

Manitoba Badminton Association

President's Report

September 2013

As I reflect back to when I began playing in the early 1970's it is remarkable to see the transformation of the sport and the role that the MBA is playing today. In recent years a number of long time badminton facilities have ceased operation. In response the MBA have had to really look "outside the box" for solutions to maintain participation levels in this wonderful sport.

These challenges, along with staff changes has kept the Board busy. I want to thank all the Board Members for their dedication and although there were different outlooks, everyone was open-minded and always kept the best interest of the sport at heart. I want to especially thank the members leaving the Board this year. Chris Forsythe has played an important role expanding the number of Officials in the province and was heavily involved in the Selection Committee's for our Executive Director and Provincial Coach. Todd Harwood has expanded a strong rural presence in the province and Nick Rush brought valuable insight and experience to the Board.

Ryan Giesbrecht, has now been in the position as Executive Director for two years and has been instrumental in stabilizing the Association and moving forward with numerous initiatives. They included revamping many of our long standing programs and expanding our outreach programs and developing a good working relationship with Sports Manitoba and Badminton Canada. Their will be challenges in the upcoming year as Prit Pachu has submitted his resignation and is moving to England. His efforts have been appreciated and he has graciously offered his assistance during this transition period. Good luck across the pond, we'll miss you.

Manitoba was selected as the host for the 2015 Junior Nationals. It is a big undertaking as there will be four age categories and therefore will be held at the University of Winnipeg. The MBA is committed to promoting Junior participation in the sport and this along with establishing an active Junior Committee shows this dedication. The Juniors Committee along with our new High Performance Committee worked together to develop changes to both our High Performance and IPP programs to promote younger players.

Although the Association showed a small loss, the financial outlook moving forward is positive and I want to thank Linda Ferguson, our book-keeper for her work putting things in much better order. Thanks also to Kody Taylor who has been a big support to Ryan in the office and keeping the membership always up to date with developments.

I'm excited to be involved with the sport as it is evolving and look forward to another successful season.

Regards,
Don Snider
President, Manitoba Badminton Association