



Lake Superior Biathlon

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Lake Superior Biathlon Presidential Report 2012

Dear Members:

With the difficulties of non-existent snow in Northwestern Ontario, we still manage to have an impeccable year.

Before I begin with the report, I would like to throw out one of the biggest thank you's that can be given to Carol Pascuzzo. I wish to thank her for all the assistance she provides in the background to organize our fundraising activities, ensuring that parents new to the sport are welcomed and well informed of the what's going on, and the countless hours spent on the Board ensuring that we continue to move forward with our club's mandate of providing one of the best sport program in Thunder Bay.

Biathlon Bears Program

With the final year of the SPDF Grant, we see our biathlon bears program graduate our second group of athletes. With the success rate of this development program, we hope to continue with newcomers when we resume the program in the fall. We were hoping to do a variation of the program for the summer months, however with the schedules of our coaches, we were unable to squeeze it in. For the athletes whom have graduated this year all have express their desire to continue in the fall with our 0.22 Cal program.

The highlight of this year's program was the Manitoba Cup #2 in Falcon Lake, MB. This event was their first exposure to a provincial level competition. This event also was their first competition with 0.22 Cal rifle as there is no air rifle offering in the Manitoba racing program. Our four young athletes had a successful weekend where they brought home 4 medals in the two day event. And one of them actually learnt what happens when you cross-fire into the adjacent lane.

Competitive Program

Our competitive program seen the club's athlete compete at various venues across the region, including the Minnesota Cup #2 in Coleraine MN, and Manitoba Cup #2 in Falcon Lake, MB. The latter competition actually involved all of our nine athletes in 6 different categories.

Our Senior Boy athlete, Joseph Pascuzzo, had a very productive year. After competing in the in the required qualifying races, Pascuzzo was able to secure a spot on the Ontario Team as a full member. He stated thus far that this is one of his greatest highlight of his young career as a biathlete.

In addition of Pascuzzo competing at the National level, the club seen two biathletes compete in 2012 Ontario Winter Games. The highlights of these games were courses themselves, where the athletes were challenged with snow, rain, slush and high winds in

a single race. The only thing that wasn't thrown to the athletes were locusts. Under these conditions, Toby Quinn was one of two athletes able to shoot a clean bout in prone in a race. Our athletes efforts were well rewarded as three medals were brought home.

Expert Express Program

In late February 2012, the club applied for a small grant with the Coaches Association of Ontario for the Expert Express Program. This pilot program allows a coach access to an expert in the field of nutrition, sport psychology, leadership and management, or coaching athletes with disability. Under this program, we were paired with Summer Christie, a Mental Performance Consultant with the Canadian Sport Psychology Association. With her expertise, we conducted a two day development workshop were both coaches and athletes were given knowledges and tools to aid in the mental aspect of our sport.

Facilities

The club achieved a milestone in regards to the facilities. During this year, we seen put together a partnership with Thunder Bay Finnish Association for the use of the ski trails at the Tapiola Outdoor sport complex. This agreement, which will be finalized this summer, will see the Tapiola trails widen to accommodate skate skiing, and grooming maintained by them. Our partnership allowed us to complete an application the Team-Up Foundation grant. Successful applicant would have received up to \$50 000.00 for facility upgrade. However as this was an online competition, we were uncessful in receiving the majority of the popularity votes.

Conclusion

With this year under our belt, we can now focus on this year upcoming training which will begin with our summer biathlon clinic which will see biathletes continue to develop their shooting skills under the tutelage of Jacqueline Akerman and with luck see the completion of our coach IC level certification.

Daniel S. Guay
President
Lake Superior Biathlon