



**AUCKLAND ICE HOCKEY  
ASSOCIATION INC.**

**2018  
ANNUAL REPORT**

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## 2018 Board of Directors

President:	Tony Vesper
Vice President:	Paul Taillon
Secretary:	Mary Alice Simon
Director of Finance:	Karen Messenger
Director of Learn to Play:	Sheree Anderson
Director of U12 Super League:	Joao Machado
Director of Bantam League:	Jenn Jones & Janet Kidd
Director of Junior League:	Wayne Curtis
Director of Senior Non-Check Hockey:	Karl Peni
Women's Representative Hockey:	Rachel Park
Director of Ice Hockey:	Chad Croft
Director of Administration:	Michael Domigan
Director of Marketing & Communication:	Carl McIntyre

## 2018 Non-Executive Officers

Head Coach:	Csaba Kercso-Magos
Referee-in-Chief:	Paul Taillon
Equipment Manager:	Ali Arandjus
Health & Safety Officer:	Mark Bialik
NZIHf Delegates:	Tony Vesper Wayne Curtis

## President Report – Tony Vesper

It is with a great degree of pride that I present my second President's report.

The year has seen many outstanding results both on and off the rink and the strength and commitment of the Board, Coaches, Referees, Sponsors and Volunteers within our club continues to impress me. Auckland Ice Hockey has continued to move forward with the updating of the Constitution, increasing our pool of talent with referee programs, Give it a Go Girls days, with an eye to developing a solid women's league in the future,

During the year Carl, Wayne and I have attended NZIHF meetings and Auckland has been instrumental in bringing new perspectives and the opportunity to make a difference to the governance and administration nationally.

Financially speaking, I am pleased to report a very solid financial result which has allowed us a positive bank balance for the start of the 2019 season. This was a pipe dream considered impossible this time 2 years ago. Funding has gained a new dimension over the last year. We have successfully applied for and received grants totaling over \$80k, and has been a major contributor to why we are continuing to flourish financially.

Our Marketing, Facebook and Website initiatives have been another success story. This continues to grow in importance for immediate information sharing and it is now obvious that this method resonates with our players, supporters and officials.

Major growth initiatives continue to increase our membership base and I look forward to seeing the pool of players within AIHA expand as ice hockey gains greater awareness and status from the public.

I would also like to acknowledge and thank our tireless volunteers, without them a successful club cannot operate. They are the lifeblood of great clubs and the majority of the time go about their business without guidance, prompting and any thought of gratitude.

To those not seeking re election or are moving on in roles throughout the club I extend my sincerest thanks.

Finally, the future looks very bright indeed.

2018 saw AIHA win every grade throughout the country. We have successfully turned around our finances and move forward with a stable and knowledgeable executive committee, a solid coaching base and strong representation on the national governing body.

It has been an honor and a privilege to be of service as your Board president and as I step down, I wish to acknowledge the support of the Board for the work they do on behalf of the Auckland Ice Hockey community. I look forward to continue supporting a club that is evolving, growing and bringing a fresh perspective to all we do.

Tony Vesper  
AIHA President

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## Vice President Report – Paul Taillon

This was my third year on the Board and my third year in the role of Vice President.

The 2017-2018 Board was as good if not better than successful 2016-2017 board. As with the previous board, this board filled every position, both elected and ex-officio. The people in those roles approached their jobs with commitment and energy with the result that AIHA is in a financially strong position and has continued to increase the numbers of hockey players, especially at the Learn to Play and U12 level. The following officers' reports will testify to these achievements. At this point, I would like to acknowledge every member of the board for their hard work and a successful year.

As Vice-President, my duties centered on convening board meetings from June onward when President Tony Vesper found it impossible to do so due to personal circumstances. I also presided over the 2018 prize giving, which was a well-attended and successful event. Whereas in 2016-2017, I had looked after health & safety matters in 2017-2018 I did not do so as the board appointed an ex officio Health & Safety Officer, who coordinated such matters as St. Johns first-aid training for AIHA coaches, managers, and referees. I attended one of these St. Johns training days and earned a Level 1 first aid certificate.

### **Auckland representative teams**

AIHA had a very successful season in the junior national competition this year with all of its teams—U15s, U18s, and Women's—winning gold in their leagues.

I would like to thank all representative coaches and managers for their dedication and hard work this year.

### **Disciplinary**

I convened one disciplinary hearing early in the year to deal with an game-incident matter left unresolved from the 2017 SNC B season. The matter was satisfactorily resolved.

I would like to close by thanking my fellow board members for a very successful 2018 season. I look forward to building upon these achievements in 2019.

Paul Taillon  
Vice-President

## Director of Finance Report – Karen Messenger

### **Introduction:**

In the Finance area, we start off looking backwards as the financial accounts provided are for our financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> October 2017. These accounts were not available for viewing at the previous AGM due to timing. The AGM is usually held 2 weeks after our financial year ends and these accounts were prepared by our accountants, went through an audit process and were signed off in March 2018.

### **Review of 2017:**

In 2017 the focus of the AIHA Board was on improving our financial position. The first change came in February 2017 with the introduction of an admission card system for our Learn To Play trainings. We received good feedback from members as the transparency of paying as you go has benefited everyone. It eliminated some of the Clubhub confusion for our newest members and has meant there is greater controls around payment of Learn To Play fees. These improvements are reflected in the increase in Learn To Play income recorded in 2017.

The next change was our bookkeepers and reconciling bank accounts daily. We gained an understanding of how the interface between Clubhub (which is our member database and invoicing system) and Xero (our accounting system) interact.

This in turn has led to improved monitoring of debt and we became more efficient in collecting overdue fees. Team Managers and League Directors followed up outstanding fees. Out of the whole 2017 season, only one debtor proved to be uncollectable and was written off in 2018. The value of the write off was \$365.

We received Grants for Ice Time and Coaching from:

- The Trust Community Foundation     \$15,000
- Four Winds Foundation                     \$ 7,000
- Grassroots Grant (with Botany Swarm) \$20,000

We finished 2017 with a surplus of \$35,000 and had a net cash position of \$20,000 to cover November ice time for Senior Non-Check & Learn To Play, Coaching, Accounting and Audit Fees.

### **Review of 2018:**

This year we continued to work on learning more about the interface between Clubhub and Xero. Michael Domigan is a fantastic resource and there has been a huge improvement in the way Clubhub operates within AIHA.

One of the changes we made this year was invoicing the Senior Non Check League through Clubhub. Prompt payment discounts were offered, which a lot of people took advantage of. It also gave people the option of paying via Credit Card. Karl, Michael and I had numerous email conversations at times and it all worked very well.

Our Junior Leagues continued to be invoiced through Clubhub. Our League Directors and Team Managers continue to do a fantastic job following up on overdue invoices and we have approximately \$5,000 left to collect. These relate to the U12, U15 & U18 Rep Tournaments which were held at the end of September or mid-October. We anticipate all current debtors will be collected.

Learn To Play trainings remain on a pay as you go system and this continues to work well.

### **Grants:**

This year we outsourced our Grant Funding applications to Go Fund. A huge thank you to everyone involved in setting this up and to Wayne Curtis who has invested hours gathering information to support these applications. We have received funding from:

- Grassroots Trust                                     Ice Time
- The Trust Community Foundation Ice Time

- |                       |                            |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| • NZ Racing Board     | Ice Time                   |
| • North & South Trust | Ice Time                   |
| • Trillian Trust      | Playing Jerseys            |
| • Pub Charity         | Learn To Play Gear         |
| • Trillian Trust      | Training Outline Foam Pads |
| • NZ Community Trust  | Coaching                   |
| • The Lion Foundation | NZIHL Fees                 |

Some of these grants will be offset against November expenses, so will fall in the 2019 financial year.

### ***Expenses:***

The 2018 grant funding has given us the opportunity to reinvest in the club through updating Learn To Play gear, training tools, playing jerseys for all our U12, U15 and U18 Junior Leagues for Regular Season Games, Cup Games and Reps.

During our busy months we are processing 3 payment runs per month in an attempt to promptly reimburse our Officials, expense claims and suppliers.

I'd like to say a huge thank you to Karl Peni for all his work with the SNC league and scheduling of ice time and officials. Karl is a great source of information and has been a huge support to the finance area.

### ***Going Forward:***

- \* Completing 2018 financial accounts and audit
- \* Planning for 2019 season
- \* Improve Learn To Play processes to assist administration and equipment
- \* Working closer with the Botany Swarm and West Auckland Admirals

Lastly, I want to say thank you to everyone on the Board, we have a lot of dedicated people who are working together to improve the ice hockey experience for everyone. It makes a big difference and provides a good base for the 2019 season.

Karen Messenger  
Director of Finance

## Learn to Play Report – Sheree Anderson

The Learn to Play Program is more than just learning the skills of skating, passing and stick-handling, it is also about introducing first time participants to our sport in a fun and safe environment.

The LTP program is key in familiarising players and families to the AIHA system and creating our next generation of players, volunteers and board members.

2018 Successes include:

- Sunday U12 league and the subsequent attendance at the Peewee tournament in Christchurch attended by 28 players aged from 5 – 12. This experience allowed them to extend their skills and develop important traits of teamwork
- Numbers have consistently improved with an average of 55 attending Avondale sessions and 35 at Botany on a regular basis
- Funding - approx. \$10,000 of funding was secured to purchase new equipment for LTP participants, with extra funding received to cover coaching, ice time and new player shirts
- Grab One campaign to help attract new participants resulted in 27 vouchers being sold and 30% of these signing up to become new members

Key Challenges for 2019 include:

- securing more coaching capacity at the Botany rink
- supporting players in making a successful transition to the Monday night league
- streamlining processes and procedures to continue improvements and meet changing opportunities
- ensuring LTP makes a substantial contribution to the continued operation and growth of the organisation

Finally, our thanks to all the coaches and parents who give freely of their time and effort at the Learn to Play level to allow our program to be a continuing success.

Sheree Anderson  
LTP Director



## U12 Super League – Joao Machado

The U12 Super League 2018 season was a huge success. We had 2 weekends worth of pre-season games to get the teams balanced and then we started the ‘regular season’ with four teams – Flash, Bats, Supers and Spiders. At the end of the Regular Season, the Flash were leading with 45 games played, 22 wins and 51 points overall securing themselves the advantage going into the Playoffs and Grand Final. The final standings at the end of the Regular Season were as follows:

<i>Team</i>	<i>Games Played</i>	<i>Wins</i>	<i>Losses</i>	<i>Draws</i>	<i>Points</i>
<i>Flash</i>	45	22	16	7	<b>51</b>
<i>Bats</i>	45	22	22	1	45
<i>Supers</i>	45	21	21	3	45
<i>Spiders</i>	45	18	21	3	39

This was followed by the Playoff’s, Bronze and Grand Final matches with the following results:

**Playoff 1:** Flash vs Spiders, ended in a draw, with the Flash progressing by way of Tie Breaker.

**Playoff 2:** Bats vs Supers, with the Bats securing the win and progressing the to the grand final.

**Bronze final:** Supers vs Spiders, with the Supers winning a close and competitive match.

**Grand final:** Bats won a very competitive thrilling match against the Flash, taking some 23 shots at goal and scoring 5 goals to secure the win and the 2018 Super League trophy.

Games were 2 periods of 10 minutes each, run between 8:20am to 9:45am on Sundays. With four teams, we held 3 games every Sunday. Junior referees took charge of most games in the season.

### U12 – 2018 individual awards

**Top Point Scorer** – Jack Brown (Flash – both U12 season and U12 Nationals, Christchurch) – with 59 points overall, 49 goals and 10 assists. Invited to play in Auckland Cup Series, Bidois Cup, mixed U12/U15 team (Sphinx).

**Best Defence** – Zadia Paulse (Spiders – both U12 season and U12 Nationals, Christchurch). Invited to play in Auckland Cup Series, Bidois Cup, mixed U12/U15 team (Minotaurs).

**Best Forward** – Bernard Wang (U12 season – Supers / U12 Nationals, Christchurch – Spiders). Silver medal in U12 Season, and Gold medal and ‘Best Forward’ in U12 Nationals, Christchurch. Invited to play in Auckland Cup Series, Bidois Cup, mixed U12/U15 team (Minotaurs).

**Most Sportsmanlike** - Sam Narayan (U12 Season – Spiders). Invited to play in Auckland Cup Series, Bidois Cup, mixed U12/U15 team (Minotaurs).

**Top Goaltender** – Mateo Machado (U12 Season - Flash / U12 Nationals, Christchurch - Spiders) – with a 2.28 goals against average, 75% save, MVP for Auckland and gold medal in U12 Nationals, and a silver medal in the U12 season. Invited to play in Auckland Cup Series, Bidois Cup, mixed U12/U15 team (Minotaurs).

**Most Improved** - Ben Swainston (Bats - both U12 season and U12 Nationals, Christchurch). Gold medal U12 Season. Invited to play in Auckland Cup Series, Bidois Cup, mixed U12/U15 team (Minotaurs).

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**U12 Season highlights and key areas of focus for 2019**

Player development increased noticeably rapidly from 3<sup>rd</sup> week into the season, and that trend continued throughout the season. Incorporating the junior referees into the Super League programme was a huge success, as it enabled the perfect development environment for junior referees and strengthened the bond between the older U15 / U18 players and the U12 players. I would like to continue with the refereeing program being part of the U12 Super League with Junior referees building up experience and confidence in refereeing in this environment. Throughout the season, we focused on the build-up to the AIHA season finals in September, followed by the U12 Nationals tournament in Christchurch 6-7 October.

For 2019, we would like to promote a sub-league within the U12 League to better cater for younger players in LTP at Avondale and Botany. This is proposed as the U8 League, which combined with the U12 League makes up the LTP development program for AIHA. There is talk also of an U8 competition alongside with the U12 Nationals competition held in Christchurch this 2018 season. Venue / hosts for 2019 are yet to be decided, and Canterbury teams expressed interest for AIHA to host in Auckland.

I would also like to explore opportunities for a 'rep-equivalent' U12 team to have competitions against other regions in 4v4 cross-ice and 5v5 full ice formats in 2019.

**U12 Nationals Tournament – 6 and 7 October, Christchurch**

AIHA put up three teams for the U12 nationals tournament held on 6 and 7 October 2018 in Christchurch. We were able to put up three genuinely U12 (as in 11 years and younger) teams in the tournament, and had great results. There were a total of 9 teams competing from all regions except Dunedin, and AIHA ended up with the following results – Spiders first place (gold medal), Bats 4<sup>th</sup> place, and Flash 6<sup>th</sup> place overall.

**Individual Awards in tournament:**

Auckland MVP – Mateo Machado (Goalie, Spiders)

Best Forward – Bernard Wang (Player, Spiders).

**Auckland Spiders (winners of tournament)**

Coach: Hank Jensen / Manager: Kim O'Connell

Goalie: Mateo Machado (10)

Players: Bodhi Jones (19), Ari O'Connell (22), Bernard Wang (15), Mika Cescon (18), Zadia Paulse (17), MeiMei "Magic" Keith (14), Mason Thorburn (12), Owen Keen (11).

**Auckland Bats**

Coach: Doug Thompson / Manager: Sue Calder

Goalie: Sam Jones (10)

Players: Jacob Calder-Thompson (18), Bruce Li (20), Josh Bennetts (16), Benjamin Swainston (17), Andy Yu (22), Jerry Hao (23), Alan Li (15), Emmett Roberts (11).

**Auckland Flash**

Coach: Garyth Jones / Manager: Laura Brown

Goalie: Owen Brown (10)

Players: Martin Chemlev (20), Jack Brown (19), Otis Haysmith (22), Eric Qin (13), Etienne Cadieux (17), Edison Mu (15), Evelyn Mu (11), Rodi Parshikov (14).

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## Bantam League Report – Jen Jones & Janet Kidd

Our 2018 Bantam League consisted of three teams: the Hornets, Panthers and Seawolves. With players numbering just under 40 at the start of the season, the decision to have three teams was collectively made to ensure that coaches could effectively teach, train and play with strong team numbers.

After a pre-season run to determine whether our teams were evenly balanced in terms of player strength, skills and rookies, our regular season started April 30<sup>th</sup> and ran through until September 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The Seawolves, Panthers, and Hornets all enjoyed very close games, with the majority a one or two point difference. Out of the regular season games, all three teams had two draws a piece, making for a tight, anyone's game on the night, competition. Even the couple of games where the score grew to a 4 to 5 point difference, the score did not reflect the close competitive games, with the Hockey Gods lining up and everything going right on the night for the winning team.

The three teams enjoyed combined 1 ½ hr trainings at Avondale and Botany mid-week Tuesdays and Thursdays, as well as Sunday morning trainings at alternating rinks, all of which were very well planned to strengthen player skill and confidence. The three team league also meant that one team had a bye on a Monday Night, which provided the opportunity to have a team only, half ice training. Such team trainings have not happened for many years - since Peter Rooke coached the Cannons and Shawn Henry was president! It also meant the Bantam group had the highest amount of available ice time and so successes in the club - the U15 Rep team Championship win this year can only be proof of how important this amount of ice time is to player development.

At the end of the regular season, the Seawolves, coached by Darren Blong and Michael Janousek, took top spot and enjoyed a team only training, whilst second placed Panthers, coached by Jeremy Allen and Chad Croft, battled it out with Geoff Boehme's Hornets to secure a spot in the finals. The 3<sup>rd</sup> placed Hornets put their game day boots on, and with a little help from the Hockey Gods, successfully beat the Panthers in a close 3-4 semi final win. They then went onto beat the Seawolves the following week, to take out the final and win gold with the final score of 2-1. Many congratulations to Geoff and the Hornets coming from third to first and proving how close the competition was.

This exciting finish was not the end of hockey for the Bantam league, as we still had our three game Bidios Cup series to play. Twenty six players also came up from the U12 super league to join in the last few trainings of the season and participate in the Cup series, giving them the opportunity to see what their 2019 season would look like. The players were drafted into four teams - all God like in their new strips thanks to some great funding. With a tier 1 and 2 format based on skill level, the Cyclops went out against Hydra, and Sphinx versed the Minotaurs to give a fun and competitive finish to our club season. This three game series saw the players now on teams with fellow members who had been their adversaries the week before, working together to out play the competition. The U12 players in the Tier 2 Cup teams had an opportunity to play full ice, with a full bench and great coaching - they are now positively looking forward to the season and competition next year. The result - Cyclops took home the Graham Bidios Memorial Cup.

It is also now time to farewell our 2004 players, who will move up to the Junior League next season. Thank you for your leadership and sportsmanship, both off and on the ice. We wish you well and look forward to seeing you on the ice in your new teams.

We would like to thank all the coaches, managers and parents who made our season a success – because of your commitment and support, our players and children have had the opportunity to

enjoy their own personal achievements, growth, and enjoyment of the game, as well as Club and Rep season success and being part of the AIHA family.

Our Bantam league club award recipients 2018 are:

Best Rookie: Jonah Richardson

Most improved: Nash Jones

Most sportsmanlike: Leon Quigley

Highest Point scorer: Lennart Wimmer

Best Forward: Katya Blong

Best Defence: Yvonne Tsai

Best Goalie: Joel Messenger

Jen Jones & Janet Kidd

Bantam League Directors

## Junior League Report – Wayne Curtis

For the previous two years this league was competed for by just two teams but with the inclusion of the Auckland Women's Rep team this year the league became a far more interesting event with four teams comprising the competition. The satisfaction from my perspective were the close games resulting in a competitive league. The Women's team did lose a number of games but their loses were only by the margin of one or two goals. The success of the league and the closeness of the games this year confirms the benefit of the coaches running a draft to select teams at the beginning of the year, this must continue.

The winning team for the League 1 competition was the Outlaws.

Another draft was conducted to select the top players for two teams to compete against each other over a three match competition for the Camorra Cup as a finale for the season. The first two games were ties with the final games producing a victory for Team Zeus over Team Hades.

The remaining players were drafted into two Tier 2 teams to compete against each other over a three game competition. Team Ares was the victor over Team Poseidon.

### **Award Winners**

Top Points Scorer - Christian Regan

Best Forward - Lochlan Butler

Best Defence - Flynn Jones

Best Goal Tender - Luke Jones

Best Rookie - Antony logan

Most Sportsman like - Lillie Hedvegi

Wayne Curtis

Junior League Director

## Senior Non Check Report – Karl Peni

With SNC adopting a 1 x team rule in 2017 this allowed AIHA to move from charging SNC teams to charging SNC individuals which as a whole was a success.

I would like to thank all SNC players who paid their individual player fees in a timely manner, this really helped to reduce the time necessary to both chase and track over 320 individual players and multiple payments across the season.

Another positive from this approach will be in the area of new SNC teams where the biggest hurdle has always been finding team managers willing to do the work necessary in chasing players for money, this is never a fun task and at times a real pain when players don't pay on time or try to disappear and not pay. Unfortunately yes there are rat bags out there that think they can play hockey without paying.

This year saw an increase in the number of games in the playoff section of the SNC season & the introduction of a best of 3 Final series for each SNC League.

At the time of writing this report both of the B & C League finals series only needed 2 games to determine each winner for 2018 season.

The A League will play the final game this Saturday to determine the 2018 season winner.

### A League Final Series

Game 1 = Rampage 4 vs Blues 2

Game 2 = Blues 4 vs Rampage 3 (OT)

Game 3 = to be played Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> @ Botany

Good luck to both Rampage and Blues for the deciding Game 3.

### B League Final Series

Game 1 = Eagles 9 vs Spartans 0

Game 2 = Eagles 6 vs Spartans 1

Congratulations to Eagles (2018 B League Champions).

### C League Final Series

Game 1 = Hawks 6 vs Tigers 0

Game 2 = Hawks 2 vs Tigers 1 (OT)

Congratulations to Hawks (2018 C League Champions)

Finally I'd like to say a big thank you to all of the SNC players / team managers for all of your efforts and help over the past decade. This is my last year as SNC League director and would like to wish the next league director all the best.

Karl Peni

SNC League Director

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## Women's Representative Hockey Report – Rachel Park

With uncertain numbers committed to the season at the start of the October, the tone changed and over 30 girls hit the ice to practice with the team. The travelling squad ended on an 11-1 note, +44 goal differential and with a NZWIHL gold medal in hand. The girls battled throughout the season, and were an obvious dominant force in the 3-team competition.

With three of the top five goal scorers being from our squad, it is evident that several of the Auckland players have skills apart from the rest of the league. Our women brought home all of the following awards:

Best Goaltender: Lochlyn Hyde

Best Defenceman: Jaime Taute (Jones)

Best Forward: Anjali Mulari

MVP of Auckland: Jasmine Horner-Pascoe

As the head coach and Director of Women's Hockey, I recognise a need to recruit younger and less experienced female players to build the foundation of the representative team. However, we need to also run fast-paced and challenging practices for these more skilled players to push their limits and prepare for international competition. This is a challenging ask, requires more 'hands on deck' and needs a strategic plan to maintain the team environment.

We had a number of new faces register in 2017-2018, and managed to retain some of the more experienced players. However, this increases the divide in skill amongst the squad. A strategic consideration is to utilise the more experienced players in a mentor capacity to help develop the less experienced players throughout the season. This will increase the sense of belonging and owning a role for all individuals.

In addition, there will be on and off-ice testing implemented on a go forward basis in order to increase the transparency around areas of improvement for individuals. This will allow players to set more precise goals for their development. The coaching staff will also aim to provide more direct and timely feedback to players throughout the season.

The following areas should be considered for improvement:

- Better coordination of scoring judges for competition hosted in Auckland
- Attendance at the NZWIHL AGM
- Identification of a medical professional in each region to attend to injuries and travel to hospital where necessary.
- Funding. Many girls have lost interest purely because of the cost to play.

Many of these girls continued to hit the ice in the off-season as one of the teams in the U20 competition. This was largely beneficial as the speed of the game was faster than the NZWIHL. More importantly however, this is indicative of the amount of desire and commitment these players have toward the game of ice hockey.

Overall, the 2017-2018 NZWIHL season was of huge success.

Rachel Park

Women's Representative Hockey

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## Director of Ice Hockey Report – Chad Croft

The 2018 season started out with some difficult decisions having to be made regarding league structure and organisation due to lower than anticipated registration numbers within the U15 Bantam and U18 Junior age groups. Where a four-team league was planned for the 2018 Bantam season, compromises were made and a three-team league formed to reflect the lower number of players registered. While healthy debate was had regarding the pros and cons of a four-team league with 10-11 players per team vs. a three-team league with 14-16 players per team, in the end the coaches decided that in the interest of player development and player well-fair it was best to proceed with a three-team league. In hindsight this was the correct decision as most parents, players and coaches alike agreed by season end that the resulting competition and additional practice time afforded by the three-team league format was beneficial, competitive and fun with AIHA head Coach (Csaba Kersco-Magos) indicating the 2018 season represented the best hockey he has seen at the U15 age group in Auckland for a long.

Much debate was had surrounding the U18 Junior league format as well with concerns around younger, more skilled players ‘playing up’ an age group and the inclusion of a Women’s team made up of representative and development squad players. Concerns centred around player well-fair and the overall developmental benefits of younger players and female players competing in a contact league with bigger, stronger players. In the end it was decided a small, select group of players would be allowed to ‘play up’ and the Women’s team was granted a place in the competition under a non-contact rule. The resulting competition and parity across the league were good with the younger players and Women’s team competing well overall.

The 2018 season saw the introduction of a new league with the creation of the U12 Super League. This league was a massive success with strong registration numbers, good competition and tremendous player development throughout the season. As part of the U12 development program we encouraged some of the older, more skilled U12 players to participate in a few of the Bantam/Junior combined practices towards the end of the season to provide them with an opportunity to experience what it will be like to play in the Bantam league next season. We look forward to some of the older more skilled players advancing to the next level in 2019.

The 2018 development program was well supported with strong numbers of volunteer coaches and managers across the leagues from the new U12 Super League through to the U18 Juniors. The time and commitment made by volunteer managers and coaches truly make or break the AIHA’s ability to deliver a successful player development program and their contributions are valued. As part of the AIHA’s commitment to delivering a high-quality development program, I organised and held a number of coach’s meetings whereby we set out expectations, codes of conduct and the general approach we wanted both the AIHA head coach and volunteer coaches to follow in the delivery of the 2018 program. In addition, I organised and chaired a season ending coaches debrief session whereby the coaches got together to review and discuss what we did well and why as well as what could be improved for next season and how? Out of this meeting a number of action items materialised surrounding improved communication between not only the AIHA board and the wider membership including parents and players alike regarding delivery of the development program and the overall goal, but also between the AIHA head coach and the volunteer coaches. Specifically, around how specific practice plans align with the overall development goal and who is responsible for what and when during on-ice practice sessions, including volunteer coach feedback and support.

Another action item to come out of this session was the development of a coaching working group. This group is to be made up of a select few volunteer coaches, parents and the AIHA head coach. The purpose of this group will be to review and discuss in season coaching challenges, address coaching needs, ensure delivery of both the coaching and player development programs



remain on track and be a bridge between the volunteer coaches and the board. I look forward to this group convening prior to the start of the 2019 season.

Feedback such as that provided through these meetings and working groups is integral to delivering a successful development program and creating an environment whereby our kids can grow and develop a love for the game that makes them “ice hockey players for life”.

Chad Croft,  
AIHA Director of Ice Hockey

## **Director of Administration Report – Michael Domigan**

The 2018 season saw a number of changes to how we managed registrations and playing fees, aimed at reducing debtors and late payments, something which had been a difficulty in previous years.

A pre-season review of the club management software, ClubHub, allowed us to identify areas we could improve, especially with regards to the registration process and how we managed playing fees.

It was decided to move to a system of invoicing registration and playing fees to the players directly, where in previous years team managers had been responsible for collecting these. This change meant a much more straightforward and transparent way of managing player fees and ensured the Club was able to enforce late payment penalties as required.

Feedback from parents and players on this change was positive and the results speak for themselves - I am pleased to report that as of writing, we have \$0.00 of outstanding debt from our Bantam, Junior and Senior Non-Check Leagues for which these changes were implemented.

I would like to acknowledge the support of the League Directors and Team Managers in achieving this accomplishment and also thank the Director of Finance for their assistance in establishing and maintaining these new procedures for 2018.

Looking forward to 2019 and beyond, my hope is that the Club can continue to streamline the registration and fee administration processes to maintain an effective system and positive results.

Michael Domigan  
Director of Administration

## **Director of Marketing & Communication Report – Carl McIntyre**

The 2018 season saw us build upon the successful changes made to our marketing strategies in 2017, further growing our reach in to local communities and developing our new player programmes.

A key part of our marketing strategies for 2018 was to use Facebook as an advertising tool. A number of advertising campaigns were run, targeting parents with young children, offering them a free trial of our Learn to Play Programme. These campaigns saw great success, with 30% of those attending a free trial deciding to register as an AIHA member and continuing to attend.

Similarly, we trialled GrabOne as a promotional tool to reach members of the public who had not participated in our Learn to Play programme. The offer included two lessons of our Learn to Play programme for \$10.00. We saw great results here too, with approximately 30% of attendees registering and staying on as paying customers.

Throughout the year, we ran marketing campaigns to encourage both club members and the wider public to attend our U18 Representative home games – with one event hosting over 250 people to watch the game, something which has never before been achieved for a representative game. This is an excellent and very cost effective way to introduce people to ice hockey – a sport most of the public have not seen before.

A highlight of the season was being able to market to the nearly 10,000 attendees at the USA vs Canada Ice Hockey Classic, with a Learn to Play commercial run on the JumboTron and vouchers handed out to attendees, not to mention the fantastic intermission game played by our new U12 Super League, something which had the crowd cheering the moment the kids stepped on to the ice.

The new website launched in 2017 continued to aid in communication to club members throughout the season, hosting all of the news, events and other ice hockey related information.

In summary, a very successful season from a marketing point of view, and something that can continue to be built on in the years to come.

Carl McIntyre  
Director of Marketing & Communication

## Head Coach Report – Csaba Kercso-Magos

The focus of 2018 was to continue the pathway that AIHA had established in 2017 with some adjustment to the club competition.

- Main goals :** - Maintain the same fee structure as in 2017.
- Practice attendances (average 45/session – highest was 67 – lowest was 28).
  - Focus on skill development.
  - Draft system for club team selections. This worked well with 80% of the games ending up being closely contested with a 1 or 2 goal difference.
  - Cup games were competed for at the end of the season, this worked very well.
  - Quality coaching. A BIG thanks to Kevin Simon, Jeff Boehme, Cam Stephen , Jeremy Allen, Chad Croft, Darren Blong, Andy Kaisser and the Camorra coaches who volunteered their time to AIHA: Justin Daigle, Kevin Philips, Craig Peacock, Mike Vershuren
  - U12 League. For me personally this was the most gratifying achievement of the year. A BIG thanks to Joao, Carl, Spider and the many volunteers who helped make this league operate so smoothly and successfully.
  - Growing the numbers for LTP. Once again a HUGE thanks to Michal Janousek and all the volunteer coaches and parents.

### Results:

- AIHA made NZ ice hockey history this year with our representative teams winning every National Age Group League.
- Women’s National League: GOLD
- U12 National Club Tournament: GOLD
- U15 National League: GOLD
- U18 National League: GOLD
- Mens National League, West Auckland Admirals: GOLD
- First male player from NZ to gain selection to NCAA along with a scholarship: Jake Ratcliffe from the Admirals.

I would like to make special mention of the SPARK ARENA event between Canada and the USA where a LTP session was conducted and a cross ice game for the LTP kids played in front of 9000 people being an absolute highlight of the year. Thanks immensely to everyone who made this happen.

One area that we did NOT improve on was the number of volunteer coaches at BOTANY. Dear parents, and SNC players, please come and give us a hand with our LTP sessions. Botany Swarm players, this is the time and opportunity to give back something to the sport, **WE NEED YOUR HELP.**

These results show clearly that the programme currently in place is producing excellent progress.

Csaba Kercso-Magos  
Head Coach

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## Referee-in-Chief Report – Paul Taillon

This was my first year as AIHA Referee-in-Chief, a role I took on in addition my elected board position as Vice President.

My prime objective this year has been recruitment and development of referees, given that AIHA had only a little over a dozen referees officiating all youth, senior, and rep games in 2018.

I put together a multi-year strategy consisting of the following elements:

1. Recruitment
2. Training
3. Supervision
4. Mentoring

It all begins with **recruitment**, focusing on younger players. This is not to say that we do not want senior hockey players to become officials. (We do.) Rather, it follows from the principle of developing from the bottom-up. Recruiting and training a young player in their teenage years will result in a referee who will have decades of officiating in front of them, and who will deliver decades of officiating to New Zealand. What is more, some of them will develop the ability to qualify for international tournaments, which is what IIHF wants to see more of from NZ. In other words, officiating can be a pathway to international hockey, too.

Recruitment and **training** this year began with a ½ day seminar conducted at Paradise Avondale in April with over 25 in attendance. The seminar included classroom and on-ice instruction, led by myself and assisted by NZIHF Referee-in-Chief Ryan Hissong and several senior AIHA referees. The instruction benefitted the several returning referees and resulted in a cohort of several young players who officiated the U12 Super League. A few of the older ones also did lines for U15 games and one worked some SNC games.

I was very pleased with this group and look forward to working with them next year and seeing them develop and take on higher level games.

The next steps in developing—and retaining—officials as well as fostering consistent officiating includes **supervision**. Ideally, we would have an trained supervisor (a referee) in the stands at most games critiquing and providing formative feedback. At the moment, we are no where near supervising even a fraction of our games due to low numbers of officials. This then is a goal for the future. For now, though, I worked, with assistance from referees Braden O’Loughlin and Matt Clarke, to support the younger officials by supervising them at U12 Super League games and giving feedback. For the few that have been doing U15s and SNC, I have worked to make sure they are rostered on with a senior official whom I trust to mentor them. So, **mentoring** is an important part of the strategy, which needs development in the future.

With these positive results, I look forward to working with our young officials, supporting our veteran officials, and recruiting more officials in 2019.

Before I close, I must acknowledge the great group of scorebench officials who supported the on-ice referees.

Paul Taillon  
Referee-In-Chief

# **New Zealand Representatives**

## **NZ U20 National Mens Team**

Zac Vince  
Max Vesper

## **NZ U18 National Mens Team**

Lochlan Butler  
Flynn Jones  
Christian Regan  
Alex Regan  
Max Vesper

## **NZ Ice Fernz**

Jamie Jones  
Tabitha Crump  
Lochlyn Hyde  
Rachel Neville-Lamb  
Ashley Richmond  
Alex Hyde  
Jemma Read  
Hannah Shields

## **NZ U18 National Womens Team**

Samara Campton  
Jessie Parker  
Jamie Kaiser

## **NZ Ice Blacks**

Csaba Kercso-Magos  
Andrew Hay  
Gareth McLeish  
Nick Craig  
Oliver Hay  
Alex Polozov  
Dale Harrop  
Frazer Ellis  
Jake Ratcliffe  
Jordan Challis  
Nick Henderson  
Shaun Harrison  
Taylor Rooney