

Management Report Southern Stampede 2007 Season

After two very successful seasons, Southern Stampede had a season that was probably best forgotten. A number of changes took place for 07, the NZIHL in its wisdom decided that they would introduce a number of changes; the first was an earlier start to the season with a mini round format. That saw us playing a round in Dunedin against Canterbury Red Devils as a double header, followed by another double header in Christchurch against CRD. It was only then that we started the full competitive season. The result of this was that we played CRD a disproportionate number of times as compared to the two Auckland teams. Likewise the two Auckland teams had the same situation. Despite our pleas to the powers that be that this was destined to create a North V South final and did nothing to ensure the top two teams were in the final, this fell on deaf ears. The other disruption for the season was the earlier start. With Southern Stampede containing so many Ice Blacks, (3 imports over previous year) and the success that the Ice Blacks had enjoyed at IIHF Worlds everyone was picking Stampede to be the stand out team for the season. That proved not to be the case with the guys really showing that they needed a break from Hockey. They had been at it since the start of the previous season starting Ice Blacks training not long after the NZIHL season had finished. Effectively they had less than a month break from Worlds until the 07 season started.

The season showed some unusual turns and twists, the early rounds against Canterbury were shared a loss (major) and a win (major), there appeared no real rhyme nor reason to the game results. We had always believed that CRD were the sleeping giant and that proved to be the case. They had a very polished unit, had trained hard, had effective management and were on top of their game. Their combinations were smooth and effectively in the first game we were made to look very amateurish. The second game was a complete reverse. This same situation applied in Christchurch with a big lose followed by a big win.

This season has been one of blame and as Manager I must take responsibility for this blame approach. I blamed the changes to the format, I blamed the referees, I blamed the coaching commitment, it wasn't until towards the end of the season that I really started to look at the whole situation. To be successful, to be a winning team you have to ride above the distractions. Yes the revised schedule didn't help, yes the travel times weren't the best, nor the method of travel, yes the referees weren't really up to the level of play and yes the coaching staff were reluctantly completing another year under a degree of duress. You know what you have overcome that, you have to rise to the top and go forward. As a team we didn't do that this year. Hopefully we have learnt a lesson and can progress forward for 2008.

From Southern Stampede's perspective I welcome a second Southern Team into the NZIHL. It will make things a lot easier from practice viewpoint, 3 hours one way is just a little too much with the result that you then question people's commitment. I know there will be discussion this weekend about name etc for the new team, I would support the inclusion of the name Dunedin within the framework, I believe that this will give an ownership and fan base factor that will be needed to raise the profile. Provided everyone (particularly the Dunedin club) recognizes that it is a SOUTHERN team that is all that counts. Likewise we have to reinforce to people in the Queenstown club that it is Southern Stampede, not Queenstown.

Certain people need to be thanked for their untiring efforts this season, the players for without them we wouldn't have a sport. I know that at times I have bagged you guys this year, all I can say is that I am sorry, I just got frustrated watching our see saw season and with the calibre of players / individuals that we have we sold ourselves short. Robyn as my Assistant Manager you just make everything happen, you are there to pickup the pieces, its just no fuss get it done. Daryl you took on the role of co-ordinator for the year, hopefully amongst the politics of the beast you also enjoyed some good hockey. It was great to have you there and I believe helps to show this is Southern not Queenstown. Chris Julian our Chiropractor a huge thanks for keeping the guys on the ice, thankyou. Dave and Steve, I realise that Dave you really didn't want to do the job this year and Steve you also had a busy year and were away for a period, I realise it wasn't easy for you two but thankyou for your commitment. The Queenstown club also deserves a big thanks for putting on the show, it is a great spectacle but it does take a lot to arrange / organize, well done.

Looking forward we have already secured a commitment from Jeff Bonazzo to coach Southern Stampede, Queenstown club have also secured his services for the club and are including a funding proposal to cover cost for Stampede as well. Once again the draw and game make up have been tampered with, we are going to accept these challenges and move forward.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charlie". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long, sweeping tail that extends to the right.

Financial Report Southern Stampede 2007

Starting Balance 1/10/2006	\$ 43-20
Money received	\$23,346.66
Sub total	\$23,389.86
Money out	\$23,354-29
Closing Balance 5/10/07	\$ 35.57

Breakdown:

Money In

Players contributions	\$11,249.00
Raffles	\$ 984.48
Interest	\$ 6.23
Sponsorship	\$11,106.95
(Made up of)	
Mortgage Link	\$2,500.00
Austin Bragg	\$ 200.00
Players / Mortgage Link Function	\$3,457.16
Queenstown Ice Hockey Club	\$4,949.79
Total	\$23,346.66

Money Out

Ice Time	\$ 7,054-70
Embroidery	\$ 418.62
Sundry	\$ 370.35
Team Event (Paintball)	\$ 595.00
NZIHL fees	\$ 4,600.00
Accomodation, Meals, Travel	\$10,315.62
Total	\$23,354.29

Charlie Hill 26/11/07