



**FIELD HOCKEY NOVA SCOTIA
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 26, 2015
6:30- 8:30 PM
SMU ATHLETIC CTR**



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The Annual General Meeting for Field Hockey Nova Scotia is being held on Tuesday May 26th, 2015 at 6:30pm-8:30pm at the SMU Athletic Ctr, in the classroom (room 213), 920 Tower Road, Halifax, NS.

Agenda

1. Call to Order 6:30pm
2. Determination of voting rights
3. Approval of the 2014 AGM Minutes
4. Report by Directors
5. Election of Directors for 2015-2016
 - President
 - Umpiring
 - Marketing/Communications
6. Other Business
 - Insurance

2014 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
FIELD HOCKEY NOVA SCOTIA
WEDNESDAY, MAY 28, 2014
6:30- 8:30 PM
SMU ATHLETIC CTR

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:41pm by Sharon Rajaraman. The minutes were taken by Brianna Holmes.

2. DETERMINATION OF VOTING RIGHTS

The following members and proxies were present at the start of the meeting:

Present (14) : Sharon Rajaraman, Brianna Holmes, Shaun Bigg, Linda Bonin, Mario Demello, Kerry Costello, Stephanie Turner-Chiasson, Shane Rajaraman, Candice Petten, Janet Heppel, Dennis Garrison, Terry O'Driscoll, Stephen Goosen, and Peter Andrews

Proxies (20): Sharon Rajaraman – 6; Peter Andrews – 6; Shane Rajaraman – 6; Stephen Goosen - 2

With current membership at 137, 14 votes are required for quorum. With 34 votes, quorum was deemed present. Present 14, Proxies 20

3. APPROVAL OF THE 2013 AGM MINUTES

The minutes were read by Sharon Rajaraman and approved. Shaun Bigg was the first to approve and was seconded by Stephanie Turner-Chaiisson. There was no discussion and the motion was passed unanimously.

4. REPORT BY DIRECTORS

Note that, as all reports were submitted either electronically or in printed form as attached, only specific highlights and/or corrections noted in these minutes.

President's Report [submitted and read by Sharon Rajaraman]

The president's report highlighted achievements throughout the year of our local athletes and new programs. The financial struggles that started in 2013 also continued into this year and caused a lot of programs to have to make changes and cut backs to their budgets. Despite the financial situation, Field Hockey Nova Scotia is still looking to grow and expand when opportunities are present.

Board of Directors member Leigh Giffin, who filled the role of Marketing and Communications, was unable to fill the position during the year. This resulted in many communication issues between the board and its members for events and news updates. In the new calendar year, the board will start to look for someone to fill this role so that these issues can be addressed. Phil Wilkinson, who filled the role of Men's Programs, left the board during the year and JP Brien filled in when he left and will continue to remain on the board in the New Year.

Another challenge this year was finding facilities for both the indoor and outdoor programs. Bloomfield Recreational Facilities, for indoor, and the Saint Mary's Turf, for outdoor, were

closing or under renovations which left programs having to find alternative facilities. The programs were successful at finding facilities.

Sport Nova Scotia / PSO Administrative Coordinator [submitted and read by Candice Petten]

Candice Petten took over the role of PSO Administrative Coordinator six months ago when Janessa Green stepped down and will continue with her role on the board into 2014. Her report highlighted the website updates, help filling out application funding, and payment of the joint stocks when it is due along with updating Board members' information.

The report stresses that Field Hockey Nova Scotia:

1. Fill all the vacant roles on the board of directors
2. Move to the September – August membership year to match Field Hockey Canada
3. Have more long term planning to avoid over lapping events
4. Continue to prepare financial statements and budgets

4.1 Director of Finances [submitted and read by Dennis Garrison]

The assets for Field Hockey Nova Scotia are higher this year than last year. Although the statements are not audited, an independent review is completed by Terry O'Driscoll.

During the finance report it was stressed that budgets are very important and will force the directors to make decisions based on the money available each year. Through these budgets the Board can achieve better short term and long term planning.

Discussions that arose about the financial statements were as follows:

Mario asked about the \$2000.00 debit and \$8000.00 credit towards the junior high program. Dennis informed him that some of the funds may not have been allocated properly. Discussion followed about why Block Funding and the U18 program were also allocated in the junior high finances. It was remarked by Sharon that the Block Funding should be separated and Stephen said that since the U18 program shared a lot of the junior high turf time that they were allocated to the same area.

Mario also raised the question about how there were no indoor revenues or expenses shown. Sharon stated that there were no revenues since it was run in partnership with Saint Mary's. Kerry asked if some of the money went to Dalhousie. Sharon said that the revenues go towards covering the cost of insurance for the players. Brianna asked what the actual bottom line for the program was and Sharon said it was close to \$550.00

4.2 Director of Coaching [submitted and read by Sharon Rajaraman]

There were coaching sessions from throughout the year that members were able to attend. In the upcoming year, Field Hockey Nova Scotia is looking to run the level 1 and 2 courses. In order to make these available all that is needed is the field hockey portion of the courses from Field Hockey Canada.

Mario raised the question of how many certified coaches are there in Nova Scotia. It was answered by saying that there is a list of active people. Stephen remarked that coaches have to register and then Field Hockey Nova Scotia can certify them. A database would help the organization significantly with tracking active coaches in the province. Furthermore, all of the coaches in our organization should have the community coaching course.

4.3 Director of Umpiring []

Vacant

4.4 Director of Tournaments [submitted by JP Brien]

[Printed out]

4.5 Direct of Development [submitted and read by Stephen Goosen]

High School Boys Indoor - It was unsuccessful at launching this year. Development is no longer continuing to pursue the program. The Wednesday evenings run at Dartmouth High School by JP were a great success and still gives the option for the High school boys to come out and try the sport. There was a discussion on how the program was not well advertised in the schools so some boys may not have heard of it. The discussion continued show that the program started out as a high performance clinic and then moved to development, that was why it was not as publicized. Issues on program communication breakdowns between players and the Board stemmed from this conversation.

Fun Stix - Even if the schools that wanted us to go out, we do not have the equipment to get them interested. It would be difficult to get money out of schools for a deposit if the gear were to be lent to them.

The Milk Fairs - The board would be better off if it limited its focus to specific fairs in areas that are strong and have existing coaches.

Outdoor development – The numbers are down this year about 25 girls, and 15 u18 totalling 40. It is very difficult getting more numbers. Sixteen girls came out and 15 have paid leaving a deficit of \$200 and if we get two more to join then we will be in the positive.

It is very difficult to move forward without a plan for FH long term development. Stephen Goosen stated that he will resign on the first of August if the other members are not on the board to help create the support system for the board. The board cannot focus on actual jobs because it's trying to fill the gaps. It's unfair on Sharon to fill both coaching and president because president is more than enough for one person.

4.5.1 Junior High School Program [submitted and read by Brianna Holmes]

The program ran well overall with a smaller deficit than the previous year. The major point raised revolved around coaches. It was difficult to find coaches for the program this year and the cost of paying coaches continues to hurt the program financially. It was noted by Sharon that it is not a standard policy to pay coaches in the school system. The other side of the issue, raised by Stephen, is that some coaches have to travel in order to reach the schools and may not go there anymore if they are not paid because it is not worth their time. Furthermore, the program should not be trying to make money.

Other discussion around coaches involved having the coaches come in for a year to train the teachers so that they can run the program or giving the schools the gear to run the program and not involve external Field Hockey Nova Scotia coaches.

4.6 Director of Leagues [submitted and read by Shaun Biggs]

The outdoor league in 2013 held games on Sunday evenings and ran with a surplus of \$800.00 and donated \$500.00 of its revenue to the U18 team for its trip to British Columbia.

For the 2014 outdoor league a huge issue was finding turf time since the Saint Mary's Turf was undergoing renovations. The games will continue to be on Sundays, but are later in the evening. Pick up times are to be announced when turf time can be found. Financially, Dalhousie's Turf is more expensive than Saint Mary's Turf, thus the league will only break even this year.

The league rules have been updated.

A discussion arose from the league's donation to the U18 provincial team. Linda asked if the league was aware of this donation. Shaun said that it was voted on by the board of directors. Linda raised the point that it is important for members to be aware of these decisions.

4.7 Director of Marketing & Communications []

Vacant

4.8 Director of Men's Programs []

Vacant

4.9 Women's Programs []

Vacant

4.9.1 U18 Provincial Girls [Report Submitted by Janet Heppel]

Unlike in 2012, the 2013 U18 team was not as successful. It was difficult to get time commitment from players and money was an issue. The athletes we get cannot compete out in BC at their level because they have not had the experience to play at their level.

For 2014, the program changed its focus to the United States where there are tournaments with 7 a side and players at their levels. It is also cheaper to go to the United States and the athletes can get more games. Kerry Costello is the assistant coach this summer for the U18 team. With more games and opportunities, the program will go much better this year than last year.

The biggest issue for the program is that it does not get the numbers out required for the program. Many of the kids play multiple sports and are not necessarily able to afford playing. Furthermore, many junior high players do not filter into the provincial program. Many coaches and players from the high school league indicated lots of interest, but of 20, only 10 will pay and stick around.

5. ELECTION OF DIRECTORS FOR 2012-2013

Current vacant positions are:

5.1 Men's program – JP (filled)

First Brianna, Seconded Kerry

5.2 President – Vacant; no volunteers or nominees.

Mario suggested JP but Sharon remarked that he was out of town for work a lot which would make it difficult for him to fill the position. The open position will be further discussed at the next executive meeting.

5.3 Woman's Programs – Janet (filled)

First- Janet, Seconded- Mario

5.4 Marketing – Vacant; no volunteers or nominees.

Discussion involved reaching out to members to see who was interested as well as outside of the sport (such as an external volunteer.)

5.5 Umpiring – Vacant; no volunteers or nominees.

Mario has helped to organize clinics

5.6 Finance – Stephanie (CA) (filled)

First- Dennis, Second-Mario

6. OTHER BUSINESS

The independent review will be done by Terry O'Driscoll.

It was proposed that the membership year should be redefined to match Field Hockey Canada which holds theirs from September until August. The FHC membership data base which has been worked on for three years and is now entering the pilot and none of the provinces are pleased with it. Membership would have to change to September – August. The insurance policy (80% is collected in May for FHNS) would have zero FHC members until August when the paper comes in. If it goes in trust then FHC would have the liability for insurance because they would not be covered. The major concern is to have the members covered for the summer.

Discussion over how the outdoor league profits were to be used was raised. It was suggested that the captains of the teams in the league have a say with how the profits are allocated.

An updated email list was suggested to be made which could be used to inform members of upcoming events.

Mario suggested that the board consult with Blaise Landry (Department of Health and Wellness) to create a planning session.

Adjourned at: 9:10pm

Field Hockey Nova Scotia
Year in Review 2014 Annual General Meeting

Activities / Achievements in 2014-15

This year FHNS is in year two of a four year cycle of funding from Sport Nova Scotia for Block Funding of \$2000 per year and The Participation Grant of \$5000 per year. These grants aid in many projects to develop the sport in Nova Scotia. The grant that has been of the most benefit has been the Provincial Sport Organization Administrative Support Program Grant. Through this FHNS has been able to have a person to manage the web site, distribute e-mails and also provide a connect with Sport Nova Scotia. The Administrative Assistant was Candice Petten until December 2014 at which time we were fortunate to get Patrick Thompson as her replacement.

Field Hockey Nova Scotia was able to attain facilities to run their leagues in 2014. The Outdoor League was played at Dalhousie and will return to Saint Mary's for the 2015 season. The Atlantic Cup Tournament was held at the Dartmouth Sports Fields and was a successful event. The Indoor League also was played in a new facility, Needham Recreation Center. The facility was extremely small but the play-offs were moved to Citadel High School and this provided a higher profile venue with the ability to have stands for spectators. There is a need to find a gym with a bigger floor surface, a difficult feat with the restrictions placed on field hockey within the HRM facilities but this issue has been brought to the attention of Sport Nova Scotia for future needs analysis planning.

The FHNS Board of Directors

- This year FHNS was able to fill most of the executive positions which was helpful in achieving goals. With the positions filled there is the ability to accomplish much more.

Our Employees

- Patrick Thompson's position with FHNS is a funded position in partnership with SNS and is extremely important in the management of the Administrative duties, web site and the partnership with Sport Nova Scotia.

Finances

- FHNS was able to continue running their programs especially with the addition funding of the Block and Participation Grants. This alleviated funding issues and allowed for additional projects and equipment funding.

Marketing & Communications

- This position was vacant this year and it is the hope to fill this position, to better communication with our members and the community. Especially with the use of Facebook!

Tournaments & Leagues

- Sharon & Stephanie ran the Atlantic Cup – 4 Teams
- Sharon Rajaraman ran the Indoor League – 7 Teams
- Shaun Bigg ran the Outdoor League – 6 Teams

Umpiring

- Mario DeMello ran the Umpiring Sessions this year.

Development

- Stephen Goosen has continued to work on the Development of Field Hockey in Nova Scotia
- Brianna Holmes organized the Indoor Junior High School Program once again and this was the 1st year it was able to be self-sustaining financially consistent with all school run programs.

Coaching

- FHNS now has trained Course Conductors in the NCCP at the Train to Train & Intro-Comp. Levels. Of issue is that FHC Courses are not NCCP sanctioned. This is an area that FHC will be placing high emphasize in the 2015 year and FHNS will be as well.

High Performance & Development Training Sessions

- Shane Rajaraman was selected to the Canadian Indoor National Training Squad. He received International Caps for Canada and participated in series against Argentina, Russia in Toronto and represented Canada at an International Tournament in Denmark during the last year. Shane will be receiving a Nova Scotia Ricoh Award in May for representing Nova Scotia at the International Level as a Nova Scotia Athlete. Shane was 1st alternate for the 2015 Canada Indoor World Cup Team.
- JP Brien and special thanks to Erin Schaus for providing Dartmouth High to allow practice times for High Performance training. A group of Nova Scotia athletes were able to train throughout the winter and attend various tournaments representing Nova Scotia in Ottawa, Houston, Philadelphia, Phoenix, Atlanta, Chicago, CIC Waterloo, and Miami.

Observations/ Plans/ Recommendations 2014-15

- Continue to promote the sport of field Hockey in Nova Scotia
- The need to have Coaching & Umpiring courses to support the growing programs
- To have detailed Program & Financial reports submitted for each Project and Program to aid with submission of the annual Block and Participation Grants.

Thank you

- It took a great amount of time and effort on behalf of all the volunteers and executive members in Field Hockey Nova Scotia this year. Thank you goes out to all involved in Field Hockey in Nova Scotia.

Respectfully,

FHNS Executive 2013-14

PSO - Administration Coordinator – Candice Petten/ Patrick Thompson
Acting President – Sharon Rajaraman
Director Administration – Brianna Holmes
Director Finance – Stephanie Turner Chiasson
Director of Leagues – Shaun Bigg
Director Development – Stephen Goosen
Director Coaching – Sharon Rajaraman

Director Men's Program's/ Tournaments – P Brien
Director Women's Program's – Janet Heppell

Submitted by: Sharon Rajaraman (Acting President)

Field Hockey Nova Scotia
Director of Finance
Report to the 2015 Annual General Meeting

I am presenting to the membership unaudited and not reviewed Field Hockey Nova Scotia (FHNS) financial statements for the March 31, 2015 year end. FHNS does not get our statements audited due to the cost. However, we do get an independent individual to review our financial statements. The opinion of the material accuracy of these statements will be posted on the FHNS website once the financials have been reviewed.

Consistent with prior years, most of our revenue is derived from FHNS memberships and Sport Nova Scotia grants. The financial position of Field Hockey Nova Scotia at year end is strong this year with net assets of \$12,394. Most of the increase since last year is due to Board members' success in applying for Provincial Sport Organization (PSO) grants for various projects, in particular:

- Umpiring clinic - \$700
- Women's indoor development sessions - \$1,000
- New indoor nets - \$1,500

In addition to these, Sharon and Steven put a significant amount of time and effort into our application for Sport Nova Scotia's Participation grant this year, which resulted in FHNS being awarded \$5,000/year for 4 years to help us increase participation in the sport, in addition to the \$2,000/year we receive in block funding annually from Sport Nova Scotia. We hope to continue this trend during fiscal 2015-2016 and we are on the right track so far, with an additional \$3,000 having been granted since the fiscal year end for projects relating to the junior high & high school leagues.

Although the increase in funding this year is great news, we will need to continue to monitor spending over the next few years to ensure we are spending the funds towards the purpose for which they were granted, and with a common goal of developing the sport in Nova Scotia.

To achieve this, we have continued to work on keeping the internal controls as tight as possible given it is a small organization. We require two people to sign all cheques, and most cheques are approved at the Board meetings before being written. In the case where a cheque is required before the next meeting, significant cheques are approved via email. Each member of the Board receives a copy of the updated Financial Journal every Board meeting. As well, I ask them to review the updated journal every month to ensure everything was posted, posted in the correct accounts and that nothing seems unusual. We have also continued to encourage everyone to make payments to FHNS via cheque or bank transfer so we don't have to handle cash, since cash is easily lost or stolen and doesn't leave a paper trail.

I would like to thank the other Board Members for all the support they have given me over the past year, particularly with my transition into this position. I am enthusiastic about the upcoming year and hope the Board will continue to be successful in obtaining funding and using it to continue to develop the sport in Nova Scotia. I welcome any questions or suggestions that members may have about the finances or financial processes of FHNS, please feel free to contact me anytime.

Respectfully submitted,

Stéphanie Turner-Chiasson, CA

Field Hockey Nova Scotia
Director of Administration
Report to the 2015 Annual General Meeting

Summary

This year the program underwent a significant change by deciding not to pay coaches anymore, instead relying solely on volunteers. Despite this change the program was able to run two successful tournaments and was able to have five Boys teams and seven Girls teams across seven schools with a new school, Sir Robert Borden Junior High, starting a girls team this year and Oxford Junior High starting a girls team as well. The program ran with a surplus close to \$500.

Finances

Not having to pay coaches relieved a big financial burden on Field Hockey Nova Scotia. Normally all of the revenues earned from the schools would be used to pay the coaches and couldn't cover tournament expenses which could run the program into a deficit of close to \$500. This year the program was more financially stable than the past two years and ran at a surplus close to \$500. Some of the block funding that was allocated to the program was used to buy a new set of sticks and balls for the program. The remaining \$500 should be used to fill out any other equipment needs to ensure the program can run smoothly next year.

Report Submitted,

Brianna Holmes

Field Hockey Nova Scotia
Director of Leagues
Report to the 2015 Annual General Meeting

OUTDOOR LEAGUE

Activities / Achievements in 2014-15

- The 2014 season consisted of 6 teams: Beavers, Cougars, Dragons, Hotcats, Panthers, & Ramblers). Games were held on the traditional Sunday evenings, but shifted to the Dalhousie turf as SMU's was under renovations for the summer. Due to the increased turf fees and lack of availability, pickup time was significantly reduced this year.
- The Panthers won both the regular season and playoff titles. Shane Rajaraman and Brittany Avery shared the top scorer honours.
- The league operated with a surplus of approximately \$600, although half of this was due to a donation of John Rickett's umpiring earnings (\$300). It was suggested this money be put towards umpiring equipment (e.g. headsets).
- The 2015 season will consist of five teams: Beavers, Dragons, Panthers, Privateers (formally Hotcats), Ramblers. It will be a double-round-robin regular season, with one team having a bye each week, and matches occurring at the SMU turf. Matches will extended to 1h 15m. Weekday evening pickup returns on Wednesday evenings.
- Team fees have increased to \$1,500 this season, and expects to operate with a \$500 profit. The league committee shall consider a donation to one of our development programs, once all expenses are finalized.
- The league rules have been updated and posted to the league website.

Respectfully Submitted,

Shaun Bigg

INDOOR LEAGUE

The Indoor League consisted of 7 teams and ran out of Needham Recreation Center in Halifax on Sundays from Dec 1st, 2014 – April 26, 2015, with play-offs being held at Citadel High School. The league was a double round robin format, followed by 2 semis and a final as well as a consolation winner for 5th place. After league play standings were as follows:

1. Jaguars
2. Sharks
3. Privateers
4. Beavers
5. Shenanigans
6. SMU
7. DAL

Play-offs:

5th Place / Consolation Winner – Shenanigans 8 vs 3 SMU

Semi Finals:

Beaver 4 vs 3 Jaguars (Semi Final)

Sharks 7 vs 3 Privateers (Semi Final)

Final:

Sharks 5 vs 3 Beavers

The Indoor League ran as planned this year. The league is run on a minimal budget and is aimed to break even, which it was able to do. The small amount of money that was left at the end was used to put on a social after the finals. As was stated earlier, the Needham Centre was slightly smaller than ideal and the league is open to moving venues for next season should a better gym open. For now Needham is tentatively booked for next season.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon Rajaraman

Field Hockey Nova Scotia
Director of Development
Report to the 2015 Annual General Meeting

JUNIOR HIGH INDOOR LEAGUE FEBRUARY – APRIL

The boys and girls tournament ran well this year, Brianna did a fabulous job coordinating the program again this year, I know there were difficulties with indoor court time but lots of new schools trying field hockey this year, and some schools entering girl's teams or boys teams for the first time.

SENIOR HIGH BOYS INDOOR FEBRUARY – APRIL

This project was only successful when we had a part time staff member to promote and coordinate the league or a tournament, resources are too stretched at this stage and until we get a full time board member for men's programs this program will not get off the ground

DEVELOPMENT SESSIONS INDOOR

Continued on Wednesday evenings, some players developing well

Attempted a few boys events in the spring with no success

The trend is not only in Canada but also in the US where the boys program has no traction despite them spending thousands to get it going

SPORT NOVA SCOTIA MILK FAIR

Attended in Bridgewater with great success this led to a series of day long coaching sessions at Bayview School in Lunenburg

DEVELOPMENT SESSIONS FRIDAYS AT DAL

Despite being moved to DAL and Friday evenings we managed to keep the development program going with 20 participants. Of the 20 participants 15 were really keen and we took a group of 13 girls to Moncton to play the Riverview team, where we lost one and drew one game. This was the first time the development squad had travelled outside of the province

REVIEW

JP O'Brien and Brianna Holmes have taken on the bulk of the development work by leading many projects and programs

Every year I have highlighted a pathway for the next year and season, however as there is no central FHNS strategy which originates from FHC not having a plan

Hopefully FHC will develop a planning framework in 2015 and we can develop our strategy based on that

Despite this I am confident 2015 / 16 will see our development program return to the numbers we have in 2014, or hopefully more

SG

Development

Field Hockey Nova Scotia
Director of Coaching
Report to the 2015 Annual General Meeting

Activities / Achievements in 2014-15

- We are fortunate to have 3 Coaches certified NCCP LF's in Nova Scotia. Sharon Rajaraman, Stephen Goosen and Janet Heppell. Both Sharon and Stephen are also certified MLF's by the National Certification Program of Canada. These certifications are for the ability to teach others to run coaching courses. Field Hockey Canada's Coaching certification Program is in the completion phase and once sanctioned by the NCCP, Nova Scotia will have the certified people to run these courses.
- Sharon Rajaraman attended International events, World Cup Holland, June 2014, Indoor Series vs Argentina and Russia in the fall, 2014. Then attended an Indoor International Tournament in Denmark in January 2015 which offered an opportunity to stay up to date with Hockey at the International Level.
- Sharon attended the Cutting Edge Atlantic Regional Coaching Seminar in April, 2015.
- Sharon was invited to at the Canadian Women's Junior Camp in Vancouver May, 2015. This gave an opportunity to meet the National Coaches and athletes and bring back to Nova Scotia the latest tactics.
- Assisted in recruiting coaches for the Schools Programs

General Observations / Recommendations

- With the growth of field hockey in Nova Scotia, there is a constant need to attain and develop new volunteer coaches.

Plans / Recommendations for 2014-15

- It has worked well to develop coaches through the schools program at the Community Coaching Level. A growing need is to encourage coaches to become and stay involved so as to maintain the School Programs and growth.
- To offer a Community Coaching Course & Higher Level Coaching Courses in Nova Scotia in the coming year.
- FHC LTHD (Long Term Hockey Development) strategic implementation plan needs to be made a part of the Field Hockey Nova Scotia plan in conjunction with Sport Nova Scotia. A project for 2015.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon Rajaraman
Director, Coaching
FHNS

Field Hockey Nova Scotia
Director of Tournaments
Report to the 2015 Annual General Meeting

1. We hosted Atlantic Cup on August 2nd and 3rd last summer. We had teams from across the maritimes and players from across the country
2. The touring team attended several tournaments and won the vast majority of their games playing among the top tier teams in central Canada.
3. We sent a full Halifax team to the following tournaments.
 - a. The Canadian Indoor Classic
 - b. The Ottawa Tigers tournament
 - c. The Huston tournament
4. Players from Halifax attended many other tournaments across North America and Shane Rajaraman played in South America as well as Europe.

Cheers,

JP

Field Hockey Nova Scotia
Director of Men's Programs
Report to the 2015 Annual General Meeting

1. The high performance indoor sessions continued to develop young men in the Halifax area
2. Shane Rajaraman toured with the national team and was able to bring his skills back to develop the local talent
3. We acquired Paul Whatling. An excellent English outdoors player who has dedicated himself to the development of the sport

Cheers,

JP

Field Hockey Nova Scotia
Director of Women's Programs
Report to the 2015 Annual General Meeting

The u18 team ran from the end of April 2014 until the first of August 2014. The squad practiced once or twice a week and travelled to the eastern US for two playing opportunities. The girls went to Lancaster, Pennsylvania to compete in the LimeLight tournament in June. At the end of July, the team competed in several exhibition games in Main and New Hampshire before competing in the 4Goals Cup in Providence, Rhode Island.

There have been 3 mini programs of skill sessions throughout the off season. A five week indoor skill season program in October 2014 for high school girls. Another 4 week indoor skill session program was run in February 2015. A 3 week outdoor skill session program was run in April 2015 for girls 8 – 18.

Submitted Respectively,

Janet Heppell

Field Hockey Nova Scotia
Umpiring Report
Report to the 2015 Annual General Meeting

Activities / Achievements in 2014-15

1. Rules clinics were held prior to the 2014 Outdoor league. The session was complemented with videos of actual match situations
2. We did not have a rules/umpiring clinic prior to the senior indoor league or the high school league.
3. I also created numerous YouTube video clips of various Indoor and Outdoor Umpiring decisions. These are viewable via links on the FHNS web site
4. FHNS supplied umpires for the following non-FHNS leagues:
 - a. Metro High School League
 - b. AUS Field Hockey

General Observations

1. There has been a general lack in consistency in how umpires interpret rules and interpretations in the outdoor and indoor leagues. This tends to lead to frustration by players who see calls being made differently by umpires in the same match! The primary reasons for this are:
 - League umpires not attending rules clinics
 - Umpires not following published guidelines and making calls based on their "Own interpretation".
2. Typically, the rules clinics are attended by current umpires and league captains. However, I suspect that the information is not being communicated by captains to their players which leads to confusion and frustration by players especially when they are penalized with calls and even cards. I remind captains that it is their responsibility to communicate / educate their players on the rules NOT the responsibility of the umpires.
3. It is difficult to find new people, men and women, who are interested in umpiring. However, this year, we had a few new umpires in the High School League.
4. There is still a need to have more youth involved in umpiring. John Rickett has a lot of difficulty finding umpires for the High School league.

Plans / Recommendations for 2015-16

1. **Find more new umpires for all leagues.** The responsibility of finding and training new umpires should not fall on the shoulders of one individual. We can find new umpires by doing the following:
 - c. *Increase the fees that umpires get paid for all leagues.* This may encourage more people, especially younger people, to umpire. Rationale:
 - High School league games are 35 minute halves (as opposed to 20 minutes by the rules), 5 minutes for half-time, and reality take about 80-90 minutes of an umpire's time not counting travel time. Travel may be as far as 20km.
 - Our fees are the lowest paid compared to other provinces. NB FHA pays over \$40/game for high school games
 - Gas costs have increased but the fees have been the same for a long time
 - With an increase in fees, students might find it as a better alternative to minimum wage
 - The fee structure could be a graduated system based on the qualifications attained by the umpires
 - d. *Ask High School coaches to identify graduating students who may be interested in umpiring.* Note that this could also apply to coaches.

- e. *Change the rules of the FHNS leagues to expect teams to supply umpires.* Following up on this is very time consuming! Team umpires will have to attend a rules clinic, write the FHC exam, and get field tested. If teams are unable to supply certified umpires then one of the two following alternatives should apply:
 - They should pay an additional fee to play in the league (amount to be determined)
 - They may need to supply umpires for their own games
2. **Develop more skills in existing umpires and umpire coaches.** Our interpretation of the rules may not be the same as the way they are applied at National and International events. Therefore, we need to:
 - a. Send one or two young umpires to a national tournament. These umpires will be expected to run a short clinic or write a detail report providing details on what they learned
 - b. Send a person to an umpiring seminar held in Canada in order to develop more skills which can be used to train umpires
 - c. Train more people to run rules clinics and assess umpires. This can be done by asking the experienced umpires to get certified as course conductors.
3. **Publish an Umpiring Guidelines Document for the FHNS Indoor and Outdoor Leagues.** The purpose of the document is to provide clarity on how the rules must be applied and to promote consistency in calls by umpires.

Respectfully submitted,

Mario DeMello

Field Hockey Nova Scotia
PSO Administrative Coordinator
Report to the 2015 Annual General Meeting

What has been accomplished this past year

- Website updates on a regular bases – trying to use the website more for FHNS stories, results and news. Created a working schedule of events for the year.
- Assisted with Support4Sport funding applications – Be aware of the deadlines, what grants are available and what grants we can apply for. I helped review applications to make sure all information is in the applications for a quicker turnaround time.
- Assisted with Block Funding and Participation and Development funding reports – Health & Wellness membership upload, Block Funding outcomes and outcomes reports. Participation and Development interview. Made sure all reports were submitted.
- Help Program Registration – some program registration gets mailed to me and I update the registration in the excel form.
- Coordinate with Treasurer on invoices, cheques and receipts
- Joint Stocks – Update Joint Stocks board of directors and make sure fee is paid
- Send out FHNS correspondence to FHNS members

General Observations / Recommendations

- Recommend FHNS to fill vacant roles on Board.
- Recommend moving towards the online database system offered through Field Hockey Canada
- Continue to develop and utilize budgets for organizations goals and programs – strategic plan.
- Continue to stabilize and generate calendar of events for season and consistent programming.

My time within the organization has been short, but in the nearly six months in my current role I see many promising aspects moving forward. One very promising aspect has been the ability of FHNS in securing grants through Support4Sport which has been very beneficial to the organization. The grants have allowed for the purchase of new equipment, running of successful programs and helped create some financial stability. We hope to secure a grant which will help us revamp our website so that it is more user friendly, better serves multiple interfaces and more up to date with the current operations of FHNS. My hope is that moving forward we continue to work on advancing the sport of field hockey in the developmental programs while maintaining the loyal group of adult outdoor and indoor adult players.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patrick Thompson