

2014/2015 Annual General Meeting Program Coordinator's Report

School Demo Program – We provide a one to two hour presentation about the adapted sport community in Manitoba and the Paralympics. MWSA then provides instruction on sport chair movement and the game of Wheelchair Basketball. In almost every case, the school rents the chairs after the presentation for a weeklong physical education course.

- ❖ Visited 17 schools within the Winnipeg, Interlake, Central, Eastman, & Westman Regions
- ❖ Presented in the following towns & cities outside Winnipeg: Brandon, Morden, Selkirk, Sanford, East St. Paul, Warren, Alexander, Headingley, Stonewall, & Lac Du Bonnet
- ❖ Exposure to over 3,700 students, 21 of which were Students with a physical disability

Bridging the Gap (BTG)

“Have a Go” at Health Sciences Rehab Hospital

- ❖ 7 – 1.5 – 2.0 hour sessions held
- ❖ 20 new and ongoing patients
- ❖ Exposure to different MWSA sports: wheelchair basketball, rugby & Tennis
- ❖ Began involvement with the Recreation Coordinator's “Dinner Night” Program to offer introduction to MWSA Athletes in a casual environment.
- ❖ HSC Rehab Recreation Coordinator Staff resigned in Early 2015 and has yet to be replaced. Leaving MWSA with no access to the Rehab Hospital Patients to offer any awareness or programming.

Other events

Exposure, “Have a Go” Events & “Changing Minds, Changing Lives”

- ❖ “CMCL Interlake Recreation Coordinators – Joined CMCL presenters for presentation given to 20 – 25 Recreation Coordinators from the Interlake Region.
- ❖ CMCL University of Manitoba Faculty of Physiotherapy - Joined CMCL presenters for presentation given to over 60+ Masters Physiotherapy Students. We received a lot of interest from Students to volunteer at the Murderball Classic. One of the individuals has begun the certification for Wheelchair Rugby Classifier.
- ❖ Children's Museum “Have a Go” Day- MWSA spent a day with the Children's Museum Summer Camp providing wheelchair sport demonstrations & activities.

- ❖ Spence Neighborhood Association – MWSA partnered with the Spence Neighborhood Association throughout the summer to offer Wheelchair Basketball.
- ❖ Canadian Paraplegic Association – MWSA presented program opportunities and link to other Para Sports offered through organizations within the Sport Manitoba building.
- ❖ University of Brandon – MWSA presented and ran activities for people in Brandon with a Physical Disability. Programming for Kinesiology and Recreational Studies students were also held on the following day.
- ❖ Mini Paralympic Camp – The 2014 Summer camp was well attended and partnered with several organizations to facilitate introduction to Basketball, Rugby, Fencing, Dance, Sailing, Paddling, Tennis, Frisbee, Baseball, Sledge Hockey, Archery, & Volleyball. The camp also offered Fort Whyte Farms and Art City Activities.
- ❖ Semi Annual Presentation & Demo with University of Winnipeg Department of Kinesiology and Applied Health Students.

Junior Wheelchair Sports:

- ❖ This new program ran from October 2014 to May 2015. The program started with slow participation numbers and quickly picked up. By January of this year we had an average of 8 – 12 participants each month. It was a great environment for new and returning junior athletes. We had a variety of sports facilitate programming throughout the sessions, including Archery, Basketball, Rugby, Tennis, Badminton, Dance, Dodgeball, & Baseball.

Wheelchair Tennis:

- ❖ 5 Regular developmental players training year round.
- ❖ Junior Program was facilitated throughout the summer months
- ❖ Partnership with Tennis Manitoba is strong as Tennis now provides almost 100% of the program staff and financial resources. Tennis has committed to the long term development of junior & senior players.
- ❖ Former MWSA Athlete and staff member Sam Unrau is now working at the Tennis Manitoba Office and has become certified to coach tennis & wheelchair tennis.

Murderball Classic:

- ❖ Date changed this year from February to April – In the eyes of everyone involved it was better weather for attending and running the event. The April date allowed for us to host at the University of Winnipeg versus a local high school. The benefits of this was having central hotels to the event site. This saved time and money on the transportation costs and allowed for a great deal of flexibility for players attending the event. The University is also a far better venue for spectating and exposure to the tournament. It would be my recommendation that the tournament be hosted again in spring and at the University if possible.

Equipment & Logistics:

- ❖ An entire equipment inventory is currently being undertaken and will be complete by June 26, 2015.
- ❖ The basketball team equipment has been upgraded leading up to the Canada Games and has been very well managed over the past year.
- ❖ **School Equipment** - The general programming equipment (introductory chairs for new athletes or able bodied participants) is in need of a tune up and potentially some added inventory. These chairs are heavily used from September to June of every year in a multitude for programming. These chairs are lower quality than the developmental equipment used for team programs and is beginning to wear out. The motivation chairs purchased prior to my employment in 2012 have seats and straps that need to be replaced or sewn back to regular form. The chairs also have cheaper rims, spokes, bearings and casters than higher end sport wheelchairs and these all will require an evaluation.
- ❖ **The Van** - The MWSA Van is a great resource as it is very large and can hold up to 15 chairs, it is an essential piece for almost all of our programming. Without the van, all programming would be suspended until an alternative transportation method could be organized. This past year there have been several issues with the van and it has been costly to get it back on the road. Currently the van has been tuned up and several upgrades have been made to ensure it is highway safe and readily available. The downfall to the van is that it is unsuitable for transporting groups of athletes safely, it is large and very difficult to transfer into for anyone with a disability and is very costly due to fuel consumption. It would be my recommendation that MWSA begin to develop a contingency plan in the event the van is longer available.

- ❖ **Storage for the Van** - For the period of this past winter, MWSA had the pleasure of parking at a private condo in south river heights. This spot provided a safe parking place for our van and the equipment inside. It also provided a block heater plug-in and a snow clearing service that ensured the van would be available when needed. We are no longer at the condo spot and have recently reclaimed a spot at the StorageVille facility on Waverly Street. Problems with this facility are the lack of block heater plug-ins and the poor snow clearing service. On many occasions in the past staff has arrived to find the battery dead or the van plowed into a snow bank. It would be my recommendation that MWSA continue to research possible storage facilities. The ideal spot would be heated and/or covered storage to help prolong the life of any vehicle MWSA may own and the equipment inside.

- ❖ **Equipment Storage** – The MWSA is headed toward having a good problem with its equipment inventory and demand by participants/athletes. The school equipment as stated above is in use almost year round for recruiting & awareness programming. The Basketball & Rugby program have a healthy and growing number of participants that require equipment and storage. There has been a growing concern by the U of W that the storage room they provide to us (which is also a utility & electrical room) is becoming too cluttered with chairs & wheels. MWSA has worked well with the team programs to better organize the current inventory, but it has become too much. At the end both the Basketball and Rugby season this spring we were notified that a large part the equipment would be temporarily moved to a different storage area. This was due to work health and safety inspection that forced the U of W to re organize on our behalf. Going forward with new staff at U of W, this will not be acceptable and the two programs (Rugby & Basketball) will have to work together and be realistic about how much equipment is stored there. My recommendation is to have the athletes capable of taking equipment home do so and ensure that we are not carrying ANY equipment that is being underutilized. All under used equipment can be stored at the large storage cage MWSA has at the Sport Manitoba building. My fear is that MWSA loses this space, making regular equipment logistics very complicated, especially in the winter.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ryan Van Berkel
Program Coordinator/BTG Coordinator