

Lower North Information for AGM Notes:

Lower Region:

The region has been working through a few strategies to help keep players in the game as well as make it easy for new players to be involved. Our goal has been to get as many people playing as possible. To make this happen we have:

- Applied for funding that is used to pay for rink bookings for the regional tournament and not charging games fees for as many weekends as possible. This makes it cheaper for people to play.
- We have kept our regional tournament flexible by;
 - Allowing kids to play more than one grade to get more games in the season
 - Allow part teams from different clubs to join and form a viable team
- To keep people interested we've invited clubs from outside the region to play over regional weekends.

Renegades:

While 2020 was mostly horrible, with Inline Hockey suffering some serious "blows" to participation and recruitment, it gave us time to plan. In Term 4, we re-activated our fairly regular initiatives of school visits but with a difference as we started to deliberately target lower decile schools in an attempt to reach kids from under privileged environments. Our Pilot school, Maoribank in the north end of Upper Hutt was an astonishing success. We currently sponsor 8 mostly Maori children from that school i.e. they participate for free. We have continued with additional low decile schools in Term One, 2021, again with resounding success. To date, we have gained 30 new participants, running short of equipment in the process.

Starting late in 2020 and continuing into 2021, we retained the skilled services of a young film maker who works for Weta. After 5 hours of raw footage were obtained, we gradually got that down to about 8 minutes and now have a "master" USB with 3 mini video clips on it showing a bunch of happy kids "playing at" playing Inline Hockey. The videos have, so far, been shown at 2 primary schools to audiences of up to 100 kids at a time, all in the age 7 to 10 range. We are now preparing 76 USBs which, when properly packaged, will be hand delivered or sent by courier to the Principals of 76 primary schools in the Hutt Valley.

Penguins:

So from the penguins perspective, we have been focusing a lot on new skaters.

We have been supporting some social skate initiatives being held at various community halls in Wellington. These are being advertised through local school and community newsletters, and seeing huge responses. As a result a good number are also shifting through to hockey training also. To support this we are separating new development squads, with dedicated coaches, and also looking to purchase and upgrade our stocks of junior gear to help new kids coming into the sport.

We are also in talks with the Recentre where the rink is based to have the club assist in its "learn to skate" classes. While these classes are focused purely on learning to skate, the Rec in turn will allow us to highlight hockey as a way to get more enjoyment out of skating.

In terms of retention, we continue to try and maintain a focus on good healthy team environments and fun training's and getting plenty of games for the kids. This includes doing what we can to get junior teams to tournaments, (some of our 14's recently joined with 14s from the Sting Rays to allow them to form a team and attend the Hamilton QBT). Allowing our 18's to join the regional senior league to ensure they get regular competitive games. Also having an extra LNI weekend this year has also resulted in additional games. We are also looking at running some form of summer league (details still to be worked through) to provide fun and friendly games after the normal regional leagues have finished.

Levin Thunder

Over the last few years we have done the following:

- Participate in children's day (partner with Centre Skate and Roller Derby, we do an exhibition game and also have gear for children to have a go)
- Club open day (for people to come down and have a go)
- Learn a Sport promotion (advert in the local Chronicle along with other sports)
- Exhibition games at Centre Skate (half rink for an hour and also providing an opportunity for children to have a go)
- Vouchers (providing Centre Skate with free session vouchers to hand out at their sessions)
- School visits/presentations
- Advertising local games on 'Livin in Levin' facebook page
- Advertising local games on club facebook page