



President's Report – BMHA AGM

As we reflect on the past season, I'd like to begin by acknowledging that even before the season officially started, we faced some early challenges. Lois Kemp was temporarily closed due to some issues with the ice, which caused a delay and extended disruption at the outset of the season. This made it more difficult for our convenors to get things moving, but they rose to the challenge. Through teamwork, flexibility, and determination, we were able to work through these challenges and successfully get the season underway.

As always, Blackburn experienced success throughout the season. Our U15A and U18A teams both captured tournament championships, demonstrating the strong development and competitiveness within our association.

In January, BMHA proudly hosted the U13 A, B, and C tournaments. This event was a huge success and would not have been possible without the incredible support and dedication of our board. Hosting such a large event showcased our association's strong organizational skills and volunteer commitment.

This season also marked the first year of a new partnership between BMHA and the Sensplex, supporting teams from U7 all the way through U18, with the exception of our U13 tournament. This partnership proved to be extremely positive, and we are already looking forward to continuing our collaboration with the Sensplex for the 2026–2027 season.

Another major milestone this year was the merger of EMHA (formerly Orleans Rush and Gloucester Cougars) into a single association now being called the Eastend Strom. As a result, EMHA and BMHA became the two associations jointly managing the Rep B Blues program.

The GHA Championship Weekend was, once again, a huge success. I believe we even set a record for the number of championship games that went into overtime, highlighting just how competitive every division was this season.

Although Blackburn may be one of the smaller associations, we represented ourselves extremely well. Our U11C, U15B, and U15A teams all advanced to championship games.

- Our U11C team came heartbreakingly close, narrowly missing the championship when Leitrim Hawk scoring a late go-ahead goal in the third period.



- Our U15B team battled hard against Russell but fell short in double overtime in a truly hard-fought and emotional game.
- Our U15A team also went into overtime, and this time, our Stingers came out victorious, capturing the championship.

We were also proud to see our U9A team selected to participate in the U9 Showcase. Watching these young players skate up and down the ice brought back some fond memories of my own child playing at the U9 level and reminded me why minor hockey is so special.

On a final note, none of this would be possible without the incredible work of our board members and the many volunteers who dedicate countless hours to making BMHA such a positive experience for our players and families. On behalf of the entire board, thank you. We look forward to seeing everyone back next season.

As we officially close out this season, the newly elected board will begin working immediately toward preparing for the 2026–2027 season.

Before concluding, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize and thank two board members who will be moving on: Caitlin Anstee and Ryan McKay.

Caitlin served as our Ice Scheduler for many years and was truly a mastermind with spreadsheets. A jack of all trades, Caitlin was always willing to step in and help wherever needed.

Ryan leaves us as one of our veteran convenors. He always made time to communicate with his coaches and ensured they had the information and support they needed. His commitment and leadership made a meaningful difference in our program.

On behalf of the BMHA, thank you both for the countless hours, dedication, and passion you brought to our association. Your contributions will not be forgotten.

Thank you all, and we look forward to another great season ahead.

Todd O'Brien

BMHA President