



Hockey West Island

Minutes from Annual General Meeting
Thursday, May 12, 2022, at 19:30
SartoDesnoyers Community Centre,
Salon D, 1335 Lakeshore Drive, Dorval, Qc

100 Attendance: Rick Ness, Dan Taza , Mike Vallée, Will Davidson, Christine Latreille, Eric Paradis, Evangeline Soriano, Monique Chalifour, Sylvia Pedicelli, Tracy Palmer, Matt Gibson, Rich SwamiNathan, Pierre Ricard, Catherine Martin, Katy Decosse

200 Adoption and Approval of the Agenda

Proposed by: Rick Ness

Second by: Dan Taza

Motion to adopt and approve the agenda was passed.

Unanimously adopted

300 Reading and Adoption of the Minutes from the 2020-2021 Annual General Meeting (Tuesday May 11, 2021)

Proposed by: Christine Latreille

Second by: Mike Vallée

Motion to adopt the Minutes from the 2021 Annual General Meeting held on May 11, 2021 was passed.

Unanimously adopted

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

Proposed Modifications:

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE HWI CONSTITUTION/BY-LAWS Article VII:

Executive and Board of Directors

1. Modification to the positions on the Board of Directors

Remove the following positions:

- Head Coach
- Director of Discipline
- Website co-ordinator

Addition of the following positions:

- Technical Director
- Chief Scheduler

Proposed by: Mike Vallée

Second by: Rick Ness

Motion to adopt the proposed changes to the HWI by-laws was passed.

Unanimously adopted

500 Reports of the 2020-2021 Season

501 Treasurer/Accountant

Financial statements for 2021-2022 were presented by Maître Martin & Geneviève Martin from Martin & Co.

Motion was put forth to accept the 2021-2022 Financial Report.

Proposed by: Rick Ness

Second by: Monique Chalifour

Motion to adopt the Financial Report from the 2021-2022 Annual General Meeting on May 12, 2022 has Passed.

Unanimously adopted.

502 Secretary – VACANT

503 Vice President: Administration and Development - Christine Latreille The beginning of the 2021 hockey season seems like a very long time ago. August and September started with much optimism for a full season of hockey, with players and families excited and ready for a “normal” season that included practices, games, and tournaments. Just as teams were figuring themselves out and getting into their rhythm, COVID made another unwelcome comeback that had us and every other league scrambling. As we’ve done for two years, the HWI family adapted, regrouped, and were ready to start playing as soon as Government restrictions lifted and games resumed on February 14th. It was exhausting and remarkable, but we were able to deliver an almost full season of hockey at a time when our members and our communities needed it most.

I’d like to give particular thanks to our HWI scheduler Butch Kennedy for being incredibly adaptive, keeping us all up-to-date, and being ready for each and every change that the season threw at us. I’ll say it again, I don’t know how you do it!

Here is a brief update on my areas of focus this past season:

REGISTRATION AND EMAILS FROM MEMBERS:

The beginning of my mandate coincided with the start of registration and the pre-season camps. I fielded questions from families, created FAQ documents, and directed emails to the appropriate people.

CLINICS

Goalie clinics started on October 11th on Monday evenings at Excellent Ice in Kirkland.

There were 11 players in the U9 & U11 group and 13 players in the U13 & U15 group. Their sessions continued until March. Most, if not all of the goalie players’ clinic fees were paid for from their team budgets. Thanks to HWI President Mike Vallée for taking attendance on each of the clinic evenings.

Total Hockey Clinics started the week of October 13 with three different groupings for a total of 75 players.

Wednesday evenings had Total Hockey 1 for U9 & Single Letter U11 players. When that filled up with 25 players we opened another session on Monday evenings which was also full with 25 players. Total Hockey 2 on Wednesday evenings for Double Letter U11, U13, & U15 players had another 25 players. There was also a waitlist but we were mandated by Government rules to cap on-ice players at 25. This also seemed a good amount of players at which to stop. Feedback was hugely positive, with parents asking if they could register again for new sessions in the New Year.

The last two clinic classes were cancelled because of the December COVID shutdown, but we were able to reschedule the classes in the New Year rather than having to issue refunds. After discussions with Butch and Pro-Action, we scheduled another three (new) clinic groupings that were to start in January 2022. One for Pre-Novice U7, and two groups for U9 & U11 Single Letters. We had another 75 players registered as well as a waitlist, but had to cancel these clinics entirely because the ice times were needed for practices and games, especially since practices were full-ice for all teams when hockey restarted after the COVID shutdown over Christmas. Luckily, no refunds needed to be issued as we had not yet taken payment. Teams also took advantage of Pointe-Claire's generous offer of the Ovide Chalet on Wednesday nights for off-ice training.

Thank you to Mat and his Pro-Action team for leading these clinics and providing invaluable coaching and feedback to our young players. I've already had parents asking when they can sign up for next season. And thank you to Mr. Andrew Phan and Mr. Rich SwamiNathan for helping out at each session and taking payments and attendance. I know the parents appreciated your knowledge and organization!

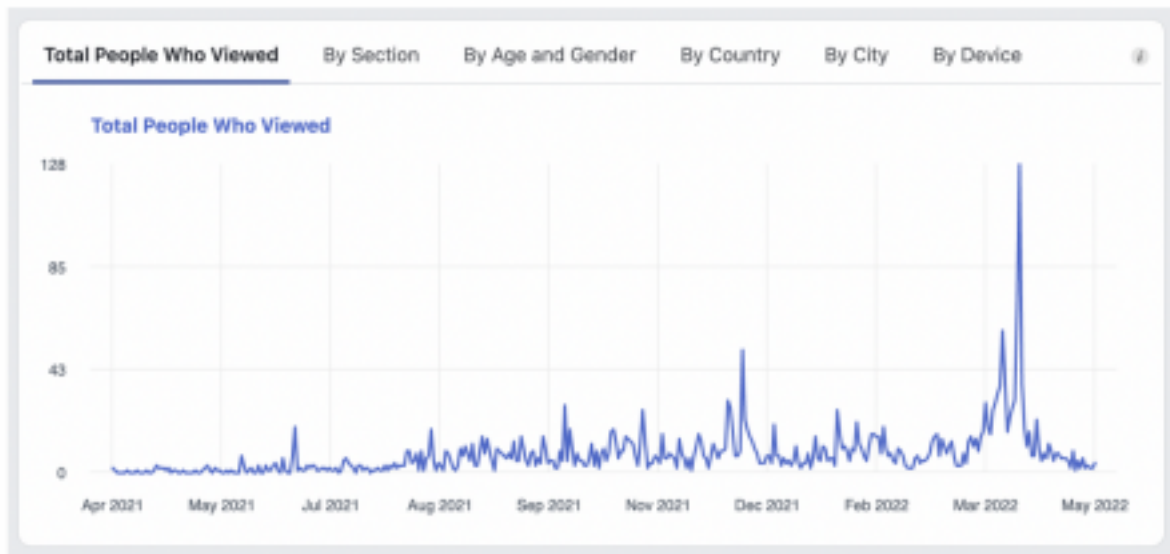
TEAM ICE SHEETS

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. To be discussed for next season.

WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

Updates were done to the website including adding often-used documents to the "Coaches and Managers" sections, updating emails and links, preparing an FAQ section with documents for Timbits and U9-U17; and posting all NAP tournament info in its own section which included registration info and forms, rules, stats and schedule links, photos, sponsor info, and updated info on the availability in each division.

Social Media has been active throughout the season and I made it a focus to keep our members updated and informed through FB as well as with the "Recent News" section on the website's main page. Facebook page followers grew from 860 in April 2021 to 1112 in May 2022. Feedback from page followers was positive. I also created the "Meet the HWI Team" where a team member was showcased and answered questions relating to their role and time at HWI.



Hockey West Island Facebook Page

HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE

HWI collaborated with the Pointe-Claire Oldtimers and had a very successful day on October 30, which saw many of our young HWI players helping out with food collection and sorting. I would love to provide more opportunities for our players to help out in the community.

NAP TOURNAMENT

Thanks to the amazing efforts of our tournament director Karen Chan Kee-Nolan (who likes spreadsheets and lists more than I do!), Mike Vallée, Butch Kennedy, and many amazing volunteers, the 25th HWI NAP tournament was an amazing success. 72 teams participated and came from the Laurentians, across Montreal, Montérégie, Laval, and the South Shore. We had enthusiastic and involved sponsors, great support from our partner cities Pointe-Claire and Dorval, help from arena staff, mascots to spread cheer, a food truck for snacks, a visit by the SPVM mounted police, a popular raffle table, and sold approximately \$6000 in raffle tickets and newly-designed HWI shirts and gear. And best of all, kids and parents had fun.

THANKS

Special thanks to Lyne and Raymi from Hockey Lac-St-Louis who were always willing to answer questions and give guidance, Pointe-Claire and Dorval staff for their help, all of our fantastic Convenors, and our experienced team of Executives.

LOOKING TOWARDS THE 2022-2023 SEASON

HWI recently signed the Coaching Association of Canada's Responsible Coaching Movement, which is a call to action for sport organizations, parents, and coaches to enact responsible coaching across Canada – on and off the field of play. We will be sharing resources and tips with our coaches through our website and social media.

HWI has purchased TeamSnap's League and Organizations package for the 2022-2023

season. We hope that this will alleviate some of the communication issues we face when trying to communicate with members through regular emails (with some going to spam folders), and will make it easier for convenors and registrars to communicate with whole divisions, individual teams, etc. With this new package, every HWI team will also have their own TeamSnap account — the same as what most currently use — at no cost to them. -I would like to offer Yoga classes, clinics with Canadiens alumni, and specialized clinics in addition to our current Total Hockey and Goalie clinics. This will depend on ice availability and an off-ice location. I have already talked with The Canadiens. The rest is to be determined.

Scotiabank has approached up to share information about their “hockey for all” program, whose mission is to make hockey more diverse, more inclusive and more accessible for all. We will see what this program entails.

A new program *may* be in place through Hockey Quebec for the 2022-2023 season which would see new-to-hockey kids able to sign up for a weekly practice and game at a set time. This aims to introduce kids to the sport of hockey without the unknowns of scheduling and travel. It will most probably only be for Novice-U9 to Peewee-U13. Players in this program would not be able to cross-register to a “regular” team.

-HWI will be hosting the Bauer, Hockey Canada, NHL First Shift Program for 30 new hockey players in Winter 2023. Registration and information will available on our website later in June.
-We will be sharing Pointe-Claire’s new sports grant program, as well as other grant programs on our website and social media so that families can benefit from these incentives.

My wishes for the 2022-2023 season are to continue offering our members a fun, inclusive, and stimulating sports environment with a focus on new players, increased communication and messaging, as well as additional on and off ice opportunities.

504 OHM President - Dan Taza

Hockey West Island’s SL program continues to provide our local youth with a rewarding and affordable outlet to grow both on and off-ice skills thanks to dozens of volunteers who give time and knowledge generously to ensure that our children can continue to participate in the game.

This report will go over some statistics at a very high level, it’s important to note however that the foundation of a Single-Letter program is to provide a recreational outlet and is focused on the enjoyment of the game and about encouraging participation for players of all levels and skill sets.

1. Team Numbers

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LEVEL	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Pre-Novice	6	6	6	6	-	6
Novice	8	8	7	10*	-	10*
Atom	6	6	6	6	-	6
Pee-Wee	6	5	5	6	-	5
Bantam	4	4	4	5	-	4
Midget	6	5	4	5	-	5
	36	34	32	38	-	36

*new novice format

2. Single Letter CHL Standings (Appendix 1)

Appendix 1 shows the final regular season standings

Stable regular season compared to last full season, overall .530 win percentage slightly below .565

3. Post-season Cancellation

The covid closure brought on the unfortunate cancellation of the CHL playoffs. There was much debate about this but in the end it was decided at the CHL level with the reasoning being that it was the best way to maximize ice time for all kids rather than to reduce the regular season and have teams be eliminated almost immediately after returning from a month long hiatus. Due to ice limitations in many associations, there was no possibility of extending the season to be able to fit in the playoffs.

4. COVID

The highly anticipated return from the lost season of 2020-21 was not without it's challenges, we opened the season with ever-changing restrictions and rules, constant uncertainty and we had to endure a hiatus from December on. All of this was met bravely by our usual dedicated set of volunteers and mostly by our players who never stopped showing their customary enthusiasm on the ice. I would be remiss not to extend a very special thank you to our scheduler Butch Kennedy who had to schedule all sessions with limitations on on-ice participants and who had to redo the schedule on a weekly basis in January while waiting for a re-opening date from the government.

Likewise it's important to underline the huge amount of work that was placed on our convenors shoulders this year under difficult circumstances.

5. Rivalry

The Third Annual Rivalry Day was held this year at Bob-Birnie, it was a great success and HWI would like to thank all of its participant families who once again contributed generously to the West Island Mission. Thank you to all the volunteers who participated in organizing the day and to all teams for putting on a great show.

6. Closing Remarks

To close it is important to reiterate that as a volunteer organization, HWI relies on people who donate time as convenors, coaches, managers, members of the executive committee, tournament organizers and parents who assist in a multitude of ways. Thank you to our timekeepers, referees, arena personnel, Pro-Action Hockey Staff, Tournament Staff, Equipment Managers and city representatives.

I would also like to take a quick moment to my colleague Rick Ness and his staff and team for their participation in the U15 Dodge Cup Provincial Championship

Thank you to our scheduler Butch Kennedy and our departing registrars Judy Tolfree & Pam Suga and a very special thank you to all boys and girls who wear our jerseys and to their parents.

505 Vice-President Double Letters - Rick Ness

Thank you to the following people

Mark Israel and Genevieve St Jean from Pointe Claire and Dorval respectively. All of their arena staff who were very helpful, accommodating and patient in a very difficult year with ever changing covid rules and requirements. I would also like to thank our friends at Lac St Louis who gave us great support in a very difficult year.

Thanks to all of our regional coaches most of whom are non-parents and put in hundreds of hours on ice and off. Thanks to all the assistants and managers.

The region, like the rest of Quebec continues to struggle with declining enrollment. The recent report on amateur hockey in Quebec points to overall enrollment dropping from well over 100 000 before covid to 88 000 last season.

HWI has been impacted by this trend and we no longer have the number of players necessary to form an AA and BB team at each level. 2021-22 was the first year that we did not have a single BB team and this trend of one double letter team is likely to continue for the foreseeable future. At the AA level our competitiveness is further impacted by the ever-increasing exodus of elite players to school hockey. Unlike other areas in Quebec that have one or two local school programs, the West Island associations lose players to 8 different schools and four AAA teams at each level many of whom struggle to be competitive due to the large number of programs chasing a declining pool of players. As an example, the PW AAA lions were 1-29 finishing 25th of 25.

If the contributing factors don't change the decline in number and competitiveness in LSL double letters will continue.

Season results

Atom AA finished 12th of 14 the team improved significantly throughout the season and was able to win their first round in the regionals

PW AA finished 10th of 11 despite the tough regular season the team made it to the semi-finals only losing to the regional champions

BT AA finished 2nd amongst the LSL teams and won the regional championship

MG AA finished 10th of 14 eliminated in the quarter finals

In junior all 4 teams finished in the bottom half of the standings. Despite this, a big congratulations to the JR A Senators who were the regional finalists.

At the junior level we struggle to find coaches. Any interested, qualified candidates are welcome to contact me for next season.

I am in the last year of my third mandate and would very much like to work with anyone interested in replacing me. To repeat our catch phrase tonight volunteers are welcome and very much appreciated.

506 – Past - President – Andy Brookman

Absent - no report

507 – President - Mike Vallée

The 2021-22 season:

A big thank you to everyone who has spoken before me, and to everyone who made the season, despite the extra challenges of the extended shutdown over X-mas.

This season started with the uncertainty that follows 2 previous seasons affected by a global pandemic.

Despite these challenges, HWI rose up and worked together to give the kids the best season we could. There were a lot of positives!

Even without playoffs for SL teams, and no SL regionals...the teams were able to finish a modified regular schedule. Our DL teams continued on as usual, and as discussed by Rick, the DL portfolio will continue to need constant reviewing to navigate the changing landscape of players leaving to explore private hockey at the AAA and school levels.

I worked with our new RIC, Kris Clement to continue to build a better relationship between our members and the referees who work our games. A never-ending battle to protect our new, and experienced refs, from burnout & abuse. We will also make sure that our pay will match all associations in the region.

An improved relationship based on communication will help us build a stronger on ice official team!

Recruit

Reward

Respect

NAP tourney: huge success, on and off the ice.

Big thanks to Karen and Christine for doing all the heavy lifting. All the volunteers who helped out are also to be commended!

A net profit of \$25,000 was raised.

New uniforms: After testing out with a few teams last year, the 22-23 season will see all HWI wearing the new uniforms.

Storage: I have worked with PC and Dorval to ensure that our storage solutions are the maximum we can have from both cities.

Ice: Speaking with Butch almost daily at some points of the year, we will continue to work on schedules that make the most sense for our members. Continued requests for improved ice schedules @ PC will remain until we hopefully get some improvements and compromise. (IE: & AM weekends, games on Main...)

Community: We will continue to work with various community groups via our food drive (With PC Oldtimers) and our annual Rivalry Day / Community day. Other initiatives are set for approval for 22-23 and beyond.

Marketing Social media / Merchandise: Christine has done an amazing job. HWI is well represented!

The 222 season was rewarding and I thoroughly enjoyed my first year as president of the great association.

I look forward to next season and wish everyone a great off-season!

600 Election of the Executive Committee

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

601 Treasurer

One candidate: Evangeline Soriano. Evangeline was voted in as Treasurer for the next two years.

602 Vice President: Administration and Development

Christine Latreille was the only candidate. Christine was acclaimed for the next two years as Vice President: Administration and Development.

The Executive of Hockey West Island for 2022-2023:

President: Mike Vallée

Secretary: Vacant

Treasurer: Evangeline Soriano

Vice-President Double Letters: Richard Ness

Vice-President Administration and Development: Christine Latreille

President OHM: Dan Taza

Past President: Andy Brookman

700 Questions and Comments:

NEW Board members for the 2022-2023 season:

Equipment manager: Kirk Mouffier

Registrar: Tracy Gibson

Westlake HF Convenor: Katy Lacosse

Matt Gibson asked if there will be a Bantam-Midget tournament in 2023. HWI will see if there is someone who would like to coordinate the tournament.

Discussion about the need for more volunteers.

800 Adjournment:

Proposed by: Dan Taza

Second by: Rick Ness

Motion to adjourn the Annual General Meeting passed.

Unanimously adopted

Minutes submitted by Christine Latreille