

## Presidents Pen 2015

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**19 March 2015 Newsletter** Welcome to our first "The Pride" of the 2015 Season. There is a lot of background work been happening for some time in preparation of the new season. Since last October actually. I am pleased to report the following to all our members:

**Top Squad Men's Coach** this season is our own Russell Lee with Assistant Coach Charlie Gaudoin at the helm. The preseason preparations have been underway for some time with Russell and Charlie implementing the latest coaching practices and using some very good analyzing equipment to boot. We wish Russell, Charlie and the teams all very Best for 2015.

**Top Squad Women's Coach** this season is Scott Hughes with Assistant Coaches David Orr & Hope Munro. We are very happy to have Scott onboard and he is implementing his style of hockey which is I am sure influenced by Ric Charlesworth who he assistant coaches with for the state U15s. We wish Scott & co and the team all the very best for the season 2015.

John De Bes as our fitness and wellness coach has once again given us a fantastic preseason regime which sometimes included 80 or more members attending per session. The healthy physical aspect was great with the bonus of camaraderie and laughs thrown in for good measure. We thank John immensely for the role he plays in the club.

There are several new **Committee Members** this year who I might add have slotted in very nicely and brought in a new and younger vibrant set of ideas and energy which can be felt all over the membership. Please look at our website for the updates of the new members. Our committee members retiring or moving to another role cannot be thanked enough for their loyal and tireless support. I know they deserve a well earned rest. Our incumbent and rock solid committee members thank you for assisting with this new and exciting time of transition. Your experience is invaluable.

**Uniform Change** - I must pass on firstly that there has been a decision by the committee to change and upgrade our uniforms. Please don't panic just yet. The reason to do so is based on availability of the present uniform type, a desire to bring the whole club into line as Melville City Hockey Club with a common uniform style from the top squads down to the very young juniors and to bring our club into line with a modern functional uniform which can be supported for the next 5 years. To facilitate this very big move there has been a planning panel in progress since last season which consists of two groups. Panel one is responsible for style, type, colour and all technical aspects of the uniform and ancillary attire. The second panel is responsible for the commercial side of purchasing, ordering and securing the best costs for the club with a high priority, with families in mind. Both panels interviewed and or assessed up to 7 supplier companies. This season the Top Squad Men's Uniform will be used as a testing run for the successful bidder which is Canterbury. The Top Squad Men will be the only teams upgrading this season. Next season 2016 will be a transition year where by all members will able to upgrade to the new uniform or remain one more year 2016 with the present uniform. Season 2017 it will be expected that all members will have the same new uniform. The above has been carefully planned out and with a deep concern for the ability of club members with families to plan and ease into the uniform upgrade with as little financial burden as possible. Due to such a rigorous process in place the Top Squad Men's Uniform will not be ready until the first week of

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April 2015. I must commend the panels involved in this process as it was a lot of work and planning to get to this stage. I hope all our members appreciate the need to change and upgrade the uniforms and look forward to now not only being recognized progressive club but also looking like one in our new uniforms which will have several subtle touches which align with the proud history of the club.

**Future News Letters** - We hope to bring you informative and sometimes funny newsletters in The Pride, Bulletin and on the Website with a host of new articles covering insight and news and written by our Committee Members, Coaches and Members in the new season.

I hope you have a good week and look forward to seeing you **at the club**.

**Gary Bowater - Melville City Hockey Club – President.**