

# HeyBlue! On-Line

British Columbia Baseball Umpire's Association



Bob Harkness umpiring at the BC Summer Games 2008 in Kelowna

## Calendar of Events:

November 13-16	Baseball Canada AGM – Toronto Ontario
November 22	BC Minor Baseball AGM and Awards Banquet – Vancouver BC
November 29-30	BCBUA Instructor's clinic (by invitation) – Surrey BC
January 24	BCBUA Board of Directors Meeting – New Westminster BC
February 14-15	Superclinic – Surrey BC
March 20-22	Level 4-5 umpire clinic (tentative)

November 2008

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## WELCOME TO THE FIRST EDITION OF HEYBLUE! ON-LINE

The BCBUA is proud to release this first issue of our online newsletter. It is so new that we don't even have a name for it as yet! More on that a little later.

The purpose of the newsletter is to keep our membership better informed of what is going on in your association. HeyBlue! in print form will still be available three times per year, but the online newsletter will be published more regularly and available on the BCBUA website. HeyBlue in print is currently undergoing a major re-evaluation with the goal to reprint it in a similar format but with more flash.

Look forward to reading interviews with BCBUA personalities, announcements about upcoming events, information about clinics, tips and trivia, and a host of other information that will make HeyBlue! Online an excellent read.

We want your feedback! Send an email to the editors of this publication. Brian Cargnelli or Steve Boutang will be happy to answer your questions. If you have a suggestion for the name of the newsletter, let's have it! Enjoy the first edition of HeyBlue! Online.

## SUPERCLINIC RETURNS!...

Education Chairman Steve Boutang has confirmed that the popular Superclinic will again return in 2009! Surrey Christian Academy will play host to the BCBUA for a weekend of education and camaraderie with our provinces most notable umpires and instructors. The usual top-notch instruction combined with the popular Saturday night social will make for a weekend you won't want to miss.

This year, the BCBUA is pleased to welcome back the internationally acclaimed supervisor and teacher Dick Runchey who will serve as our Guest Instructor. Dick was at our 2007 Superclinic and by all accounts he was recognized as our most popular instructor ever. Dick will bring us a lot of new information in his presentation for those of you who attended last time so there will certainly be a good reason to see him again. And for those of you who missed his last presentation, Dick is someone who you will definitely want to plan to see.

Watch for more details and registration information on the BCBUA website.

## BCBUA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING NOTES

**New Board of Directors...**The BCBUA Annual General Meeting took place on November 2 in New Westminster BC. Approximately 40 people attended the 3 hour meeting which saw a number of changes on the Board of Directors.

Of the offices up for election, Steve Boutang of Cranbrook was returned for his 4<sup>th</sup> term as Vice President. Steve has served as Vice President for 6 of the past 7 years, and was an Area Rep in 2007.

George Smith of Richmond was elected to his first term as Secretary. Jerry Tregaskis elected not to run for a board position.

Penticton's Lorne Raymond was elected to the post of Treasurer. Lorne was a long time board member serving in the late 90's and into the new millennium as Vice President and Area Rep for Okanagan South. Raymond is finishing the remaining year of the term of Treasurer which was vacated when Troy Carmont resigned last month.

Ed Berkenstock was acclaimed to the position of Area Rep for Vancouver Island North. Don Hass was elected as Area Rep for Lower Mainland West. He fills the vacancy created with the departure of Chuck Bertrand. Trail's Bill MacMillan was also acclaimed to the position of Area Rep for the Kootenays.

The position of Area Rep for Thompson Okanagan was left vacant when Brian Cargnelli elected not to run for that position. Nobody else indicated any interest in running for

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## DID YOU KNOW???

Did you know that there are 68 full time permanent MLB umpires. Ed Montague and Gerry Crawford are tied in seniority. Both umpires started their careers in the big leagues in 1976. Bruce Froemming, who retired after his 37<sup>th</sup> season of service in 2007, holds the longevity record amongst MLB umpires. That is exactly 1 season longer than Bill Klem who umpired from 1905-1941.



Chuck Abney of Kelowna

(AGM Highlights continued from page 1)

this post.

**Awards Presented...** The following individuals were named recipients of the various awards as presented by the BCBUA.

- Howard Chapman Sr Umpire of the Year – Robert Allan
- Ian Lamplugh Award – Kris Hartley
- Bill Murphy Award for the Most Improved Umpire – Lisa-Ann Brown (Rooke)
- Chuck Blaikie Award for Outstanding Contribution to the BCBUA – Brian Cargnelli
- George Connelly Builders Award – Chuck Bertrand
- Doug Hudlin Distinguished Service Award – Chet Masse
- Special Recognition Award – Steve Boutang (World University Baseball Championships – Czech Republic)

**Level 3 Dues Change.....** A new fee structure was approved at the Annual General Meeting. Level 1 dues and Inactive membership dues will remain at \$25 per year and Level 2 dues will remain \$50 per year. Level 3

dues were reduced from \$65 to \$50 per year.

**New Level 3 Evaluation Structure...** BCBUA Provincial Supervisor Richard Christie, along with Level 3 Chairman Bill MacMillan, presented a proposal during the AGM weekend that was accepted and will come into effect on January 1, 2009. In essence, each individual wishing to obtain an evaluation from a certified BCBUA evaluator, either for promotion to level 3, maintenance of level 3, or strictly for educational purposes will pay \$50 for this service. This is in line with most of the other provinces in the country.

In short, a member wishing to obtain an evaluation will forward their request and a \$50 cheque to the level 3 chairman by a certain deadline. The chairman will **guarantee** an evaluation some time during the baseball season in return. The requirements for completing an evaluation once every three years have not changed. So if a member wishes to remain as a level 3, they must pay for an evaluation once during this time period. This policy goes into effect in time for next season, so those people who recently got a level 3 evaluation will not have to pay for at least a year or 2.

**Provincial Travel Fund...**The board approved an annual fund of \$2000 which will be used to assist travel expenses for umpires in rural areas to attend Provincial Championships. Ask your Area Rep for more details. The fund may or may not be used in its entirety each season.

## Extra Innings – with President John Berry

Extra Innings will feature a prominent member of the baseball community each month. It may be someone from BCBUA or it could be someone else from the baseball world. This is intended to be a fun feature so don't be surprised if the answers fool you!

PERSONAL : Age: **59**

Job: **Civil Servant – Regional Director, British Columbia, Agriculture Agrifood Canada**

Home: **Burnaby, BC**

Top of 1 – How many years have you been involved in baseball? **23**

Top of 2 – What has been your greatest accomplishment thus far? **More kids started playing ball when I was involved at the local organization level.**

Bottom of 3 – If you could spend an hour with anyone in history, who would it be? **My grandfather, although he is not really a famous person in history.**

Bottom of 4 – You've travelled quite a bit in your life. What was your favourite vacation city? **Actually my favourite cities are the places I've lived. Victoria and Vancouver.**

Top of 5 – What is your favourite baseball team? **I'd have to say the Cubs.**

Top of 6 – Favourite Movie? **The movie 'Z' starring Yves Montand (1969).**

7<sup>th</sup> Inning Stretch – Beer, wine, coffee, or soda? **Wine.**

Bottom of 8 – Favourite ball park food? **No question... Beer.**

Bottom of 9 – If you had to watch a baseball game in BC, where would you want to watch it? **The Nat.**

Extra Innings....

Top of 10 – Besides solving the world's economical crisis, what do you hope to accomplish in your remaining years in baseball? **Lots. Better participation. That's a combination of more kids playing and better quality of athlete and officials development.**

Bottom of 11 – How much longer do you see yourself as President of the BCBUA? **That's a loaded question... I would say shorter term. I'll explain. A sign of success is when more people are ready for leadership positions. That's where I'm at with that.**



Darcy Rysz sweeps the plate at BC Summer Games in Kelowna

## **STUMP THE UMP...**

The weather is bad and the field is unplayable, but the umpires decide to continue playing anyway. Very bright by the way...The game goes into the top of the 6<sup>th</sup> inning with the home team leading 2-1. In the top of the 6<sup>th</sup>, the visitors score 1 run to tie the game. After the visitors at-bat concludes, the umpires decide that the field is no longer playable. What is the outcome? Is it a suspended game? Is the game complete? What is the score if the game is complete?

## **Caravan postponed.....**

BCBUA Supervisor Richard Christie has announced that the Baseball Canada Caravan slated for January 31-February 1 in Edmonton has been postponed. BCBUA had intended to send 6 student instructors to Edmonton with the hopes that they would secure a standing as supervisors/instructors within the Baseball Canada framework. However, due to logistical issues, the Caravan was postponed until fall of 2009. It is possible that BC will host the Caravan in Fall 2009. However, if Alberta fulfills its commitments to host then BC will host the Caravan again in January 2011 as planned.