

# Casco Bay Hockey Annual Meeting

Monday, April 2, 2018 6:30 pm  
Pond House, Falmouth Ice Center



Annual Meeting began at 6:35. Eric welcomed the members in attendance and explained that the Annual Report was available and would soon be posted on the CBHA website. Rather than repeating the content in each Board Member's report, he encouraged the membership present to ask any questions they had.

- 1) Scott Rousseau was asked about the issue of eliminating checking at the Bantam level for T4. Scott explained this was a MEAHA proposal that CBHA supported based on size and experience differential between players at this age.
- 2) Scott was asked about the plans for skills for goalies at the PeeWee and Bantam House levels. Scott acknowledged that this was an area that would get attention next year as the Board thought of how to bring this skill training back to the program. Formerly had had a Sunday goalie session, but attendance was low due to Middle School and House League games. Concern about goalies in the pipeline was discussed and how to get more sessions focused on goalies at the Mite level.

With no more questions, Eric highlighted the major points of each Board Member's areas.

## Mites Division:

The 2017-2018 Mite season ran smoothly, thanks in large part to the hard work of several of our Board members, including but not limited to our House Director, Scheduling Director & Referees Director. Our program benefited from a consistent schedule week-to-week and, most importantly, from our plethora of dedicated coaches and TA's.

The addition of the cross-ice boards greatly improved our game experience. Many thanks to all who were involved in acquiring these boards. Thanks also to our coaches who put in the time every Sunday to assemble and disassemble the boards. The NYA staff was also very helpful with these boards and they have identified a dedicated storage space for them this offseason and beyond.

We are in the process of acquiring four mini nets, which will further improve our game experience. Many thanks to Sarah Kramlich, our Treasurer, for her ongoing work to make this a reality.

Going forward, we will need to assess our expected registration numbers to determine whether an adjustment is needed to our Mite ice allocation. Our current allocation is based on an 8-team program and we appropriately limited our total Mite roster this season to 88 players (11/team). Limiting our

registration to only 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year Mites (next year, 2010's & 2011's) may fit us within our current set-up, but how we manage a possible increase in our registration total is something we should keep on our radar this offseason.

**Question from Member:**

Can you explain more about the lack of full-ice for Mites? USA Hockey has eliminated this so no organization with USA Hockey affiliation can offer full-ice. Only programs that offer full-ice for Mites are AAU organizations. As an organization you must choose to be an AAU or USA Hockey and the policy you adopt holds for all levels at organization (couldn't offer AAU for Mites and USA Hockey for other age groups).

**Squirts Division – Caitlin Jordan:**

The Squirts finished the season with one team going to the State Tournament and making it to the semi-finals. The other three teams enjoyed a fun round robin with each other on the final day of the season. All kids seemed to enjoy receiving the Casco Bay hockey bracelets. Goalies continue to be a struggle for this age bracket as we only had two teams with goalies interested in playing a majority of the time. We are hopeful that some up and coming players will show an interest. Our practice schedule of three teams on for skills and two for team practices worked well.

**Midget Division – Tom Clifford:**

Once again this year we combined with Biddeford Youth hockey to form our Midget house league. Casco Bay had four teams and Biddeford had two teams. All teams were competitive with each other. The league ran smoothly as the kids just played hockey.

**House Division – Scott Rousseau:**

It was a very successful year with Casco fielding four Squirts, six PeeWee, and three Bantam teams totaling some 190 players. Squirts and Bantams each had one team qualify for the State Tournament while the PeeWees dominated the T4 Southern Conference, with all six teams finishing in the top six for the season and five teams advancing to the State Tourney, the 5<sup>th</sup> team, the Flames, advancing in the play in game over the 6<sup>th</sup> place Casco Whalers in a thrilling sudden death shootout!!!

Play at the PW level was extremely competitive and evenly matched. For different reasons, at both the Squirt and Bantam levels, one team in each respective division was noticeably stronger the rest of the division. We hope to make subtle changes to the draft procedures next season to assist matching the teams a bit better next season.

The biggest change and most positive development for the T4 teams this season was the establishment of regular slotted practice and game slots for the Pee Wee and Bantam divisions, both of which suffered the greatest last season with all of our well documented scheduling issues in 2016-17. Moving the Bantams out of the Friday night slots and moving their times to Sundays alleviated a great deal of HS/2<sup>nd</sup> year bantam conflict and the feedback is most of our first year Bantams plan on returning play Bantams next season.

The scheduling of the season proved a very difficult and time consuming task this season, however, caused mostly by three reasons: 1) simply working with our new webmaster/schedule master to establish

our new norms and weekly schedules, 2) the repeated delay to open at Casco Bay Arena, and 3) trying to meet the unattainable requirements of the now resigned MEAHA T4 director. Plans to alleviate these issues include not scheduling games at CBA until November to ensure Mother Nature behaves and working with the webmaster immediately after our Ice Summit meeting this spring to create and establish our evaluation and internal practice and game schedules as early as this Spring.

Other Concerns/Improvement Needs for Next Season:

- Potential for four Bantam teams next season would require an additional hour of practice ice during the week
- Need to address goaltending instruction at the PeeWee and Bantam Level.
- Establishment of an Invitational T4 Tournament during the season, either during the holidays or MLK weekend
- Must be prepared to monitor registrations closely. We continue to take in additional players from outside organizations and at the bantam level, we ended up with too many players per team. Returning Casco Bay players need to take priority before we can accept transfers and if we do not have space for additional players, we cannot accept them.
- MEAHA Level items: support the proposal to eliminate checking at the T4 Bantam level. Continue to monitor the WMYH bantam situation and decide pre-season if we are going to play them or not. Encourage MEAHA to adopt "Casco" style rules governing T4 play, of which the basic tenant is all players must play equally by position with no double shifts or special teams. The behavior of some Northern Teams make playing State Tourney's at the T4 Level discouraging and an leave an uncertain future for participation.

### **Travel Division – Matt Goodrich:**

Overall it was a good season with few problems. The Squirt T2 and PeeWee T3 teams finished number one overall for MEAHA. All our travel teams made the states and competed well. Midget Boys recently asked to attend the U18 Nationals.

EJEPL League- Our Squirt T2 team was part of this supplemental league this year and overall it was a good experience and competition for the team. This was a 16 game season starting with a couple tournaments in Aug/Sept and then continuing in Nov during our regular season. There were 18 teams in the top division and Casco finished second overall. We were one of six teams to make play offs in Long Island and finished with a 2-1 record. We are planning to put the Squirt T2 and PeeWee T2 teams in this same league for the 2018-19 season.

We hosted multiple tournaments including a Casco Bay Mite tournament that went well.

Ice times and dry land sessions seemed to go very well. We continue to have skills nights once a week run by Matt Libby and Alex Kurtz and hope to keep both on for next year.

At this point tryouts are in the last phase. All divisions have had teams selected at the T2 and T3 levels except the U12s which will be wrapped up this week. Thanks to Eric for all his help in this process as I could not handle this on my own. Our process is extremely thorough and as a result we have had very little complaints. The last couple spots on the team are always very difficult but we have made sure to have 5-8 evaluators at every tryout including many from outside the organization with no bias or history with the kids. It is a huge process lasting 3 weeks, involving 25 hours of ice and the selection of 9 different teams. Either Eric or myself, or both of us, has been at every session which is necessary for a

thorough and effective process, but I hope to come up with a system next year to allow others to help with the responsibility.

I would also like to streamline the apparel fitting and ordering process for this season and I plan to work with the vendor to have them more involved in tracking the details. We will also plan to have the Midget jerseys remain owned by Casco Bay and use them for multiple years. U10-U14 will remain using the same process of ordering new jerseys every year.

### **Casco Bay Academy – Heather Geoghan:**

Casco Bay Hockey Academy was comprised of three separate programs for the 2017-18 season:

#### **Bruins Academy (52 skaters):**

This was our first season of Bruins Academy. We worked with a contact at the Boston Bruins to arrange for skaters to have four on-ice sessions at FIC from mid-October through mid-November. Skaters paid \$100 each to the Boston Bruins Youth Development program, and received brand new head-to-toe hockey gear, and had four on ice practices that were organized, coached, and run by Casco Bay Hockey. At the end of the program, we retained 27 skaters who joined either LTP or BTI from the Bruins Academy program.

#### **Break the Ice (82 skaters, 30 coaches):**

Break the Ice was divided into two separate 10 week sessions (Oct-Dec and Jan-March). We rely heavily on our volunteer coaches to help these 4-6 year old skaters find their groove and experience ADM (skills sessions) practices. Skaters have the option to register for either 10 weeks at a time, or to register for all 20 weeks at a slight discount. BTI Skated Saturday mid-morning at FIC. We add skaters to the program throughout the season with no "late registration" penalty.

#### **Learn to Play (116 skaters, 38 coaches):**

Learn to Play was divided into two entirely separate programs this season.

Group 1: skaters in Kindergarten and first grade

Group 2: skaters in 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th grade

Groups practice back to back, but separate from one another on Tuesday evenings and Sunday mornings at FIC. Between the two programs, we had wonderful volunteer coaches leading the practices, power skating, skill stations, and helping with everything from equipment issues to parent questions as the season went on.

These programs have all had extremely successful seasons, with registration numbers growing each season and reaching more new families in the Casco Bay Hockey community.

### **Girls Director – Scott Matusovich:**

Casco Bay had six girls' teams for the 2017-18 season; four teams at the Tier II level (U19, U16, U14, and U12) and two teams at the Tier IV level (U12 Orange and Black). We also partnered with Rousseau Hockey and ran a High School Age skills clinic in the fall that was well run and well attended to help girls get ready for the high school season. We also started a U8 Girls team that ran concurrently with the CB Mites program and the girls played 12 games against other U8 Girls teams and some coed U8 teams. The formation of this team was the catalyst for the Huskies and Gladiators to do the same and begin discussions in their organizations about creating more all girls hockey opportunities for their players.

All of our Tier II teams qualified for, and competed in, the New England Regional Tournament. The U16, U14 and U12 advanced to the Semi- Finals. Our U14 team received an at-large bid to attend the USA Hockey National Tournament to be held in Mass April 6-9.

We also have seven players selected to play in the New England Regional Festival tournament in CT, rivaling most any other single organization in New England.

We hosted the 2nd Annual Icicle Invitational Tournament Feb 17-19 and it was a tremendous success. We hosted 12 out of state teams at the U12 and U14 level. Our families worked incredibly hard to provide a fun and competitive tournament and it was perfect. The girls program raised money through this event to cover cost of sweatshirts, skill training aids, and additional programming for our players.

For the 2018-19 season we have added a U10 Tier II team (the first in Maine) to continue to grow our program and encourage more girls to stay involved playing hockey. It also looks like we will be able to add a second U16 this year as we had over 50 girls come to our evaluations for the U16 and U19 teams. We continue to attract more girls from the area and will continue to provide level appropriate teams for them to play on.

Thanks to Rachel for her help and organization of the ice times, Tom for making sure Casco Bay always has excellent officials for our games and to all the coaches and families of the Casco Bay Girls Hockey family for making us one of the best and largest girls program in New England.

### **Treasurer – Sarah Kramlich**

Casco Bay Hockey Association continues to be the premier hockey association in the State of Maine. Our membership is over 800 players strong and remained stable over last year. Our board is organized and committed to providing the best hockey experience for the best value to our communities. Our projected P&L for this season, along with the past several seasons for comparison purposes, is presented below.

(\$000)	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18*
Players	865	779	793	827	825
Revenue	\$465.5	\$595.6	\$600.3	\$641.3	\$679.0
Expenses	\$456.4	\$624.2	\$608.8	\$629.9	\$643.2
Profit(Loss)	\$9.1	(\$28.6)	(\$8.5)	\$11.4	\$35.8

Our revenue increase this year was mostly due to our partnership with Dunkin Donuts, as well as very strong participation by our community for the inaugural Casco Bay 5k. These fundraising components of our organization are foundational in our ability to offer a wide range of programming to serve our entire membership at multiple levels.

We have completed the third year of our partnership with Casco Bay Arena. As important as our relationship is with CBA, we have maintained our long-standing relationships with North Yarmouth Academy and Family Ice Arena to ensure adequate ice coverage for all of our programming.

Finally, I think it must be said that our hundreds of volunteers work tirelessly to keep our organization running, from fundraising, to program direction, ice and referee scheduling, tournament direction, and to administrative functions. Without them, Casco Bay Hockey Association simply doesn't exist in its current form.

It has been my pleasure and privilege to be part of this board for the past nine years and serve the membership of Casco Bay Hockey Association.

### **Coaching Director – Glenn Jonsson:**

We had a very strong group of coaches for the 2017-2018 season. Special thanks to Jason Cyr for sending out reminders on coaching training. As result, we did not lose any rostered coaches at the 12/31 deadline. Much appreciation to the coaches for getting this all done, as it is no small feat.

At Casco Bay, we are very fortunate to have so many qualified and experienced coaches - it's one of the biggest strengths of our organization. We have many coaches that have played beyond HS with many having played college and pro hockey. We are very lucky in this regard as all of our coaches are volunteers (U16/U18 being the exception). As in this day and age, many parents evaluate the coaching in deciding where their sons or daughter play youth hockey. While I may be biased, I would put our coaches up against any of the "for profit" coaches any day of the week. Special thanks to the Travel Director, Matt Goodrich, and all of the Divisional Directors for identifying and retaining our coaches. For a combination of reasons (and coaching is a major driver of this), it does appear that CB is once again "the place to be". We seem to be attracting back some of the talent that left our organization for "greener pastures" along with new players attracted to our organization.

In addition to our volunteer coaches, we also have 2 skills coaches and 2 goalie coaches that are paid and work with our skaters once a week. These skills trainers are Matt Libby and Alex Kurtz from Stride Envy and the two goalie coaches are Ray Jean and Fred Quistgaard. We have had very strong reviews of our skills trainers this year and feel that it is important to continue with the individualized skills training once a week in the interest of player development.

#### **Question from member:**

How do we stop the loss of coaches between Learn to Play and Mites? A conversation ensued about best ways to retain these coaches. Recognition that the education piece holds some coaches back and the suggestion that coaches get asked early on to return so they appreciate how important their role is.

### **ACE Director – Jason Cyr:**

Overall, this was a very good season for Casco Bay Hockey. From a coaching standpoint, we continue to enlist solid coaches who make the development of our players their top priority year after year. The success of our teams at all levels is a testament to this focus.

In terms of numbers of Coaches this season, we continue to add to our rosters, as we observed a 5% increase in registered coaches over last season, with 170 registered coaches.

Being affiliated with USA Hockey creates many opportunities and challenges for our volunteer coaching staff. Annual training requirements are strict, time consuming and costly. Year after year coaches must meet these requirements either prior to the season or by 12/31 of the current calendar year in order to be eligible to coach. This is difficult when you consider that all of our coaches do this for free and do it in conjunction with their everyday responsibilities outside of hockey. Due to these challenges, we did lose 6 coaches midway through the season for not meeting USAH training requirement deadlines.

Looking ahead to next season, I expect the Coaching registration portal to open again this year in July. An email blast will go out to all of Casco Bay informing members when the registration is open. Also, we will have a pre-season coaches meeting in August to go over any new USAH policies, training requirements for the upcoming season and to answer any questions that interested participants may have.

### **Webmaster – Rachel Pargeter:**

- Multiple (8-10) Registrations set up and enabled online for regular season, travel, tryouts, etc.
- Many email blasts sent out with league and association information.
- Web pages updated and maintained for all divisions, teams and programs.
- ScheduleWerks formatting and upload options made it much easier to upload and maintain schedules of teams playing many non-league games online (primarily girls teams playing in the NEGHL.) Unfortunately the non-league events still need to be uploaded separately.
- Schedule was consistently uploaded at least three weeks prior to events, which is a big improvement over the 2016-17 season.
- New tournament plug-in was used by and paid for by Icicle Tournament and was successful.

### **Scheduler – Rachel Pargeter:**

- New Scheduling Software (ScheduleWerks) was very helpful in keeping things organized and streamlining the uploading process.
  1. They are planning on releasing a web-based version sometime in 2018 which will make it possible for DD's to view the schedule online with fewer spreadsheets needing to be emailed back and forth.
  2. Data entry will be much easier next season with the ability to "roll-over" all team data to next season as well as rink information and away team names.
  3. Program-generated emails helped streamline last minute changes and take backs and get information out to coaches and TA's.
- Scheduling was successfully managed to minimize unused ice and maintain contractual obligations.
  1. Ice swaps with several organizations were implemented to get us extra ice when needed while keeping costs down.
  2. Some unused hours were sold directly to other organizations for practices and games.
- Already working to secure additional ice for tournaments next year, especially the Icicle Invitational in February.
- Plan to start scheduling ice later next season at CBA to minimize warm-weather opening season issues and cancellations. Games scheduled at CBA the first two weekends after it opens will be minimized to avoid rescheduling required league games.

### **Equipment – Tom Clifford:**

All teams received their jerseys and socks before picture day. We were able to select jerseys of some new teams so players did not keep getting jerseys of the same teams

### **Referees – Tom Clifford:**

Our numbers for the year stayed about the same. We did have some older veteran officials either retire or move, so we felt their loss during the season, as they were able to cover any game in years past.

I hope to be able to get some training ice for all officials in the fall, either end of October or beginning of November so we can get all officials up to speed to start the year

#### **Question from Member:**

How do current players become referees? Classes are offered in the fall followed by on-ice instruction. Can referee for ages one below the age group in which you play.

### **Registrar – Melissa Riley:**

It was a very successful season with 854 registered skaters and 40 USA hockey team rosters. Teams included Midgets through Squirts and made up 775 of the skaters. The remaining skaters were from Casco Bay Academy and did not need to be rostered with USA hockey.

Changes to team binders reduced the amount of paperwork required. Consent to treat and insurance information were not required in the team binders this year.

### **Marketing / Social Media/Fundraising – Nikki Doyle:**

2017-18 was a great year in regards to fundraising, given the challenges we faced.

Dunkin Donuts allotted us 1,500 Coffee Cards this year, as opposed to the 3000 mugs last year. Given that decrease, we tried to find tactics to be fair and equal to all players, and give them all ample opportunity to win prizes for sales of the cards. Cards were sold for \$30. We sold over 1,050 cards, and to date have brought in more than \$31K. While we wish we had sold all 1,500 cards, we were happy that the price of each card allowed us to make a significant amount of money for the organization. They are still being sold and inquiries continue to come in. I have already asked for next year's allotment, but we will have to apply in October like everyone else.

In September 2017, we held the Inaugural Casco Bay Hockey 5K and Block Party, which proved a huge success on so many levels. It brought in over \$10,000 to CBHA/CBA after expenses. We had great support from the community and local vendors. For next year we already have commitment from the Mariners to support us in some way. We had over 150 registrations and hope that this will only get bigger and better with each year. We offered a bake sale; raffles, score-O, speed shooting with a radar, Pavel Navrat demonstration/skills contest, and much more. It was a fun event for all involved and we are looking forward to the Second annual 5K and Block Party to be held in September 2019.

We continue to post highlights on Facebook. I think it really has reflected our player's huge achievements and kept our followers in the loop.



### **Tournament Director – Caitlin Jordan:**

Tournaments went well; in addition to the Girls Icicle, we also hosted two MEAHA State Tournaments (Bantam T3 March 2-4 and PW T4 March 9-11). We will begin planning sooner to get the Casco Bay Coastal Chill Tournament up and running and it will become a big fund raiser for the program!

### **TA Director – Meg Swift:**

The TA role was slightly simpler this year without the need to collect paper copies of The Consent to Treat and the Code of Conduct for parents and players. The three Midget Travel teams began in late August with a few new TAs and a returning TA who ended up helping out with multiple teams despite her son going to boarding school last minute and not even playing with CBHA. The six Travel Co-Ed teams got going in late October with 2 new TAs and 3 veteran TAs (one serving as TA for two different teams). New TAs were trained individually and the veteran TAs received any updated information via email. Girls TAs were brought in a bit later but ultimately we had one to two TAs serving for each of the six teams.

We had 21 House TAs with a training that happened in mid-November to prep them for the season. The role of TA was described: serving as a communicator for the team, ensuring that games are scored, clocks are run and scores are reported. Binders distributed to every TA along with score sheets and label sheets. In the future, we will not include the Mites TAs in this meeting as their role is so much simpler since games don't happen regularly throughout the season; they can simply be told about the role of communication with team parents.

Pictures were coordinated with Roy Crowley. The first weekend included two days at FIC for the Break the Ice and Learn to Play programs October 28-29, 2017. All travel and house teams had pictures done at Rowe School in Yarmouth the weekend of November 4-4, 2017. There was one additional photo session added for Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> due to schedule conflicts with some of the girls teams on the Nov 4<sup>th</sup> weekend. Pictures were dispersed to families in mid-December in conjunction with the selling of the Dunkin Donut cards. We continue to discuss the best timing, location and vendor for the pictures for CBHA.

### **Casco Bay Arena – John Veilleux:**

After a mother nature- related false start in early November with temps in the 70s when we were trying to put ice in, our 3<sup>rd</sup> season at CBA was a great success. Nearly every hour of available ice was sold and used by our anchor tenants, including Casco Bay Hockey, Yarmouth, Greely, Cape, Falmouth HS and MS programs, Mid Coast, and the SMMSHL. Our JV league grew to 12 teams with a waiting list, and continues to be a very popular league with players and ADs. Thanks to all of our anchor tenants and supporters of Casco Bay Arena.

We have some exciting off season plans for CBA, most importantly the purchase of a sports floor to be delivered and installed in early April. It will be lined for lacrosse, Futsal (soccer), and hockey, and will be a vast improvement in comfort and grip from our concrete slab. We are setting up partnerships with local lacrosse and soccer programs to use CBA for clinics, practices, games and tournaments. Stay tuned for upcoming program announcements. We hope and need our CBHA members to support our off-season programming.

Thanks also to the CBHA board, particularly Sarah Kramlich, Eric Turgeon, Rachel Pargeter, and Scott Matusovich for continued support. Running an arena is not easy, but CBA has greatly enhanced ice times and programming for CBHA and many other youth and school-based hockey programming. Thanks to FIC and its great staff for taking good care of CBA during the season. Thanks to our small but dedicated CBA board, including Kevin Kaserman for maintenance consulting and Dayton Benway for his work trying to keep our bills paid and our books in order. Finally, thanks to our CBHA players and families for supporting our arena.

Following the update on each area, the Slate of Board members was voted upon. At the May meeting the specific roles of the Slate will be confirmed. Every member voted for as many players as he/she has in the organization.

Meeting adjourned at 8:27 pm.