

February 12, 2011

PWHC Members:

The BOD recently solicited your feedback on how the Club is doing, what needs to change, what needs to be tweaked. The number one comment centered around communication between the BOD and its members. We will try to address some of the major issues currently being discussed around the rink.

-What is the status of the PWHC going into the 2011-12 season?

We will be returning to Prince William Ice Center at the conclusion of its rebuild this summer. However, the Spring Program will be run out of the Lumberyard (Haymarket IcePlex as of April 1) and we expect to conduct Travel Tryouts at Kettler Capitals Iceplex again this May.

-When will PWIC reopen?

The BOD met with the Hutzler's recently. They indicated everything was going as planned and, in fact, were two weeks ahead of schedule for their projected late July opening. All county permits have been approved and construction equipment is on site. You can keep up with its progress through the PWIC Facebook page and Twitter account.

-We were under the impression that the Lumberyard was temporary and we would be receiving a credit at the end of the season when the equipment was sold.

At the General Membership meeting in July, we presented the scenario as we expected it to go. In the process of negotiating the lease, the Landlord decided she wanted to keep the 'Yard as a permanent facility. As part of those negotiations, the Landlord fronted a majority of the funds for the equipment. We basically presold the equipment to avoid having to take down, store, and resell it at the end of our lease. This resulted in the Club being in a better financial position not having to purchase everything upfront. Financial details can be obtained from the CFO.

-What can we expect from the Travel Program next season?

We will maintain our core schedule of two practices during the week and games/practices on weekends. We are exploring ways to incorporate on-ice skills and off-ice training sessions for all players during the week. Goalie development is very much a hot topic item as well. A big part of the discussion is making sure we have the resources to implement while keeping it economically feasible for our members.

Age group specific tweaks are on the table also. Some of these will be driven by USA Hockey and/or Southeast District mandates that we will be required to follow. A major point of emphasis that was started last year, but was put on the backburner due to the rink situation, will be coaching education. The Club will be very proactive making sure coaches are certified, screened, and prepared to coach at their age groups. Monthly coaches meetings will be mandatory and practices/games monitored to ensure that our teams are being coached to the level that USA Hockey dictates. Each Head Coach will meet one-on-one with the Director of Coaching and Player Development on a monthly basis as well. This will

all be done with an education focus, not one of discipline and micromanagement.

-What's up with the House Program and rumors of PWIC's interest?

When the Hutzler's met with us, one of the topics they brought up was turning the House Program over to the rink. This led to a very lively discussion with everyone offering ways to improve the program. The BOD has not adopted a position on this issue yet and we welcome any feedback from its members. Time is not of the essence right now since PWIC won't be opening until mid summer, but we would like to make a decision by early Spring.

-Why was my bill sent later than normal and was on the high side again?

Last year, there was a major issue with member fees being based on the low range which resulted in the final bill being much higher than expected. We resolved this season to estimate in the middle so the end result was a consistent set of fees. The problem was that travel fees were estimated back in the spring when we anticipated having a reduced season on the road, thus producing a lower cost. Once the Club voted to move forward with the Lumberyard, and a full season, the cost went back up. To compensate for the higher fees, the CFO extended the payments from four to five. Unfortunately, this resulted in some folks getting a bill right before Christmas. This was an unintended consequence, one the CFO worked around with folks who expressed concern.

-Any chance we'll get Club apparel before Christmas next year?

Without getting into all the administrative details, the BOD would like to get out of the apparel business altogether. We have agreed to let PWIC take over this endeavor. We will be working with them to have a system in place so members can purchase jerseys, bags, warm ups, etc quickly and efficiently. Our biggest concern is making sure the quality supports the price. In addition to having forms available at travel tryouts and house evaluations, we're pushing to have an online option accessible through the PWHC website.

These are some of the major topics being brought to the attention of various BOD members. We hope we have addressed them to your satisfaction. This has been a very unique year for us and our members should be proud of their efforts to make this season such a success. It has not been easy and we've had issues none of us have had experience dealing with. We appreciate your continued support as we move forward and encourage you to send us any type of feedback you think relevant to info@pwhockey.com.

-- Your PWHC Board of Directors