

President's Report – July 26, 2020 Annual General Meeting

The 2019-2020 year at St. Matthew Hockey and Sports Club (SMHSC) was a year of significant change. The prior annual general meeting resulted in significant turnover of board members. The year definitely presented many challenges, including the worldwide COVID-19 epidemic. We have handled these speed bumps and obstacles positively and kept moving forward. Our entire board has done some amazing work and we have accomplished our goal of enacting change at our hockey club.

We have worked hard to implement an open and transparent atmosphere at SMHSC. A newly designed website, as well as a strong social media presence, has helped with communication to the membership. All of our board meeting agendas and minutes are posted on our website. We also embarked on a complete overhaul of our bylaws which were approved by our members at our September 2019 Special Meeting. A committee worked diligently on reviewing and documenting our club policies. These were finalized and ratified at our February 2020 board meeting. These bylaws and policies are also posted on our website. A privacy policy is still being worked on and we hope to have it completed and approved by the new board soon.

Last August SMHSC put on our first ever conditioning camp for the Novice, Atom and Peewee age groups. These camps were exceptionally well received and will return again this August, with a few changes to improve the experience for everyone. Another first for the club was using paid evaluators for our evaluation process. Overall, we were quite pleased with the process, but have listened to criticisms and concerns from the membership/board members. As a result, we have made some changes to improve the evaluation experience, including an evaluation committee to oversee it.

We had 242 registered players for the 2019-2020 season, which was down slightly from the prior season. From these numbers we created 4 Peewee teams, 3 Atom teams, 4 Novice teams, 3 Senior Timbit teams, 2 Junior Timbit teams and 1 Discovery team. We had some excellent results from these teams at Minor Hockey Week and the COVID shortened City Championships. Most importantly we saw growth in our players and our teams that we can be proud of.

During our year-end survey, the message communicated was to improve coaching throughout our club. We will be taking steps to do this by hosting additional meetings for coaches throughout the season and adding a club position to help with coaching development.

Our fundraising effort was strong as usual. Unfortunately, the casino funds we received was about 20% lower than what we have received in the past. Our funds received from bingos was also trending about 20% lower than historical averages. COVID-19 subsequently shut down the bingo halls and we lost revenue for a three-month period. All of these items together have created an issue with our funding model. The board has started to come up with ideas to either increase some of our fundraising and/or decrease some of our expenses. This will be one of the first items the new board will need to finalize.

Although significant effort was put towards having a great celebration for SMHSC's 50th anniversary, it simply wasn't meant to be. We had to cancel the event due to COVID-19.

We had a very special new player join our club last year. You will recognize the name, as we have referred to him affectionately as "Nate the Great". Being brand new to the sport, Nate elected to play Novice as an overaged player. He made an impression on his coaches immediately with his passion and love for the game. Unfortunately, several weeks into the season he needed to withdraw from hockey as

a medical issue required him to be admitted to the Stollery Children's Hospital. Nate's team continued to play for him and displayed his jersey proudly behind the bench at their games. Many teammates made visits to the hospital to offer support, but sadly, he passed away on February 7th. Nate Beaudoin was an inspiration for our entire hockey club with his love for the game. He will be remembered fondly by all and plans are in the works to create a memorial tournament in his honor.

I would like to thank all of our board members for their service this year. They all willingly extended their volunteer service to the club for an additional 3 months due to COVID-19. I appreciate everything they have done and I am extremely proud of what we accomplished together.

Our work to create change at our club is not finished. We eagerly look forward to our next steps to continue the change we started last year. I hope many of you will be a part of it.

Thank you.

Andrew Westervelt
President
KC St. Matthew Hockey & Sports Club