

## **BVCCSC DIRECTORS' REPORTS – prepared for the 2021 AGM**

### ***Report from the Chair and Communications Director***

The past year was unpredictable, record setting, and contained a number of club firsts. COVID-19 was with us all year and we successfully adapted our policies for facility usage and programs to make sure that we still had a great season, and a record breaking one at that—over 1100 members! Incredibly popular virtual events, a healthy skills development program, hiring a new full-time head coach, committing to hire a general manager, trail improvements, and excellent grooming—these are some of the things that made the past year a great one despite COVID-19. The efforts of many volunteers went into making the past year a successful one and rather than list them all here I will direct you to our [2020/2021 season wrap up newsletter](#) which enumerates all of the wonderful people who contributed their time.

COVID-19—over the past year I've had a number of people tell me directly and indirectly how much the Nordic centre trails meant to them as a safe place to get exercise, say hi to friends, and decompress from the stress of life during COVID. It is super rewarding to be involved in providing this kind of service to the community and we look forward to providing similar opportunities for the upcoming season.

The record number of members this past year provided the club with more finances for operations as well as more demands on our volunteers and resources. To support the increased usage of our facilities, and to maintain an excellent experience for our users, we have decided to pursue hiring a seasonal general manager. We are interviewing a number of qualified candidates and expect to have someone in this role by the time we are skiing. This is a very exciting next step for the club.

The lack of travel for our skill development program athletes and coaches allowed us to spend time reflecting on the vision for these programs. The result of this process was the commitment to hire a full-time head coach, a first for our club. Andrew Brisbin joined our team as head coach in early July—welcome to the club Andrew!

There are a couple of vacancies in the board of directors for the 2021/2022 season. Kevin Kriese is stepping down from his role of director of grants and sponsorships. Over his term Kevin has helped secure a number of large grants to support improvements to our facilities and equipment, developed a sponsorship policy, coordinated our participation in a number of successful fundraisers with Nordiq Canada, and secured a number of sponsorships from local businesses. Thank you for your contributions in this role Kevin!

After three years as board chair, and four years as director of communications, I am stepping down from both roles to allow me to provide more attention to some of my other community volunteer contributions. I will remain on the board as "past president" to ensure a smooth transition. It has been an incredibly rewarding experience contributing to an organization that touches the lives of so many different people in the community.

Looking forward to seeing you on the trails soon,

Ben Forsyth

October 2021



***Report from the Membership Director***

2019-2020:

Members 715

Ticket booth total sales \$12602.45

Store sales \$8740.50

2020-2021:

Members 1104

Ticket booth total sales \$ 17871.75

Store sales \$11085.00

### ***Report from the Grants & Sponsorships Director***

- We had a very successful year securing grants and sponsorships. We were able to continue the gaming grant to support coaching and NSDP (\$22,500). We also received major grants from Northern Development Initiative Trust (\$68,000) and the BC Gaming Grant Capital program (\$57,000) for funds to build the new machine shed. In July of 2020 (which was the beginning of last year....) we received a grant of \$15,000 from Wet'zin'kwa Community Forest for the machine shed. There were several smaller grants for NSDP as well. See other directors' reports for details.
- A major focus for grants and sponsorships was the club fundraiser, which was administered through Nordic Canada. Because Nordic Canada is a registered Charity, we are able to issue tax receipts for charitable donations made through Nordiq Canada. Last year our goal was to raise funds to complete the purchase of a new tracked quad. Thanks to a very generous club member who agreed to match fundraising, up to \$10,000, we exceeded our goals and raised over 21,000. The additional funds raised were dedicated to the new machine shed. Huge thanks to all the members who donated.
- Another new initiative was club sponsorships. A local business, LB Paving, approached us offering to provide sponsorship for our trails and facilities. This is our first general sponsorship, so we have developed a new sponsorship policy. Shout out to LB Paving for their support to make great skiing.
- We also received sponsorships from local businesses to help build the new machine shed. Seabridge Gold and Pretium Gold both provided sponsorships for this project. We really appreciate their contribution.
- Looking ahead to next year, we will have an ongoing club fundraiser through Nordiq Canada. details can be found at [Please consider making our club part of your annual charitable donations!](#) By donating to the club, we are able to keep fees low, and fund special projects and equipment that enhance the ski experience.

Our Sponsors and Partners for 2020/21:



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## ***Report from the Events Director***

### **Summary:**

Despite the challenges posed by programming during a pandemic, our volunteers' creativity, flexibility, and enthusiasm ensured that a roster of events was still offered to our members during the 2020-2021 ski season. Although mass race days were canceled, two virtual events, the Holiday Hustle and the virtual Wetzin'kwa Loppet, provided competitive opportunities to our members. The Loppet was a resounding success, with a record number of participants testing their mettle on courses ranging from 1 km to 32 km. The Hustle proved so popular that plans are in place to reprise it this year. Other events included a family-friendly scavenger hunt that took participants on a tour of much of our terrain and a celebration of kindness organized for Valentine's Day by the BV Family Network. Although we were unable to host a Women's Clinic, drop-in lessons for Masters went ahead safely thanks to the support of over a dozen coaches. Those fortunate to receive a lesson enjoyed very small groups and lots of individualized feedback.

### **Forecast for 2021-2022 Season:**

Organizers are hopeful that the 2021-2022 season offers even more opportunities for fun events. Although they will look a little different, favourites like the Tour, Santa's Workshop, and Welcome Day will return to our calendar. This year, Masters' drop-in lessons will be handled by NSDP, with all revenue supporting that program. Lessons will still be held on Wednesdays and begin in mid-January. Our Club plans to hold three races this season, including a BC Winter Games qualifying race. At a meeting with stakeholders in the spring, the urgent need to attract more volunteers to the Club's Race Committee was identified. We must begin to train new officials, race directors, timing officials, etc, in an effort to alleviate pressure on the existing (very small but mighty!) committee. To that end, an officials course is planned for November 20.

### **Acknowledgments:**

Club events are entirely volunteer-driven. Events last season would not have been possible without the enthusiastic contributions of the following outstanding members: Andrew Pearce, Antje Von Seidlitz, Britt White, Chris Werrell, Cobey Oliemans, Deb Courtliff, Denise Kelly, Duran Hurry, Ellen Anderson, Emma Hoffman, Fred Oliemans, Helene Fleury, Gabby Price, Irene Ronalds, Jen Chapman, Jen Plummer, Joanne Reid, Jody Barber, Kaia Andal, Kaitlyn Bailey, Karen Miller, Kevin Kriesse, Kira Hoffman, Liz Holdyk, Malcolm Johnson, Mark Gillis, Natalie Newman, Nellie Dow, Peter Krause, Ryan Chapman, Sheena Miller, Sue Harrison, Sue Pearce, Teresa White, and Tenley Dahlie. THANK YOU!

## ***Report from the Nordic Skills Development Program Director***

### **OVERVIEW**

The Nordic Skills Development Program is a community sports organization that provides opportunities for all members of the Bulkley Valley Cross Country Ski Club and our communities to develop their skills in Nordic Skiing and Biathlon. In 2020-2021, program fees, fundraisers, and a grant from Gaming BC allowed us to hire a visiting Head Coach, Graeme Moore. In addition, we hired a program coordinator to contribute expertise and facilitate communications and program organization. The NSDP remains largely run by volunteers who provide coaching, program oversight, race support, and share in the many tasks of building and maintaining our ski facilities in order to keep the programs affordable.

Last year, our skills development programs included:

- Nordic Skiing
  - Skills Development Programs
    - Bunnies (ages 4-5)
    - Rabbits (ages 6-10)
    - Extended Rabbits (ages 7-10)
  - Athlete Development Programs
    - U12 (10-11)
    - U14 (ages 12-13)
    - U16 (ages 14-15)
    - U18 (ages 16-17)
  - Ski S’Kool Program (ages 5-13)
- Biathlon
  - Junior Biathlon
  - Senior Biathlon



## PROGRAM COORDINATION ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



## SKILL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

PROGRAM	LEAD
Nordic Skills Development Program	Sarah Sacharoff, Jen Chapman, Stephen Wickham
NSDP Coordinator	Denise Kelly
Athlete Development Program	Patrick Williston, Alan Baxter, Helene Fleury, Ryan Chapman
Biathlon Program	Peter Tweedie
Rabbit Program	Dawn Hansen
Ski S'Kool	Denise Kelly

## PROGRAM SUPPORT

<b>FUNCTION</b>	<b>LEAD</b>	<b>ROLE</b>
Ski Boosters	Paula Bartemucci Tamara Gillis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Provide support and services for families on behalf of the NSDP, including Biathlon</li><li>● Coordinate NSDP fundraising activities</li></ul>
Coach Training	Denise Kelly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Support coach training for all NSDP Programs</li></ul>
Sponsors hips/ Grants	Stephen Wickham Denise Kelly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Coordinate program grants for the NSDP, including Gaming Grant and Viasport, CCBC Grants, NWSDA, Nordiq Canada</li></ul>
Wax Team	Mark Gillis, Alan Baxter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Coordinate club wax and equipment purchases and wax support for race events</li></ul>

## OTHER COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE	PURPOSE	REPRESENTATION
<b>Coach Management Committee</b>	Oversee Head Coach contract, hiring and performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Sarah Sacharoff</li><li>● Ryan Chapman</li><li>● Patrick Williston</li></ul>
<b>Ethics and Discipline Committee</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Provide code of conduct for NSDP coaches and athletes.</li><li>● Resolve disputes using BVCCSC Dispute Resolution Policy.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Not convened for 2021</li></ul>
<b>NSDP 5 year Visioning Committee</b>	Met during the winter and spring of 2021 to address the needs of the program. Outcome was partially the hiring of head coach.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Sarah Sacharoff</li><li>● Ryan Chapman</li><li>● Patrick Williston</li><li>● Helene Fleury</li><li>● Ben Forsyth</li><li>● Alan Baxter</li><li>● Dawn Hanson</li><li>● Shannon Pearce</li></ul>

## HIGHLIGHTS - 2021

During the 20-21 season we did not have a head coach. In lieu of a head coach, we had our eager team of volunteer coaches and approximately monthly visits from Graeme Moore, former PG head coach.

We were unable to recruit a seasonal head coach for the 2020-21 season. Instead:

1. Graeme Moore, former Head coach of Caledonia Nordics, was hired as a visiting head coach. Graeme met with coaches and athletes on a monthly basis and advised coaches weekly on the training plans for the season; Matt Smider of Revelstoke provided training plans for the oldest cohort of racers.
2. Denise Kelly was hired as NSDP Coordinator and looked after many of the day to day communications and coordination needs of the program.
3. Volunteer Coaches also reached out to a number of local experts to help with training sessions: Denise Kelly and Antje Von Seidlitz were a wonderful addition to the coaching pool. Lisa Perry added technical expertise to 'coach the coaches'.

As in 2019-20, by securing a visiting Head Coach who could advise from Prince George, and hiring a coordinator to look after program delivery, the club found a good solution that continues to provide our athletes with excellent coaching, while we continued to search for a new Head Coach. Some of the season highlights include:

- Alan Baxter worked with Matt Smider, of Revelstoke, to provide training plans and coaching for the U18s.
- Patrick Williston led the charge for the U16s.
- Helene Fleury led the coaching of the U14s.
- Ryan Chapman led the U12s and Extendos coaching.
- Dawn Hansen coordinated the Jackrabbit program, including special events - super-hero days, Rabbit night ski, and fun wrap-up day, with help from some of the older racers.
- ADP coaches did an excellent job of pivoting from race focussed training to other covid friendly goals. The U18s did a 200 km ski, the U16s did a 24 hr relay ski, the U14s skied over 30 km, etc.
- Coaching Development continued with NCCP courses which included 8 athletes becoming accredited and a newly developed Women's Coaches Leadership Program.

The club has one athlete on the BC Nordic Ski Team and several athletes on talent and development squads. Adult biathletes include Callie Lancaster and Léa-Marie Bowes-Lyon.

Unfortunately, due to COVID, our snow camp and many of our traditional races were cancelled. Also, we decided to cap our Bunnies and Rabbits practice to a max of 50 athletes total for covid safety. Interactions between different training groups were discouraged and all athletes and coaches were encouraged to practice social distancing. The youth biathlon program was not offered because of lack of registration. The masters biathlete practiced independently.

In the winter and spring of 2021, leaders from throughout NSDP met as the NSDP 5 Year Visioning Committee at the request of Ben Forsyth, Club President. Concerns had been raised about the sustainability of the program in terms of expectations of volunteers and lack of resources. One of the outcomes of those meetings was the recognition that the hiring of a head coach was a priority for NSDP. After determining that financially, it was a possibility, Patrick Williston, Ryan Chapman and Sarah Sacharoff conducted interviews. Out of that process, the interview team recommended the hire of Andrew Brisbin as our new head coach. Lucky for us, Andrew accepted the position and has been with us since July.

**PROGRAM PARTICIPATION**

<b>Skill Development</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
Bunnies (4 - 5 years)	37	17
Rabbits (6 - 10 years)	37	17
<b>TOTAL Skill Development</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>Ski S'kool</b>		
Schools	5	6
Student Visits		1451
<b>Athlete Development</b>		
Extendos(U10)/U12	38	26
U14	16	13
U16	5	11
U18	5	3
Biathlon - Bantams (10 - 11)	0	0
Biathlon - Midgets (12 - 13)	0	0
Biathlon - Juvenile (14 - 15)	0	0
Biathlon - Junior (16 - 19)	0	0
Youth Biathlon	0	0
<b>TOTAL Athlete Development</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>53</b>

<b>Masters</b>		
Biathlon - Masters	3	3

## **Finances**

A significant portion of the funding for a paid club coach comes from the BC Gaming Grant, for which we are very thankful. The NSDP also raised funds through the pursuit of other grants and Ski Booster fundraising activities. The Ski Boosters raised funds through ticket booth and extra lodge cleaning.

The NSDP surplus this year will be used to increase our reserve.

The outgoing U18 athletes held a fundraiser through their 200 km ski and raised money to purchase a vending machine for the lodge. The machine will be maintained by NSDP and profits will go to the NSDP program.

## **Volunteers**

It is safe to say, our program does not exist without the generous commitment from our volunteers.

A big thank-you to our ADP and Rabbits coaches and Ski Booster for this year, without whom there would be no ski program.

Thank-you to Alan Baxter(U18); Patrick Williston, Antje Von Seidlitz, Josh Wimbush and Mel Dumont (U16); Helene Fleury, Stephen Wickham, Sandy MacLean (U14); Ryan Chapman, Jodi Preto, Adrienne Rosenberger, Andy Rosenberger, Eric Holdyk, Richard Alton, Kaia Andal, Heather Cosman and Seonaid Davis (Extendos).

Thank you to our Rabbits coaches - Dawn Hanson, Roger MacMillan, Erin Williams, Carey Ma, Heather Cosman, Tlell Glover, Kara Przewczek, Nils Erasmus, Sue Pearce, Lucia Gastiazoro and Vaughn Ellis.

Paula Bartemucci and Tamara Gillis of Ski Boosters kept us all organized.

## **Looking Forward – 2021**

We welcome new volunteers leading our different ski programs. Rabbits will be led by Sue Pearce. Paula Bartemucci and Tamara Gillis will look after Ski Boosters and Denise Kelly will coordinate the Ski S'kool program.

The biathlon program is working to build renewed interest in the sport amongst youth by offering a 6-week introductory program instead of the usual season-long program. A 6-week introductory program is also being offered for masters athletes.

We are very excited to announce that we have hired Andrew Brisbin as our new full-time full year head coach. He started in July of 2021. Andrew is providing leadership and support to our programs that we have been missing over the past two seasons.

Andrew comes to us from Saskatoon, Saskatchewan where he most recently worked as the Provincial Coach, and before that the High-Performance Coordinator. He grew up ski racing in Saskatoon, moved to Camrose Alberta for university and more skiing and then spent time racing out of Canmore before transitioning into coaching. Andrew has ski raced all over Canada from Newfoundland to the Yukon and even made it to Smithers in 2007 for Westerns!

Cross Country BC (CCBC) has granted us a \$12,000 Head Coach Grant for 2021 with potential renewal of \$10,000 in 2022 and \$8,000 in 2023.

The National Winter Sports Development Association (NWSDA), granted NSDP \$10,000 towards our head coach wages for 2021-22. They merited our club based on our proven ability to develop competitive skiers and coaches based on long term development planning.

With two paid employees under NSDP's wings, we have begun financial planning out 5 years into the future. Our aim is to provide stability for our program by finding a sustainable balance of fees, grants and fundraising. We are very fortunate to have a sizeable reserve which has allowed us more confidence through this transition. We have increased our athlete fees in order to fund our new expenses. Our fees are still low in comparison with other BC clubs that have full time head coaches.