

## **BiON VP Tech Report 2012 AGM**

- **General:** Another busy year and on the athlete performance side significant improvement, I believe related to summer training camps and improved commitment and knowledge of how to train, by our athletes. I want to highlight all of our athletes who are just starting in the sport at a Club and those who have represented Ontario for many years and have now decided to focus on education as their primary goal.
- **Coach Development:** As many know, all 3 of our Level III coaches have moved this year. Alex Dumond ( Chief of Competition, Gold/IC, LF ) accepted a position as Sailing Director at West Vancouver Yacht Club, Kris Herbert ( DCDC, Gold/IC LF ) moved to Slave Lake Alberta and is teaching school and Michelle Armitage ( Head Coach) has married and starting a family in New Brunswick. These coaches were also the core of the Athlete Development Committee. I want to thank all of you and wish you every success. It will take many years to train new coaches or be lucky with coaches moving to Ontario. Only 1 coaching course was held in Ontario last year, a Gold course in SSM in conjunction with a Biathlon Canada SPDP grant. I was successful in receiving a \$3610.00 mentorship grant from CAO which was used to offset costs for Shannon Westlake who attended Jr/Yth trails and Nationals and France Hurley attending Canmore training camp/NorAm #1 and Lake Placid NorAm #6. Program is complete and provided enhance coaching opportunities to act as Head Coach at the events under the supervision of a mentor. This grant also indirectly provided additional coaching support for our athletes at events and lowered race coach fees as well this year. BiON will not directly invest funds into a coach's development, however will continue providing coach training opportunities and apply for PSO initiated grants to offset selected coach's development.
- **Athlete Development:** BiON overall this year saw a significant improvement in overall performance with some athletes achieving personal bests. BiON ran 5 HP training camps this year at Highlands and Blue Ridge Gun Club as well, a week long camp in Canmore in Dec. BiON raced athletes at all major races in the east this year, Jericho, Lake Placid, Quebec City, Fort Kent and PEI. BiON has run a shooting camp in Ottawa this spring and OAAP Testing camp in Collingwood this weekend. Arrangements are currently be made for a 9 day race/camp in Jericho Aug 10-19<sup>th</sup>. We will run Canmore camp, if there is enough interest, as Nationals and Jr/Yth trails are out west, a significant travel year for funded athletes. Notable performances this year were Alex Dupuis Gold in Sr Boys Pursuit at Nationals and Erin Yungblut missing Canadian Yth Team by 0.71%. Well done. Ian Campbell and erin Yingblut were NorAm point champions in their respective categories. Brett Davie and Erin Yungblut were both accepted into the Biathlon Alberta Training Center and Erikka Niemi is training with RMR, recovering from knee surgery. Erin is already moved and Canmore and Brett leaving as soon as exams are done. Good luck to you both.
- **Nationals:** BiON sent 11 Full Team and 7 sanctioned athletes to Nationals in Quebec City this year with 4 support staff, Tim Hurley, Kris Herbert, Shannon Westlake and Michelle Armitage. BiON athletes earned 15 Top ten results, to my

knowledge a first ever achievement, topped by Alex Dupuis's Gold in Sr. Boys pursuit. Decision was made not to stay at Athlete Village at the College and arrangements were made to stay at Le Domaine Notre-Dame. This facility provided rooms, meals and great service for our Team over the course of the week. Any Clubs wishing to use this facility, I would highly recommend as its' less than \$50.00 for 2 meals and a bed. They are also a NFP organization who supports kids groups. 2013 Nationals will be in Callaghan BC.

- **Ontario Winter Games:** OWG's were hosted by Highlands Nordic and were very successful for the Host, gaining valuable race hosting experience for officials and race support staff. Of 30 athlete positions offered for this event only 23 participants participated. This meant that BiON had to pay for 7 athlete positions provided by Sport Alliance Ontario. It is my recommendation that BiON withdraw from future OWG's and host a Provincial Air Rifle Championship annually which is actually part of our obligations as a PSO and expected by gov't funding agency. Lack of participation at OWG's does not negatively affect BiON, as a PSO in any manner.
- **OAAP Funding:** There were no significant changes to the Q4G Program this year except reduced total funding amount for athletes due to more Ontario athletes receiving Canada Carding. Q4G tops up Canada card by 30% which comes directly out of the fund therefore reducing the overall amount to split between Ontario carded athletes. Q4G has also allowed more discretion to a PSO to split cards due to the gender inequity in their sport. This allowed BiON to provide unused full female card funds to 2 additional Jr Boy athletes.
- **OAAP and Provincial Team Criteria:** This year 2012/13 OAAP selection races were published in advance for OAAP athlete ranking. This removes the previous issue with posting criteria after race season is over and new OAAP cycle begins. Provincial team criteria will be reviewed and the area of discussion will be sanctioned athletes. Alberta and Quebec now allow clubs to support any sanctioned athlete that does not make Full Team to attend Nationals. The idea that Nationals is an elite event and should only be attended by athletes with a certain performance level is no longer the overriding premise to attend. This race exposes young athletes ie 13/14 years old to a high level event, and provides club coaches a great training opportunity to work with the provincial team coaches. This topic needs discussion with Clubs who may be interested in attending. If there is interest, criteria would be amended to remove sanctioned athlete criteria and Clubs decide who they want to attend.

Tim Hurley

BiON VP Tech