



**Russell Minor Hockey Association
AGM Meeting Minutes
May 25, 2025 - 1:00pm
Frank Kinnaird Hall**

President	Matt Dickie	Director, U7	Ryan Licari
VP, House	Jon Gillard	Dir.; Ice Scheduler	Vacant
VP, Competitive	Chris Burns	Dir.; Equipment	Jason Gillies
Past President	Joey Abrams	Dir.; Merchandise	Vacant
Treasurer	J.F. Gagne	Dir.; Webmaster	Chris Stanton
Secretary	Carrie Asselin	Dir.; Special Events	Lore Goyette
Registrar	Shaunna Lucas	Convenor; U18-U21	Adam Olive
GHA Convenor	Tricia Zakaria	Convenor; U13-U15	Amanda Nixon
Dir.; Comm. & Sponsor	Jamie Cote	Convenor; U9-U11	Jelene Silva
Dir.; Disc. Risk and Safety	Josh Nixon	Coach Mentor	Vacant

Call to Order and Attendance

Meeting start time: 1:00pm

Approval of AGM Minutes from 2024

Motion: Chris Stanton, Second: Chris Burns, Carried

President's Report - Matt Dickie

I would like to start by thanking everyone who volunteered with the RMHA this past season. The board members, coaches, trainers, team managers and all the other volunteers across the organization were invaluable in making the kids' experience as enriching as possible.

House League Teams – 15 teams
Rep B Teams – 2 Hosted in Russell (Canucks)
Total Registrants – 241

Significant efforts were made to further the development of our program, many goals were reached, and numerous positive accomplishments were seen on and off the ice. For example, multiple House League & Rep B teams reached tournament and league playoffs. Of note, U12 Canucks won the league championship. U11B, U13B and U13C each captured GHA Championship for our association (3 teams to the final and 3 gold medals with banners to be hung in the Russell Arena).

Additionally, RMHA hosted our U11 and U13's tournaments with lots of fun and great swag for the players.

As always, our team of volunteers are what makes the season and we will be looking for more to volunteer this year as we need to continue to grow our board. I really want to thank all the board members and to the members leaving again a big "THANK YOU" for everything you have done! If it weren't for the individuals who rose to the occasion, we



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wouldn't have been able to enjoy the extra things this season that make being a Warrior memorable...like team photos, tournament organizing, goalie development sessions, and supporting the teams with a player development budget. Without volunteers dedicating their personal time to organizing and managing everything mentioned above, we would have to increase registration fees or cancel special programs.

As we look forward to next year and doing this all over again, let's take a minute to recognize our amazing association, players and volunteers!

Congratulations to all on an amazing season and see you at the rink!

Awards Presentation

- a. Coach of the Year - awarded to Adam Olive
- b. Coach Phil Sportsmanship - awarded to Lily Zubyck
- c. Peter Kruys Volunteer of the Year - awarded to Chris Brown
- d. GHA Acknowledgment, Lifetime Achievement - awarded to Peter Kruys
- e. Championship Banners Awarded - U11B, U13C, and U13B

Hockey Operation Reports

VP House Report - Jon Gillard

I'd like to start by thanking our coaches and volunteers for making this season possible. The 2024/2025 season began with challenges beyond the control of the RMHA when the Russell arena could not contain the ice surface to safe skating standards. With some assistance from other associations, we were able to get ice times at various arenas around Ottawa to conduct our pre-assessment skates. Special recognition goes to the efforts of Matt Dickie, Christie Brock, Shaunna Lucas for making the calls and arranging the schedules. Coaches/Volunteers Mike Hodgins and Chris Brown really stepped up to get on the ice with the players and run the sessions.

All board members of the RMHA really stepped up during this time and worked together to make it happen.

This season we continued to work with an evaluation committee with the mission to improve our assessments to create and structure a process with the goal of achieving fair, impartial and balanced teams which will benefit the development of our players. The Evaluation Committee has already met to debrief the season and plan for the 25/26 season.

For our pre-assessment skates, we utilized an outside agency specializing in hockey development to create and run these sessions. Although this attempt was made with



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good intentions, it proved to be unsuccessful and we will continue to utilize our volunteers and coaches for this.

For assessments, we changed our assessment drills. We again faced the challenge of finding enough Assessors to properly evaluate the players. Consistency proved to be the most important, which lacked. We will continue to propose a standardized assessment process to the GHA as we found in almost every division, an imbalance of teams.

The RMHA 2024/2025 season had successful registration numbers:

U9 - 66
U11 - 53
U13 - 54
U15 - 43
U18 - 58
U21 - 18

For U9, 62 of those registered players remained in House.

U9 was comprised of 5 teams:

1 - A
3 - B
1 - C

For U11, 33 of those registered players remained in House.

U11 was composed of 2 teams, as most of our registered goalies made competitive rosters.

1 - B
1 - C

For U13, 33 of those registered players remained in House.

U13 was composed of 2 teams:

1 - B
1 - C

For U15, 30 of those players registered remained in House.

U15 was composed of 2 teams:

1 - A
1 - B

As we followed the GHA allocation chart for divisions, we made recommendations to the GHA to have our teams placed in different levels. After an exhibition game, the GHA denied our request.

For U18, 42 of those players registered remained in House.

U18 was composed of 3 teams:

1 - A
2 - B



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This season was difficult to fill the coaching positions. At all age groups, qualified parents needed to be canvassed to fill the positions. Very few people applied for the positions and the most sought after is U9A.

Our season finished strong with 3 teams winning their respective divisions:

U11B

U13B

U13C

Equipment

Prior to the season, new jerseys were purchased for U9 and U13. Also, new goalie equipment was purchased for the U9 teams and pucks for all teams.

Player Development

A player development committee was formed, headed by Christie Brock, as teams were allocated money to spend for their choosing. Teams utilized specialized coaches and companies to run ice times with their teams. This was a success for teams with positive feedback.

Special Events

RMHA House hosted 2 tournaments this season along with a photo day for all of our teams.

U13 Tournament

- 8 teams competed
- Over 3 days
- Chuck-A-Puck was played, all pucks sold (\$100 back to RMHA), winner received \$100
- Skills competition played, 10 winners were selected and given \$10 gift cards
- Ron & Natalia donated hockey bag, including a few hockey items

U11 Tournament

- 10 teams competed
- Over 3 days
- Chuck-A-Puck was played, all pucks sold (\$100 back to RMHA), winner received \$100
- Skills competition played, 10 winners were selected and given \$10 gift cards



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- Also had 2 vendors selling products in lobby - one expressed they did very well
- Ron & Natalia donated hockey bag, including a few hockey items

Photo Day

- Photo day held in arena hall
- Teams from U7 to U21, including Canucks, participated

Coaches Tournament

During the Christmas Break, following the U7 Fun Day, RHMA hosted it's annual coaches tournament. This year, there were over 55 participants with 5 teams. It's tradition brought the RHMA community together.

Communications

Our communications has really improved this past season with more consistent engagement through social media.

Recap

It was a busy season for the RMHA. Our Board of Directors really came together and stepped up in times where volunteers lacked and when needed the most. RMHA numbers continue to grow and we anticipate more players for next season. Ice time continues to be our biggest challenge. The hope is that this is alleviated once the new complex is built.

In closing the RMHA continues to evolve to be a transparent, passionate, accountable and progressive association dedicated to members.

Through our work with our players and members at the forefront, we continue to meet challenges from stakeholders beyond our control. Through our progressive actions, we will continue to establish relationships to break through these barriers, grow and attempt to coordinate with other associations as we thrive to set the standard for minor hockey.



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VP Competitive Report - Chris Burns

Head coaches for Canucks teams were interviewed and selected in the Spring of 2024 with the exception of U18 which was selected in September. The interview panel was put together by the VP of Competitive from RMHA and MDHA and consisted of a number of different people with hockey backgrounds. Hosting of each team remained the same as the previous year with the exception of U16 (2009 birth year) which continued to be merged with and hosted out of Leitrim. LMHA was part of the Rep B agreement for the U16 age group only.

Canucks tryouts started on Sunday September 1st, 2024 with goalies from U12-U15. Goalie evaluations were combined with Blues and Leitrim for cost and time savings. The combined evaluation was run by Capital Goalie School Inc.

Player rust offs started the following day. All players from U12-U15 were given at least one hour of "rust off" ice before evaluations began. All players were evaluated by the selected Head coach for that age group, their chosen evaluators and 2-3 independent evaluators chosen by the VPs of Competitive from MDHA and RMHA. Every player was given at least two ice times for evaluations before any releases were made. Continuations for tryouts were posted on the MDHA website although communications via email were also done throughout the process. The final rosters were posted on the MDHA and RMHA websites and emails were sent to the players and goalies selected for each team.

U10 and U11 age groups started with four "rust-off" sessions each one hour long which began on September 10th. Tryouts for these age groups followed the rust off sessions on September 17th. The tryout process was the same as it was for the U12-U16 age groups.

The U18 age group started their tryouts with exhibition games on September 28th and rosters were finalized by early October. Separate goalie evaluations were done for U18 with the same goalie evaluation company (Capital goalie School)

There were 5 Canucks teams hosted by MDHA and 2 teams hosted by RMHA. The merged U16 team was hosted by LMHA and were branded as Leitrim Hawks.

The regular season found our teams in the following positions before playoffs:

U10 – 12 of 14

U11 – 6 of 14

U12 – 3 of 15 (**League Champions!**)

U13 – 3 of 15

U14 – 8 of 18

U15 – 11 of 15

U18 – 8 of 15

Thank you to all of the amazing volunteers, without your tireless work the Canucks would not be a success. I look forward to see you all at the rinks next season.



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Director U7 Report - Ryan Licari

This past March, we wrapped up another successful U7 hockey season.

From when we first took the ice in mid-September till the end of March, the progress each of these players have made has been truly amazing. For some kids it was stepping on the ice for the very first time at our first practice to being able to play in a scrimmage in our final ice time. For other kids, it was returning for a final U7 season to continue to develop fundamental hockey skills so they could progress to the more competitive U9 program next season.

None of this would have been possible without a great group of local volunteers. A special thanks to the 4 head coaches (B- level; Sean & Jeff, A- level; Scott & Bruce) plus the numerous assistant coaches, trainers and managers (Kaitlind, Jill & Jocelyn). There are many hours that go into planning these practices, setting up scrimmages and fun days, in addition to the actual on ice time with the kids.

We once again hosted our Russell U7 funday this past December. It was a great success again. A big thank you to all the U7 families for stepping up with donations and volunteer hours. There was a lot of positive feedback from the visiting teams. We were able to raise some money for the RMHA as well as the four U7 teams.

One of the main objectives of the U7 program is to keep the kids engaged and having fun so they want to continue to play hockey moving forward. We once again this year were able to find a few off ice activities throughout the year to add to the fun. The U7 program once again this year entered a float into the Russell Santa Clause parade. Kids were invited to help decorate then ride in the float during the parade. A special thanks to Chris Gorman for providing the truck and Chris Burns for providing the float for us this year. We were able to participate in some Fundays outside of our Russell one. The teams attended a 67's game where they were also invited to play a mini game on the ice before the game and during the first intermission. All four teams also ended the season at the Timbits Jamboree where they got to play on the ice at the Canadian Tire Centre. A special thanks to Kaitlind for organizing these events for our U7 program.

Moving forward in the years to come, we want to continue to emphasize teaching the beginner fundamentals for hockey players while finding fun ways to do so. By doing this, it keeps kids coming back, attracts new players to the program and develops good hockey players when they move on to the next levels of their hockey journeys. Thank you



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Financial Report - JF Gagne (to be posted separately)

Election of New RMHA Board of Directors

VP Competitive - Chris Burns (acclaimed)

Treasurer - JF Gagne (acclaimed)

Secretary - Carrie Asselin (acclaimed)

Director Ice Schedule - Vacant

Director of Merchandise - Vacant

Director of Sponsorship & Communications - Jamie Coté (acclaimed)

Director of U7 - Ryan Licari (acclaimed)

Director of Discipline Risk & Safety - Vacant

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 1:33pm, Jamie Coté - Second Lore Goyette, Carried