

Players, volunteers and Parents

We are fast approaching the Holidays, I hope with all my heart that we all have a wonderful and safe holiday, for those of the teams scheduled to participate in tournaments around the province and elsewhere, good luck.

We are fast closing in on the end of our Community Centre and the birth of our Leisure Centre. Since 1956 our small arena has provided a haven for hockey players, spectators and parents, if the walls could talk, I for one will miss the old arena and the memories I have of playing and coaching there. Lets do our best to encourage everyone to make the new leisure Centre a fun and safe home to Bradford Bulldogs old and new.

Yesterday I had the pleasure of watching the Atom AE team, and then the Peewee AA team play. Both competed, but unfortunately both lost. I saw some looks of frustration in parent's faces as the losses are taking a toll. I have asked myself, having a child on one of these teams what is and why it is I signed my child up for hockey? I realized some of my own frustration was I was using my child's membership on a team as my outlet for my entertainment. I enjoyed seeing him win, which parent doesn't? But I did notice something else. First, when I went to the dressing room, most nights it was very hard to tell who had won and who had lost, granted there have been frustrating days but the majority are not. For my child, and many like him it is not the win or the loss, much like when I play hockey it is about the escape, the fun the competition, hanging with your buddies, they as children accept losses much more readily than us parents.

The Atom Ae team will produce a few children capable of playing rep the following year. Some from the Peewee AA team have proven they can compete at the AA level. These children all took chances despite the odds against them to try and better themselves, for that they all need to be congratulated. As parents from all teams we need to understand that the hockey our children play is not for us but for them, their enjoyment, and hopefully for many many years to come.

Hopefully we all have success as we turn the corner and head into playoffs, I personally have seen some teams make leaps and bounds in their development, lets hope this continues. But most of all I hope friendships last and fun is had, after all that is our final goal!

Good luck and Merry Christmas.

Paul