



Girls Lacrosse – Ann Maurice

Girls House League

This past season saw a rise in registration at the bantam, peewee and novice levels. We had approximately six players at peanut, tyke, and novice who played in the mixed house league program with the boys. There were also a few girls at bantam and Peewee who played in the mixed program.

PeeWee/Bantam

At the PeeWee/Bantam level we fielded three all girls house league teams with approximately thirteen or fourteen players on each team. Feedback from the parents for the most part was good. Participation was okay at the beginning, but there were some nights when we had half the girls show up for each team. This in most situations was because the girls who were on the same teams had asked to play together and besides playing hockey they were on the same soccer team or the same spring hockey team. One way of fixing this would be to not take friend requests. We did have a few issues involving girls who were really strong (girls who were part of midget competitive team), but for the most part it worked out. Lastly, finding coaches for the girls is a problem. Most of the dads have not played lacrosse and are not so keen on getting out on the floor without a lot of guidance. One way to fix this might be to have more coaching clinics and coach mentors for these coaches.

Midget/Intermediate

This year was the first year that our Intermediate girls got to participate in the GLA house league program. We combined the Intermediate and Midget girls. The process was supposed to be that we would divide the girls who showed up into two teams each night. This process involved waiting to see who showed up, dividing the girls once they did show up, assigning each girl a jersey and then trying to do a game sheet. It worked well for the first couple of weeks, but once the girls got into exams, other sports and work schedules attendance went down. One other reason for the low attendance was probably because most of the girls on both teams played both house league and competitive lacrosse and this meant that they were on the floor sometimes four times during the week. With school, work and other activities we had over half

of the girls who were not showing up for the house league program towards the beginning of June. This was especially true for the Intermediates. Not sure how we can get around this problem. I understand that we do need to get the competitive teams going, but maybe not really making it a priority until at least the beginning of June might leave us with a few more girls who would want to show up to play in the house league program.

In spite of the issues that we encountered this year the house league program at this level did benefit the girls at both the Midget and Intermediate levels. The Midgets got to play with girls who were in some cases bigger and stronger than they were. The Intermediates were able to get some game experience in and play with girls who had experience playing lacrosse. In past years the Intermediates would typically only get to play during the two scheduled girl's tournaments and a couple of fun days.

Girls Competitive Program

GLA competitive girls' teams this year included a team at Midget and a team at the Intermediate level. We did survey the girls from the PeeWee/Bantam age group, but there weren't sufficient numbers to field a team at this level. When surveyed at the end of April most of the responses were that the girls had not even played lacrosse before and parents wanted to see if their daughters would even like playing before they committed to the competitive program.

At Midget the numbers were higher than they have ever been for our competitive program. The team this year included seventeen players. There were some suggestions that there should be releases at this level, but in the end it was decided that the team would keep three extra runners. The Midgets were able to get lots of extra floor time because Kingston, Nepean and Akawasasne all fielded teams at the Midget level up until the end of June. Kingston folded at the end of June because of insufficient numbers. The Midgets won the London tournament and lost in the finals in the Whitby tournament. The run at provincials was not as successful. We did not make it out of the round robin.

Once again at the Intermediate level it took a little extra time to get the team together and find a coach. The team started out with thirteen girls registered, but by the time provincials came around they were down to eleven players. Midget players played up with them when their schedule permitted. The Intermediates played in the B pool in the London tournament and did not do well. However, in the Whitby tournament they did win some games in the C pool. They were competitive at this level in provincials. Numbers were not great throughout the season, but the girls were keen throughout. The coaching issue should not be a problem for the upcoming season because this year's coaches are committed to staying with the team next year. Foreseeable problems with this group for next year will probably be getting them registered on time, getting team fees on time and getting a full roster.

Director Competitive – Aaron McAffrey

As always, April is an exciting time around the Gloucester area. Skates are put away and out come the lacrosse sticks. This year the Griffins fielded 1 Tyke, 2 Novice, 2 Peewee, 2 Bantam and 1 Midget boys team (I'll leave it to Ann to report on the girls). While the teams didn't all bring home hardware this summer, I think both the parents and players of all the teams will agree that this year was a success. For me, I think the highlight was our Tyke team, who did not have much success in zone play, advance to the finals of provincials. These little guys worked hard all season and for a team comprised of so many kids new to comp lacrosse, it is quite an achievement to pull off silver in provincials. We did have many other teams do well this summer but I think the Tykes deserve the spotlight here.

Lacrosse is a niche sport and as such, needs more exposure. I urge everyone to go back to their hockey teams this winter and share all the good times you have had this past summer. Let them know what great cardio lacrosse is and how it improves hand eye coordination. It also teaches the kids to play with their heads up. As fans of this sport, we need to continually get the word out, especially at the younger levels. Lacrosse doesn't have the advantage of being high profile so it is up to all of you to spread the word. It would be great to see a time that we could actually field 3 teams at an age division like our rivals in Nepean.

Director House League – Angela Lamoureux

The GLA House League makes up about 75% of the GLA membership. This year there were 19 HL Teams (3 Tyke, 4 Novice, 6 Peewee, 4 Bantam and 2 Midget). The biggest change for this year was the Midget HL. Not many associations are still able or willing to have Midget HL and I can tell you that despite the occasional night where there weren't many players, I feel the program was a success. It allowed about 25, 15 and 16 year olds to keep playing or to start playing. Where the entire House League suffered was from a lack of volunteers to fill some key positions such as Division Conveners.

This coming season, the GLA has committed to going back to the old process of distributing "Keeper" jerseys for the HL and will also work to run more Coach and Goalie clinics in an effort to encourage more parent volunteers and also to grow more GLA goalies.

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