***Point Edward Minor Athletic Association Winter Newsletter – January 2016***

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Dear Blackhawk Families and Friends,

With our regular season winding down and play-off action ramping up, we wanted to take a moment and celebrate some of the exciting things our organization has already accomplished this hockey season and let you know about a few events still to come.

**Progress…**

We are very proud of our growth and progress during 2015-2016 year. Our Coaches, bench staff, parent volunteers, student volunteers and Board Members have worked tirelessly to deliver a quality hockey program aimed at skill development, building positive relationships while promoting health and wellness.

This season saw us adopt a more proactive approach to education and prevention of concussions. Our Trainers completed online education while our participants completed baseline testing which will enable our Trainers/Coaches to make more informed and responsible decisions while involving parents and consulting Physicians. Thank you to Rob Shortreed and everyone who worked hard to ensure this initiative met with enthusiasm which resulted in seamless implementation.

At the beginning of this hockey season, we invested in some much needed updated equipment. Attack triangles, goalie aids, clipboards/whiteboards for coaches to use on the bench, updated Trainer bags/supplies etc. It is great to see Coaches using these resources and players benefitting from this investment.

**Results of our “Shot Contest” …**

This year we introduced our first ever “shot contest”. Players Tyke-Midget were encouraged to practice their shot on a daily basis. Parents signed off on the shot count and ballots were submitted for a draw. The winners of the “Shot Contest” were: Garrett Kennedy, Owen Ikert and Carter Jackson. These players were awarded sweet prizes! Thank you to Board Member/Hockey Convenor: Scott Compagnion for developing this contest and encouraging everyone to participate!

**Jersey Replacement Project**…

It was super exciting to watch our little Tykes and Novice players hit the ice this year in their brand new jerseys! We were able to replace as a result of your fundraising efforts. We are thrilled to see divisions Tyke-Midget wearing newly replaced jerseys. Over a three-year period, we committed $15,000.00 to this initiative. This was a huge financial undertaking that has a visual impact and allows us to represent our centre with pride. Our next step will be replacing our Instructional Jerseys! We receive positive feedback on a regular basis, from other centres about how great the new jerseys look.

We are most excited to announce; practice jerseys were just ordered for each respective division to use during practice. These jerseys will stay with each division and remain in the storage lock up. Coaches will be better able to plan drills/skills using the three different colours of jerseys (Red, Black and White of course). They should arrive just in time for play-off practice planning!

Our third annual “Spirt Day” in November was a rousing success. We hosted Lambton Shores teams Tyke-Bantam while our Midgets faced Petrolia. We treated each player to pizza, drink, chips and rewarded the “most sportsmanlike player” from each team. The crowd, music, team spirit, vendors, contests and photo booth lent a festive, high energy feel to the entire day. Our goal is to make this day bigger and better in each coming year! The turnout was incredible and feedback could not be more positive. Our website was flooded with emails from Lambton Shores representatives who were very impressed with our organization and offered their thanks for being chosen to participate.

Last week, our players were once again, invited to participate in the recent community “Sting Skate” hosted by the Village. Everyone enjoyed watching the Sting practice and loved the free skate afterward. Autographs, photos and give-aways were exciting for the kids! Thank you to Paul Churchill, Arena staff, and Jacob Bourrie for collaborating to make this evening a big hit!

Prior to our season starting, we met with our Coaches and discussed tournament participation. For the first time in many years, PEMAA agreed to fund two tournament registration fees per team with the caveat being; one tournament must be the Bob Black Memorial Tournament in Oshawa. This meant all of our teams Tyke-Midget will be participate in the same tournament in Oshawa, Ontario February 12-14th. Everyone is excited and looking forward to coming together at that tournament and representing the Point! Stay tuned for results from this huge event!

**Hockey News….**

***Division Updates:***

**Instructional** – This group is Coached by Jon Macdonald, Assisted by; Paul white, Ryan hare, Colin Davidson, ken Bernard, Ben Macdonald and Shaun Kennedy and Derek Dunlop. They have progressed in leaps and bounds or shall we say strides and shots! Seeing the difference in the ability of the boys and girls’ participating each week is truly amazing. Jon has excellent “on ice” help. This group is challenging just by virtue of the numbers involved. There are 38-40 players on the ice each Saturday and Sunday morning. Recently, these little spark plugs were show cased at the Sarnia Sting game. They enjoyed being the intermission entertainment and took in the game as a team. Thank you Jon and bench staff for making this year both fun and productive!

**Tyke-** The Tyke team is Coached by Craig Capes and Lee Worsley, Assisted by Dennis Thompson, Mike Waun, Lori Guthrie and on ice helper Ryan Gavigan. This team has heart. Despite some stiff competition and some lopsided scores, they remain positive and focused on skill development and building friendships. For the first time, there are 5 girls’ playing on one team. This is encouraging as PEMAA welcomes girls’ and boys to our program! The Tykes recently enjoyed a team outing to Marcin Bowl for some 5 pin bowling and yummy pizza afterward. The Tykes recently participated in a one-day tournament in Bayfield this past weekend and secured their first victory! They will also be playing in the Bob Black Memorial Tournament in Oshawa.

**Novice** - The Novice team is lead by Mike Mara and Jay Crawford, assisted by Rob Shortreed, Darryl Terpstra, Jen Crawford and on ice volunteers Brian Duquette and Carol Lucas. This team is full of energy and motivated to do well. They are sitting in the top four in their division. This team worked hard to blend fun with hard work and spent a “team building” evening at Marcin Bowl. They recently competed in a London tournament. Coach Mike was proud of their effort and determination. They look forward to the Bob Black Tournament in the coming weeks.

**Atom** – The Atom team is Coached by Andy Hocking, Trevor Guthrie, assisted by Rob Shortreed, Derek Jackson and Lindz Boston. This team is on fire!.

They have seen many lopsided scores in their favour however, sportsmanship continues to be emphasized.  The Atoms recently won the Walter Gretzky tournament in Brantford!  This was quite an accomplishment and we are very proud of their hard work and grit! They are currently engaged in a battle for first place in their loop with Strathroy Blue who have proven to be a very tough opponent.  We are looking forward to seeing what they can do in Oshawa!

**Pee Wee**- This team is coached by Scott Compagnion and Mike Waun, assisted by Bob Acker and Chad Ikert. They are in first place in their division as well. They competed in the Mooretown tournament in November, losing in finals. They recently participated in the Pelham International Silverstick tournament, they have momentum on their side. These boys went right to the finals, losing 2-1. They came away with a very cool banner to hang at our rink and the experience of a lifetime. We could not be more proud of them. Parents from other teams approached us with positive feedback and comments about their sportsmanship and team play. They were exceptional! The weekend in Niagara Falls was amazing. From the Opening Ceremonies and pin trading to the water park and team dinner… it was a great experience for these boys! They look forward to the Oshawa tournament as well!

**Bantam**- Mike Waun and Stephanie Purdy continue to coach this group assisted by Darryl Terpstra, Jim VanHeyst and goalie helper, Pat Chute. They took top honours in an exciting overtime win at the Mooretown Tournament. Bringing home a championship banner to display in our barn. They are in first place in their respective division having lost just two games thus far. The cohesion on this team is admirable. As a result, they are exciting to watch. They are looking forward to the Bob Black tournament.

**Midget**- Our Midgets are coached by Steve Baker, Doug Marr, Brock Dease and Jake Bourrie along with game assistant Brett Hattatt and practice assistant Mark Lamore.  The team started off the year a little unsettled but as of late has found their footing and are making positive strides and are hoping to continue their winning ways into the playoffs and the Bob Black Tournament.

**Thank You to all…..**

We wish to convey our appreciation to all parent volunteers whom work the gate as well as our student time keepers. These important jobs require committed and conscientious folks. Special thanks to our high school students, Nick Gibb, Ray Hocking, Justin Waun and John Cannon they are gathering volunteer hours while assisting with younger teams. This positive role modelling is invaluable.

Kudos to everyone who sold their 10 “cash calendars”. Winners are posted daily on our website/Facebook page. Good luck to everyone who purchased a calendar! Winnings can be collected from Jane Kennedy during Pee Wee practice Tuesday evenings 8-9pm or by contacting her at [janekennedy23@hotmail.com](mailto:janekennedy23@hotmail.com) . Identification and signature required to collect your prize. Thank you for your participating and cooperation.

Players be proud of your hard work, commitment, team play and sportsmanship. Parents give yourselves a pat on the back for getting your players to practice and games, for wearing your Blackhawks gear, ringing your cowbell, cheering for your team and treating the opposing team with respect. Coordinating schedules that make air traffic controllers cringe and doing all of this with a smile and enthusiasm. Every single person contributes to the success of the Program. Please take a moment and thank those folks who work hard behind the scenes to make your player’s season fun and successful!

In closing, we want to take a moment to appreciate all of our coaches, bench staff, parents, players and volunteers that make our program so strong and unique. Each year we strive to improve our program, making changes and adjustments that translate to positive improvements. Embedded in our organization is pride and sportsmanship. Point Edward hockey is an extension of the values, culture and community spirit we cultivate in our village. The support of our Mayor, Village Council members, Arena Staff and all community members is both necessary and valued.

**Save the Date...**

Our end of year dinner/awards banquet for Tyke-Midget is fast approaching. The date is April 2, 2016. It will be held at the Point Edward Community Hall. The Instructional division will have their own celebration following their last ice time.

There will be a free dance following the banquet, on April 2, 8-1am at the Point Edward Community Hall – Everyone welcome! More details to follow from your respective team managers.

**Registration Update:**

Registration details for the 2016-2017 hockey season will soon be posted on our website and communicated through your team manager. As has been the case in past years, Point Edward residents take precedence.

Following Point Edward registration, Sarnia and surrounding area residents are welcome to register for remaining spots in each division. Years of service in our program will be the determinant with a lottery draw utilized to resolve any tie in years of service.

**For further/updated information…..**

Visit our Facebook page – “Point Edward Minor Athletic Association” and visit our website often! [www.pointminor.ca](http://www.pointminor.ca)

Details regarding our 2016-2017 Soccer program will soon be posted on our website.