

**Executive Director's Report
Manitoba Badminton Association (MBA)
Annual General Meeting
Saturday September 12, 2015**

Name: Ryan Giesbrecht
Position: Executive Director

At last year's AGM I said we were focusing on building rapport with the badminton community, developing our NCCP Coach system, recruiting more coaches and volunteers, developing our officials training program, bidding for 2017 Masters and integrating para-badminton into our current sport system. While not all of these goals have seen full 100% success, we have seen progress in many areas and we continue to work toward these goals as well as many others each year.

To highlight some of our successes in the past year, we have seen growth in our Access Program participation, # of coaches in DWP and IPP, # of athletes in IPP and HP, # of grants received for summer students, # of certified and trained officials, and # of overall MBA members. Our gross annual budget has slowly increased by approximately 33-50% over the last 5 years and that is due to a holistic approach that has focused on 3 main pillars including A) deepening our roots in the communities through grassroots initiatives, and B) raising our standards for coaching and officials development, and C) providing opportunities and encouraging pursuit of excellence through hosting national and international events. Let's talk about those 3 pillars:

A. Deepening our Roots

- a. A high performance system and healthy organization is only as strong as the structures that support it, and for the last 5 years we've been working hard to promote and support badminton among crowds that are typically forgotten, like Rural Manitoba, School Badminton and Recreational Badminton. These areas are the BULK of our association, and require more attention than they have been given in the past.
- b. Starting from scratch we have raised up the Rural Super Series to be what will soon be considered the largest tournament series for participation in Manitoba. With a total of 279 registrations in 3 tournaments, and the addition of Westman Open this year, it will very likely surpass our Premier Series in participation numbers.
- c. The Maples Chiropractic Grade 7/8 School Team Championships has grown from 6 teams in it's first year to 14 teams in it's third year, and is now held in a 10 court facility in order to run the tournament in 2 days. 115 novice school athletes were exposed to Team Badminton with Referees and Umpires due to this tournament last year, and we're expecting even more next year.
- d. We have begun collaborating with Sport Manitoba through a program called Bilateral which allows us through additional funding to provide athlete and coaching clinics on reserves, in areas with high aboriginal populations, as well as areas where there are little opportunities to gain experiences playing formalized sports.

B. Coaches & Officials

- a. Athletes need knowledgeable and experienced coaches in order to success in sport and in life, and events need knowledgeable and experienced officials in order provide a high quality experience for it's members. We have been working hard to provide both coaching and officials development opportunities in the last 5 years.
- b. Looking at our coaching framework, we are attempting to provide more opportunities for coaching at the Train to Train level, namely IPP and developing coaches within our club system. We have many beginner coaches and club operators who are hesitant to take the

next step in developed coach, and we passed a policy that allows us to fund 50% of NCCP costs for coaches of MBA programs and coaches of new or developing clubs.

- c. From scratch, we have created a new official's development pathway, complete with new evaluation tools and expectations. We are in the process of creating new development and training opportunities for these officials.
- C. Hosting National/International Events
- a. By hosting large scale events, we are able to encourage more athletes to participate in the next level of competition by making it more financially feasible. In addition, we are given home court advantage when we host events, typically raising the bar for results.
 - b. We are able to excite and motivate the local badminton community by hosting large scale events, something that helps keep coaches, volunteers, athletes and administrators motivated throughout the year. It gives us an opportunity to showcase our exciting province!
 - c. We have held the 2015 Junior National Championships, the 2016 National Championships and we will be hosting the 2017 Canadian Masters Championships. We are currently looking into also hosting a BWF International Series event in late 2017, which would be an exciting new event for Manitoba and CANADA.

Other Areas

Of course this is not everything that we've been doing, but it's tough to name everything. We have started and built up the Friends of Badminton Manitoba Foundation up to \$35,000.00, and will begin granting money back to the community starting in 2017. We have initiated the new Manitoba Adult Badminton League which gets under way in just a few weeks and hopefully that will be a new frontier of badminton in Manitoba.

Looking Ahead

We can see a rise in badminton participation in our province and we want to continue this trend through building on our current platform. We want to see more coaches and officials getting involved and seeking more education and resources to make themselves better and we want to offer good compensation for their skills and time. We would like to see Manitoba become the premier province of badminton, whereby other provinces look to see cohesiveness, progression and integrity. For this we look to the community for your continual support and care.

Special Thanks & Recognition

- Sylvio Tessier & David Harrison for their work as President & Vice-President respectively. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with them due to their passion for the sport. Thank you Sylvio for your 5 years of dedicated service on the board of directors!
- Kody Taylor for her 4 years of dedicated service to Badminton Manitoba. We wish her best of luck in Edmonton!
- Khanh Mai, Mike Dubois, Jack De Koning and Kem Wong for running the Access Program (Wheelies)
- 2016 Nationals Committee: Lindsay Laidlaw, Archie Chawla, Pal Chawla, Ted Lightly and Bruce MacDonald.
- Jr Committee: Allen Tantakoun, Ying Chen, Betty Ng, Deanne Miller and Barrington Nichols
- Justin Friesen for his leadership and encouragement as Provincial Coach and for doing more than his job description requires.

I would also like to say welcome to our new Administrative Assistant Gina McKees, as well as the incoming board members!

Ryan Giesbrecht
Executive Director