October and all took place at Bob Birnie. Their sessions continued until March. Most, if not all of the goalie players’ clinic fees were paid for from their team budgets.

Fees this year for clinics were collected by e-transfer.

Total Hockey Clinics started mid October with three different groupings for a total of about 90 players. Two groups were held after the New Year.

Thank you to Mat and his Pro-Action team for leading these clinics and providing Great coaching and feedback to our young players. Matt Meikle was a hit with both parents and kids.

SPECIAL CLINICS

We had two guest coaches in for specialized clinic: Scott Corbett for shooting, and Mackenzie Blackburn for powerskating.

EXTRAS

Some teams took advantage of Pointe-Claire’s offer of the Ovide Chalet on Wednesday nights for off-ice training or used it for end-of-season or Christmas parties.

We tried to hold off-ice yoga sessions but did not receive enough participants. May try again mid summer as a “warm up for hockey” session.

Pointe-Claire allowed us to use two outdoor rinks when the ice was ready. Teams signed up using a Google Sheet. Teams must be reminded that all team activities need to be sent to Butch and added to their “official schedule” so that they are covered under Hockey Canada insurance. We were not able to reserve any of Dorval’s outdoor rinks.

TEAM ICE SHEETS

Instead of mandating that each team purchase ice sheets for team practices, we offered them to teams on a first-come-first-served basis, with a maximum of three spots before then opening it up completely. Some teams did not purchase any, some teams wanted much more than we had available for sale. Ice was sold at a rate of \$175 per sheet. What was unsold Butch used for extra practices or other events.

WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

Updates continue to be added to the website. The Manager's Guide will be completely redone this summer.

Social Media has been active throughout the season and numbers keep climbing.

HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE

HWI collaborated with the Pointe-Claire Oldtimers and had a very successful day At the end of October, which saw many of our young HWI players helping out with food collection and sorting.

COMMUNITY DAY

HWI invited community groups to participate in our Community Day on December 10th. Groups who came included PC Soccer, AMCAL, Montreal Fire Department, team bake sales, and a total of 70 boxes and bags of food were collected and donated to West Island Mission.

FIRST SHIFT

HWI hosted the Bauer, Hockey Canada, NHL First Shift Program for 30 new-to-hockey players in Winter 2023. We have already been approved to offer the program again in 2024. Registration and information will be available on our website at the end of May and will target our families and the community.

NAP TOURNAMENT

Thanks to the amazing efforts of our tournament director Karen Chan Kee-Nolan and with Mike Vallée, Butch Kennedy, and many amazing volunteers, the 26th HWI NAP tournament was an amazing success. 73 teams participated and came from up to three hours away. We had enthusiastic and involved sponsors, great support from our partner cities Pointe-Claire and Dorval, help from arena staff, mascots to spread cheer, food from local business Dizz's Bagels, a popular raffle table and merch. Approximately \$7000 in raffle tickets and HWI shirts and gear were sold. Great feedback from teams, players, and parents, many of whom said they would return next year.

ISSUES

Coaches need more support and a tighter framework for paperwork, forms, refunds that they need to submit. I am going to create a form on the website for uploading coaching accreditations and receipts.

Everyone at HWI needs to try and answer back emails within a certain timeframe (max 3 days?) otherwise people get cranky and start emailing other HWI members and receiving too many answers.

THANKS

Special thanks to Lyne and Raymi from Hockey Lac-St-Louis who are always willing to answer questions and give guidance, Pointe-Claire and Dorval staff for their help, all of our fantastic Convenors, and all our coaches, managers, and parent volunteers.

504 VP-Single Letters - Dan Taza

Hello all and apologies for being unable to attend in person.

As this will be my final report as VP of Single Letters, I would like to begin firstly by thanking all the fantastic volunteers I have had the opportunity to work with over the years, foremost among them the convenors who are the engine that make the association work and the coaches and managers who are the ones in charge of ensuring out kids play the game in a fun, safe and constructive environment.

It has been a pleasure and a privilege to work alongside many of you in this capacity over the past 7 seasons, through great wins and tough losses, making sure that time at the rink was valuable, enjoyable and productive.

From a personal point of view I would like to thank those who helped me get started up in the association: Andy Brookman, Jeff Golden, Pat Niiya and as a coach in the association as well, those who have worked with me as coaches and managers over the years: Graham Pepper, Greg MacNeil, Martin Grenier, Kirk & Rita Mouflier, Matt & Tracy Gibson, Max DiBitonto, Jonathan Labonté, Ginette Purdy, Stef Tschunitz, Elise Plante, Jason Della Porta, Anthony Granato, Dave Zielinski, all the parents and siblings who stepped on the ice to help when they could.

A special thanks to Matt Montreuil and his team, Matt himself, JF Coderre, Matt Meikle among many others who were always available for help and advice. Like many new coaches when I took on my first team in novice I was terrified at the prospect of being responsible for 14 kids but that teams gave me the basics and confidence to help me get started. Like most of our volunteer coaches, I had no background in coaching, I was just a dad who was asked to help and having these guys available was invaluable not for me, but for the kids I was responsible for.

Thank you also to the board and executive committee members past and present who have stewarded the association along, the responsibility is important and I can say that I have always seen the kids at the centre of everyone's concerns.

Big thank you also to Ron Letourneau and Butch Kennedy, the two people who taught me the most about how minor hockey works and who were never further than a phone call away.

Lastly, thank you also to all the players. You are the central focus of every volunteer in this association and your excitement on the ice is contagious and the driving force behind the combined efforts of everyone who chips in some time to help HWI year after year.

To whoever succeeds me in the role you can count on my support and I wish you the best in the coming years.

As I close, a few words of congratulations to some of our teams this past year:

CHL season champions

M13A Kings, congrats to coach Chris Nolan and his team

M13C Kings, EHL champions, congrats to coach Shannon Casey and her team

M18B Knights, congrats to coach Matt Gibson and his team

CHL playoff champions

M11C Kings, congrats to coach Jason Della Porta and his team
M18B Kings, congrats to all the staff and players

LSL regional champions

M15A Kings, congrats to coach Eric Rhéaume and his team

Congratulations to all our finalists and participants in the NAP tournament and to tournament Director Karen Chan Kee and Christine Latreille for putting on a great event.

Thank you all and please keep playing, keep volunteering even if all you can give is an hour here or there it is more necessary than ever that we pull together to help grow our association and to always improve the environment we build for our kids.

505 Vice-President Double Letters - Rick Ness

Down to 4 Regional teams below Junior and 4 Junior teams. U11 was near the bottom of the charts. Rob Charisidis did a great job with U11 The kids had fun.

U13 was sous-classed to BB this year - middle of the pack in BB, so it was right decision to sous-classe them. Pat Haney and staff Ed Vlasic and Ian Manzano again did a great job, feedback was positive

I coached the Bantam AA team with Scott Corbett and some young coaches. Placed third in the regular season but had a disappointing Playoff. The kids had fun

U18 was unlucky in playoffs. Placed second overall feedback was very positive on the season Matt Houle did a great job

Junior has been growing steadily in the past few years. Teams are 18 or more skaters to account for many of them having jobs etc.

Very successful season for A division: Rois were second of 18 teams. Royals were middle of the pack. Rois were regional finalists and Royals made it to the semis

B teams were middle and towards the bottom of the charts. Both advanced well in the playoffs Next year we need non-parent coaches, particularly for Junior B.

506 – Past - President – Andy Brookman

Absent - no report

507 – President - Mike Vallée

What a fun season!

Thank you to everyone who made it all possible.

The Executive and board members. Coaches, managers, Refs, timekeepers, Volunteers, Our city partners, sponsors, parents and players...a full season without interruptions was a welcome relief from the past THREE covid-affected seasons.

As I completed my 2nd year as president, something became abundantly clear to me:

I truly enjoyed the role and all the exciting and challenging moments the past 48 months gave me.

With so many good people working in the same direction, it was a joy to tackle each and every item on the Hockey TO-Do list.

Success was measured by the joy on the kids' faces, and by the energy, hockey can bring us. Nothing else.

(Well maybe making sure we had a backup for every time one of the Zambonis broke down!)

As many of the important and exciting items have been covered by those who spoke before me, I will highlight a few that perhaps were not mentioned:

1. Community

Within the association = Pride to play for Hockey West Island.

Not merely to be looked at as a "last place to play"

Remind our members of the value we offer.

Not only on the ice, but as a hockey community... where we work and play.

+ Within the community = Support organizations through our food drives and raising \$ through our events.

We replaced the sometimes overly-aggressive ~~Rivalry Day~~ with Community Day.

I believe even a subtle change like this important. Great feedback so far.

I believe we can balance our own finances and still be able to be a positive driving force for those in need around us.

2. Support of our Refs and timekeepers.

I was accused by a few parents/coaches this year of over-supporting our referees.

This made no sense to me. *Of course I do.* And believe we all should. As long as I am involved with HWI, I will continue to make sure they get whatever they need to do their job, and for our referee-in-chief to recruit, retain and reward our hard-working on-ice officials. The same goes for our timekeepers. Of course we want everyone to do a great job, but asking for perfection from only a small, dedicated CORE group...is pure insanity. Without them, there are no games.

3. New Jerseys

The new uniforms were released to all teams (minus one U9 team) and the overall consensus was they were a hit!

Although they did show some wear and tear due to their more fragile material, they held up well and should last 4-5 seasons, as planned.

A decision can be made at a later time as to which direction HWI chooses for the next set of jerseys.

Highlight: HWI alumni, Mike Matheson, wearing our away jersey on Hockey Night in Canada!

(And over-hearing more than one parent from other associations commenting on how nice HWI jerseys looked... ;))

*Decision on name-bars to be made during the off-season.

4. New Technical Team / Tech director

** (U7 /, Clinics, evaluations, team assistance, player development)

The process to find a replacement for Pro-Action began when they informed me that they would not be returning for the 2023-2024 season.

We thank Pro-Action for many great seasons on the ice with our kids...And after more than 25 years, a new and exciting chapter has begun.

The selection committee is working hard to put together our next Tech Team. An announcement should be made sometime in Late May / early June. The development of our young players is paramount. Different from the past arrangement, Any new deal will include a contract and clear, written expectations and mandate from HWI. We received many candidates and are sure that the next Tech Team will bring a fresh start and new energy.

5. Westlake becoming autonomous

Starting next year, Westlake will become its own entity.

It will need to have its own board, Exec, bank account etc..

Westlake will buy ice from us similarly to SIL, SIF.

I am in discussion with Lakeshore President, Angelo Palucci, to discuss the next steps.

This is an exciting move for girls' hockey in the West Island...but they will need new people to step up and begin this new phase of girls' hockey for our PC and Dorval players!

A call to action will be made to all Westlake families to seek new, and able volunteers.

6. Change in CHL associations

In a surprise to HWI Execs, the CHL (and our CHL representative) voted in favour of including Vaudreuil-Dorion and Ile Perrot Minor Hockey Associations to the CHL. This will mean that our SL teams from U9-U18 will now have games at the Vaudreuil rink. Details to come, but we have been told there will not be weekday games or early weekend games in Vaudreuil for our players.

Small items:

- The past president's plaque was updated to include long-time president and superb referee, Andy Brookman.
- Mike Matheson's wall-of-fame photo was updated...he is now a Hab!
- Storage: HWI office, Jersey room, Dorval cages are all being used to max capacity
- New signage in PC and Dorval arenas to usher in newer branding awareness
- Recruitment: Ideas are being discussed on how to reach families new to West Island / hockey.
- Volunteer party: Back after a few years of being cancelled. Fun night.
- Support pf goalies to continue / New equipment
- Registration online, but 1 payment day / BBQ Opening season party to take place during registration period. (Early bird to be reduced in length, in-person payment will be limited to ONE DAY - Bbq)...Other sports do it this way...chasing payment for weeks / months is nonsense.
- HWI has purchased a second set of (used) U9/Novice boards from Chateauguay Hockey for \$500. These are 12" movable foam boards which will give us more location options for U9 practices, games, and tournament sites. (New this exact same set would be about \$3500).
- Thank you to Dan Taza, who is stepping aside after many years as our VP of single letters.

600 Election of the Executive Committee

In the absence of a Secretary, Mike Vallée acted as officer for the elections

601 President

No candidate. Mike Vallée was acclaimed as President for the next two years.

602 Vice-President - Single Letters

Eric Webber was the only candidate. Eric Webber was voted in for the next two years as Vice President Single Letters.

603 Secretary

No candidates. Post remains vacant

The Executive of Hockey West Island for 2022-2023:

President: Mike Vallée

Vice-President Administration and Development: Christine Latreille

Secretary: Vacant

Treasurer: Evangeline Soriano

Vice-President Double Letters: Richard Ness

Vice-President Single Letters: Eric Webber

700 Questions and Comments:

Drew Renahan: What is the process for choosing the new Tech Team. Rick gives history and explains. Will add new VP-SL Eric Webber to the selection committee.

800 Adjournment:

Proposed by: Eric Paradis

Second by: Mike Nyisztor

Motion to adjourn the Annual General Meeting passed.

Unanimously adopted

Minutes submitted by Christine Latreille