

**Executive Director's Report
Manitoba Badminton Association (MBA)
Annual General Meeting
Saturday September 23, 2017**

Name: Ryan Giesbrecht
Position: Executive Director

Another year is over and another year has begun; and with that comes new challenges and new opportunities for growth and success. What I can say with certainty is that with every year that passes by, I am increasingly appreciative of the volunteers, coaches, officials, tournament and club organizers, and others who contribute their own time to help make the badminton community a great place to be. In addition, these are the people that drive the machine called badminton, and without their involvement in the future, the sport will not be able to grow, and therefore I will be focusing on that for this year's Executive Director's Report.

Recognition and Special Thanks

Access Program started humbly with 4 main volunteers who just wanted to give some weekly access to badminton for people who don't have a place to play, or want additional play. This program has since grown into a \$35,000.00/year drop-in centre that takes in approximately 150-200 participants per week, and its still completely volunteer driven through the efforts of Khanh Mai, Mike Dubois, Jack DeKoning, Dan Savard, Kem Wong, and others who step in occasionally. In the 4 years that this program has now been running, they have only raised the drop-in fee from \$4/night, to \$5/night, and the raise was indicative of us having to now charge GST to all our programs, and maintain a break-even program.

Friends of Badminton Manitoba has grown from a new idea 3 years ago to \$44,000.00 in trust with Winnipeg Foundation, and 2018 will mark the first of many years to follow where we will grant at least \$1,500.00 back into the community through grants and scholarships. This investment was raised by badminton enthusiasts through donations, hosting national tournaments, running exhibitions, volunteering through work charity programs, and more; and it was all done by volunteers! Barrington Nichols, Orlando Athayde, Terry Porayko, Khanh Mai, Terry Porayko, and Jay Khanuja just to name a few.

Our goal with officiating is to increase the quality and quantity of our referees and umpires so that officials have the competence and confidence to advance to the national level and beyond, but also so that our local athletes will have the benefit of experiencing national quality events at home so they can be better prepared for national and international competition down the road. Our officials have been diligent and patient with the new structures and developments around officiating in the province. We set the goal of creating educational courses, firm testing standards, and a more professional atmosphere at our events, and our officials have been more than cooperative during this transition time. Thank you to our certified officials: Justin Friesen, Marj Niemi, Simon Liew, Gregory Chan, Janet Harrison, Manami Alexander, Jason Athayde, James Lim, Scott Schalla, Paulo Ramos, Rylan Ramnarace, and Andy Dmitruk for advancing the sport.

The overall base of players, coaches, officials, volunteers, and spectators must come from a club somewhere, and somebody is running those clubs. I am on the phones and sending emails frequently with clubs that are facing all sorts of unique challenges of their own, but are subsequently working to make their club better, offer more services, or run more and/or better tournaments for the membership base to enjoy.

Last year we ran a very successful Canadian Masters Championships with the help of a great and resilient committee by the names of Orlando Athayde (Co-Chair), Terry Porayko (Co-Chair), Ian Clara, Lisa Warkentine,

Marj Niemi, myself, and Thecla Athayde. This committee had it's share of road blocks in the lead up to this event, but everybody stayed positive and because of that we were able to run an event that is memorable for many Manitobans who had never been to this event before.

In addition to these initiatives we have several committees with new members each year including Junior Committee, High Performance Committee, Canada Winter Games Committee; all working to ensure that players are given fair and equal opportunity to succeed and enjoy the great game of badminton.

I would like to thank Jason Athayde for stepping on board on short notice last year as our Grassroots Developer & Events Coordinator. He did an amazing job handling such large responsibilities and he travelled many hours on the road to different tournaments including Norman Open, Eastman Open, Interlake Open, and more.

Looking Ahead

We have hosted a major national championship each of the last three years, so we are taking a break to look at the potential of hosting something a little bit grander in the range of 2019-2021. This may include a BWF International Series tournament, or perhaps a Junior Pan Am Championships, but we haven't made a decision and are exploring the opportunities with Badminton Canada.

We will continue to offer NCCP subsidy for coaches of our programs and of emerging clubs at a rate of 50%, but in addition there will be three grants of \$500 in the upcoming year through FOBM which include:

- Coaching Development Grant
- Student/Athlete Scholarship
- Club Initiative Grant

We will continue to develop our officials and create a greater number of referees with our newly developed courses. Officials are now in the MHSAA Provincials which is a big step in the right direction, and we will continue to push to advance school badminton.

We will be trying to push Shuttle Time into the schools more with each year to increase the development of badminton to a greater mass.

We will be working with Badminton Canada, Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada, Sport Manitoba, MB First Nations Education Resource Centre, and Manitoba Aboriginal Sport & Rec Council to increase the services we offer to aboriginals on and off reserve, and hopefully make lasting impacts in their communities.

We will be striving to get to know each club individually to see what we can do to service their club and encourage and educate them to advance their services to their members.

Finally, a big welcome to Marj Niemi who we just hired as our Members Services / Communications Coordinator at Badminton Manitoba. We're very excited to have her a part of our team!

In closing, I would like to thank all of you who help on a daily, weekly, monthly basis for your work, and I look forward to working with you in the future!



Ryan Giesbrecht
Executive Director