

Surrey White Rock AGM

President's report

Hello everyone and welcome to the Surrey White Rock Ringette association's 2008 Annual General meeting. 2008 was also our 20th anniversary as an association and some of the players from that first year played an exhibition game against our Masters team during our Provincials opening ceremonies.

At last year's AGM, I took a leap of faith and volunteered for the position of this association's president. At the time, I figured I had managed departments with as many as 150 employees, chaired my daughter's school PAC and been a Board member on the Burn's Bog Conservation Society. "How hard could it be?"

Remember the first rule of swimming? It was never jump head first into the shallow end. Well I quickly realized I had jumped in head first into the deep end and was having trouble swimming.

This association's past executive was an awesome group of individuals, they were enthusiastic, attentive to their tasks, diligent and best of all worked great as a team. A great number of us are relatively new to the association and the sport, so we often turned to Kathy Matusiak for advice (SWRR's, Obi one Canobe as she likely has held every position on the executive during her tenure). We are all sorry to see her leave the executive as she now plans to just focus on coaching our Bunnies.

Over and above handling the duties as the association president, I had given myself three objectives for this past year:

1. Create a Mission statement so that the executive could govern and make appropriate decisions. We wanted key messages which would be consistent for the entire association; teaching skills and knowledge of the game, teamwork, sportsmanship, build confidence and friendships, and promote Ringette in a fun and positive manner.
2. Improve our player's ability to compete, this year we introduced power skating (especially at the Novice, Petite and Tween divisions) and next year we will offer goalie clinics.
3. And finally, Promote the game of Ringette.

In retrospect, we now have a mission statement, introduced additional power skating (which has now spilled over to a women's only power skating program offered through Surrey's recreation program), and we are on board with BCRA and Ringette Canada with their Come try Ringette program. Also with the contact that was made at Tim Hortons (sponsor at our Santa skate) by Heather Sterner, I have followed up with Tim Hortons and been able to create some interest in a Tim Horton's Timbits program at the Bunny and Novice level for the entire Lower Mainland Ringette League. This partnership may include Timbits jerseys for all the Bunny and novice players, annual individual players and coaching kits, joint

advertising and promotion of the sport in the papers and on ice intermission games at either Chilliwack Bruins or Vancouver Giant hockey games.

I have already said too much about me and the executive, as this event should be more about the players and teams that represent Surrey White Rock Ringette.

I asked for some information from the teams for this report and received some and made up the rest:

1. Our bunnies team had a very successful year coached by Kathy Matusiak, it was a very young team as at registration, there were 3 four yr olds, 4 five yr olds, 5 six yr olds and 2 seven yr olds. They played divisional games after Christmas and played in two tournaments.
2. We had two novice teams playing in a 15 team division as there was no tiering in Novice this year. Surrey Storm was coached by Vaun Malo, they placed 6th and went 8-6 in regular season, played in four tournaments and got to the semis in the Kelowna Sweetheart tournament. I coached the Surrey Ice Tigers, (I was trying to get them to agree to the name team the Bobcats but even my own daughter didn't vote for that one), our team relied on the theory of a good defensive is a good offence, they scored a league high 120 goals and placed 2nd with a record of 11-3. They played in three tournaments and some also played a fourth in March.
3. Petite A was coached by Gerald Ruck and place 2nd in a five team tier with a record of 8-7-1. Played in one tournament.
4. Petite C was coached by Warren Quinn and also placed 2nd in a 6 team tier with a record of 8-5-1 . Played in two tournaments.
5. Tween B was coached by Dave Sitch and placed 1st in a five team tier with a record of 11-4. Congratulations team and Dave, perhaps after the meeting and during our dinner, we can get the team together for pictures with the trophy and banner. The Tween B's also placed 2nd in the Burnaby New West, Ice Breakers tournament and won silver at the Kelowna Sweetheart. Great season.
6. Junior A was coached by Troy de Graaf. They placed 3rd in a nine team tier with a record of 7-3-1. They should also be congratulated for winning Junior A Gold at the Kelowna Sweetheart and winning gold at the BC Provincials B event.
7. Belles were coached by Tom Adams. They placed 8 out of 9 teams and likely would have done better in the standings had other teams not cancelled and failed to reschedule.
8. Open were coached by Kevin Sitch and placed 10th out of 12 teams.

In addition to league and tournament play, we had Tween players present SWRR at the BC Winter games. April Davies & Maryse Garcia played on team 1 (zone 3) they brought home the silver medal and Alyssa Valente, Tamara Boucher, Cali McNeill &

Jessica Sitch played on team 2(zone 3)though they did not place they worked hard and enjoyed the experience.