

INTERMEDIATE LEAGUE * RED WINGS

Interviewed: April 27, 1976

Tape 67, ³⁺ 2⁴

GENERAL MANAGER: Mr. Jim Diamond,
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Darlene Clyne - Researcher

- Got started in 1960 when he got involved with Richmond Red Wings.
- Used to play out at Delta at the old hanger at the airport.
- There were four teams involved...Richmond, Ladner, Chilliwack and the Fishermen.
- We drew more fans to those games then than we do now...there was much more interest.
- We played in Delta for five years then Richmond got a arena.
- The ages of the players were from 23 - 30, there were even men in their 40's.
- Scotty MacPherson used to play goal.
- That was the Delta Hockey League.
- When we moved to Richmond in 1965 we changed the name to the Richmond Minor Hockey League.
- The first year (1965) we operated with the same four leagues.
- I became president of the hockey league then.
- Another Richmond team came into the league called the Hornets.
- We then went back to Ladner and played at both arenas for a couple of years (1965-66).
- We operated like that real successfully.
- Then U.B.C. came into the league.
- They were a real strong team.
- We got beat 13 - 1 when we started but by the end of the season the Hornets won it that year, they beat U.B.C. out.
- Then it gradually got more competitions.
- The Fraser Arms came in and took over the Hornets.
- Then we started playing in the Provincial Championships.
- Fraser Arms lost to Prince George so we never got out of B. C. that year.
- Talks about the Portland Buckaroos.
- The main reason we started the Intermediate League was that the junior hockey was coming in and when he couldn't make pro he didn't have any-

where to go and he still was good enough and wanted to play hockey, they had somewhere to go.

- Ice time was hard to get even then.
- There were a lot of fellows that wanted to play hockey then but they were older.
- Financially it was awful when we started.
- The ice time was only \$14 @ hour then and the players used to throw in \$2.00 each to play.
- It was a \$1.00 for practise time which was 11 p.m. Sunday and \$2.00 per game.
- It is a little different now because some of the teams are sponsored.
- In those days you could operate on \$1,000.00 a year.
- Now it takes \$6,000.00 a year to operate and that is just for ice time and equipment.
- When we started we bought a bunch of old equipment from the Seattle Totems.
- The team colours were red with the wing on the back, the same as the Detroit Red Wings.
- Back in 1965-70 came play off time, we used to get from 1100 - 1200 fans
- Now we're lucky if we get 600 fans out.
- Explains how the W.H.L. and N.H.L. Hockey Clubs affected the drop off in crowds.
- The season is from October to March.
- Back then we played, roughly, thirty games in the season, once a week every Wednesday.
- Back then we used to have double headers, each club played two hours, we had four hours of ice time.
- But ice rates have sure changed...it used to be \$14.00 for game time and \$9.00 for practise time, but now it's a straight \$40.00 an hour.
- If you practise for 1½ hours, it's \$50.00.
- Doug Stevenson was the person that actually started this league financially...he bought the equipment and he played from 1960 to 1969.
- The club supplied sweaters, pants, socks and goal tenders' equipment.
- Jack Nickey who played a few games with the Canucks started here.
- But we have never made the real pro's.
- Mentions some of the outstanding players of the League.
- It's tough today to get good coaches.