



**FIELD HOCKEY  
CANADA**

## **2014 AGM Board of Directors Chair's Report**

The determination of Field Hockey Canada's Board and CEO to make the organization stronger and a more credible National Sport Federation has continued with a slow yet steady progress during 2014.

The Board would like to recognize Jeff Sauvé's dogged determination and leadership in advancing several key areas that have often proved elusive, including:

- the corporation's accounting and financial affairs, which are now handled by Redfern Accounting on a contractual 3<sup>rd</sup> party basis. This gives us the security of the day-by-day book-keeping required and oversight of a financial advisor to work with Jeff;
- enhanced communication with our members via our contract with Shaheed Devji, providing National Team member videos as well as Twitter and Facebook;
- human resource and staff positions, where cooperation with our National Team coaches and managers is so crucial;
- strengthened the working relationships with Sport Canada, OTP, CHIMP Foundation, COC, CAC, CIS and CWG committees;
- devised a platform for credible business development partnerships;
- closer partnerships and communication with international organizations, PAHF and FIH, as well as national organizations, USFH, Hockey Australia and UK Hockey to name a few;

Perhaps the greatest frustration at present is to obtain the necessary funding to complete the Coaching pathway started 2 years ago. Given the importance of this for all our PSO partners and the growth of field hockey, Jeff continues to work diligently with our CAC consultant to ensure conclusion of this critical pathway.

We welcomed Rhonda Lewis of Toronto, Ontario onto the Board in late August, 2013. A lawyer by trade, Rhonda brings a wealth of human resource knowledge to the table, as well as a long history of field hockey coaching at the club, regional and national level in Ontario.

The Board's greatest challenge over the last year has been with new Federal Not-for-Profit legislation which takes effect in October. Given the level of financial support that FHC receives from Sport Canada and OTP, it is crucial that FHC is seen to be compliant.



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Details of this matter are provided in the separate Governance report.

I must here express the Board's heartfelt thanks to Gord Plottel for the countless hours dedicated to ensure these Bylaws were not only compliant with the new legislation, but also servient to all FHC members. Thank you, Gord: this would not have been achieved without your selfless dedication and expert advice.

Our National Teams and athletes continue to challenge and improve on their international performance: participation in both men's and women's 2014 Junior World Cups, a silver medal in Men's and bronze medal in Women's Pan Am Cups, second place in Men's Champion Challenge 1 and better overall team tours. Both senior teams are currently taking part in Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, Scotland.

We must thank Sport Canada and Own-The-Podium for their continued support of field hockey in Canada: we would not be as successful without these partnerships.

We also thank those volunteers who ensure Canada's representation and visibility with international partner organizations: Mary Cicinelli, Derek Sandison, Eric Donegani, Scott Sandison, Ann Doggett, Madge Johnson and Sumesh Putra.

My sincere thanks to our Board members for their dedication and expertise in the various portfolios of high performance, coaching, finance and governance. We bid farewell to Robin Richardson, who leaves the Board after 4 years of very dedicated service to Field Hockey Canada. Robin also dedicated many years as a volunteer with community field hockey on Vancouver Island and was a key leader on the organizing committee for the 2008 Victoria Olympic Qualifier.

Thank you, Robin: your always well considered opinion and sage counsel will be missed.

Respectfully submitted,

Ian Baggott,  
Board Chair, FHC.



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