



Hey Blue!

The Voice of BC Umpires



FALL 2007

BC Baseball Umpires Association
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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- John Berry

It's been another eventful year in umpiring in BC. It is a great time to celebrate our successes, and build on our experience as we plan for an even better 2008.

You'll read a lot of good content in this issue of Hey Blue. And that includes some changes to Hey Blue itself – even though we already have one of the best communications vehicles in our sport.

There's a note from Steve Boutang regarding Don Hass, (thanks, Steve!). We are enormously proud of all that Don has accomplished as one of the top international umpires in Canada, and as a member of our community. We hope his recovery progresses as fully and as quickly as it can. I'd also like to recognize a number of our members who've provided any support they can to Don and his family.

We've started on another change this year -- Howard Chapman gave us lots of lead time, and let us know that he would be stepping down as Provincial Supervisor of Umpires in 2008. This Association and Baseball BC together went through a selection process to find a successor, and I'm very pleased to report that Richard Christie will be the new Supervisor. He became Assistant Supervisor earlier this year, and is working with Howard on the transition process. And Howard will remain involved! We are working on plans to keep Howard engaged in umpire development, doing the mentoring and evaluating, especially of young umpires, that is his special talent.

Our involvement with the national program is much improved. We've aligned our three-man positioning with the national standard. We hosted a successful Caravan this year, and we now have more, better-qualified instructors at all levels. We had seven umpires pass the level four exam, and join the roster of umpires eligible to do nationals in 2008. In 2007, we had eight umpires selected for nationals in Quebec City, and an assistant supervisor.

Our many educational activities achieved good results in 2007, with SuperClinic, an advanced clinic and our level 1 and 2 clinics all operating. Members had many opportunities to work baseball at different levels, and tournaments including provincials. Umpire availability for provincials is sometimes a challenge, and especially so this year when all of the higher-level provincials were held on the August long weekend. Many thanks to the umpires who worked!

Finally, a big thank you to Troy Carmont, who became our Treasurer mid-year upon Richard's appointment as Assistant Supervisor. And to Arne Pederson, who stepped in as Area Representative for Area 5, Lower Mainland South.

I hope to see many of you at our AGM!

Notice of Annual General Meeting

November 17, 2007

Douglas College

700 Royal Avenue, New Westminster

Time: 12:00 Noon in Room 2201

There are many important matters to be discussed and decided at this meeting which are critical to the future of your Association. Additionally, half of your Executive is up for election at this meeting, so it is critical that your voice be heard. We encourage all members to attend and take part in deciding the future course of your Association!

Please make your best efforts to attend.

BC Baseball Umpires Board of Directors

TABLE OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

John Berry
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e-mail: theberrys@shaw.ca

VICE-PRESIDENT

Danny Huzar
Tel:(604)469-9860 Fax:(604)469-1919
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SECRETARY

Jerry Tregaskis
Tel: (604)594-6911 Fax: (604)594-6991
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TREASURER

Troy Carmont
Tel:(604)574-7150 Fax:(604)635-3329
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PAST PRESIDENT

Chuck Blaikie
Tel:(250)479-8670 Fax: None
e-mail: jcblaikie@shaw.ca

PROVINCIAL SUPERVISOR

Howard Chapman
Tel:(604)205-0044
e-mail: None

Assistant:

Richard Christie
Tel:(604)535-9835 Fax:(604)535-9853
e-mail: chrstrl@telus.net

ELECTIONS AT THE AGM

The following positions are up for election at the AGM:

- President
- Treasurer
- Area Directors for the following areas:
 - Vancouver Island South
 - Lower Mainland -East
 - Lower Mainland -South
 - South Okanagan
 - Northern BC

AREA DIRECTORS

Eric Rasmussen
Tel:(250)592-7297 Fax: None
e-mail: ericrasmussen@telus.net

Ed Berkenstock
Tel:(250)338-0519 Fax:(250)334-1535
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Eddy Lang
Tel:(604)936-2484
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Chuck Bertrand
Tel:(604-885-2987 Fax: None
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Arne Pederson
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email: tc@everythingfinancial.com

Brian Cargnelli
Tel: (250)378-6448 Fax: None
e-mail: bcargnel@telus.net

Vacant at present
Interested parties please contact the
Secretary

Steve Boutang
Tel: (250)426-2972 Fax: None
e-mail: sboutang@shaw.ca

Lance Brommeland
Tel: (250)563-2688 Fax: (250)561-9155
e-mail: lbrommeland@telus.net

AREA 1 - Vancouver Island South

Chet Masse
Tel:(250)474-3582 Fax:(250)474-3592
e-mail: cbmasse@island.net
Fabian Poulin
Tel:(250)751-8608 Fax:(250)751-0363
e-mail: fjpoulin@shaw.ca

AREA 2 - Vancouver Island North

Nick Moore
Tel:(250)338-4032 Fax: None
e-mail: goalie_3535@hotmail.com

AREA 3 - Lower Mainland East

Robert Allan
Tel:(604)630-5723 Fax: None
e-mail: rob.allan@canada.com

AREA 4 - Lower Mainland West

Don Hass
Tel:(604)241-1350 Fax: None
e-mail: thedonald@shaw.ca
Terry Owen
Tel: (604)980-4775 Fax: None
e-mail: teowen@shaw.ca

AREA 5 - Lower Mainland South

Lisa Brown-Rooke
Tel: (604)592-0909 Fax:
e-mail: lbrownrooke@telus.net
Arnie Coones
Tel: (604)535-5528 Fax: (604)535-5419
e-mail: arnieedwin@shaw.ca
Bobby Olszowiec
Tel: (604)946-5509 Fax: (604)946-2930
e-mail: bobbo@dccnet.com

AREA 6 - Thompson Okanagan

Chris Connelly
Tel: (250)376-7801 Fax: None
e-mail: conz_23@hotmail.com

AREA 7 - South Okanagan

Vacant at present

AREA 8 - The Kootenays

Bill MacMillan
Tel:(250)368-9892 Fax:(250)364-0567
e-mail: wpmac@shaw.ca

AREA 9 - Northern BC

Andre Jean
Tel:(250)798-2417 Fax:(250)798-2417
e-mail: a_jean@telus.net

SECRETARY'S REPORT

-Jerry Tregaskis

From the earliest days, your Association has prided itself on being a truly "Provincial" organization providing equal access to programs, materials and education to all areas of the Province. Unfortunately, by some, it is perceived as a Lower Mainland controlled organization. From my nearly 20 years on the Executive, I can assure all members this is not fact!

At August 31, 2007, we had 1,122 members distributed among the areas as follows:

	Area	Members	%	# votes on board
1.	Van Isle-South	221	19.6	2
2.	Van Isle-North	95	8.4	1
3.	LM - East	191	17.0	2
4.	LM - West	125	11.1	2
5.	LM - South	243	21.6	3
6.	Thompson OK	56	4.9	1
7.	South OK	105	9.3	1
8.	The Kootenays	45	4.0	1
9.	Northern BC	39	3.5	1
	TOTALS	1122	100%	14

VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT

-Danny Huzar

This was my first year serving as the Vice President of our organization and I note three areas of my responsibilities that are most worthy of a report.

Earlier in the year we hosted a Caravan for the first time since 1993. This is a Baseball Canada program designed to develop instructors. We have pledged to jointly participate in this program with Alberta every 2 years. We hosted in 2007 and Alberta will reciprocate in 2009. Eleven of our members were joined by 6 from Alberta to participate in this event. In addition 2 more of our members participated as part of the faculty. The attendees were:

Vancouver Island: Tim Strocel, Scott Eckhardt, Ed Berkenstock

Lower Mainland: Rob Allan, Troy Carmont, Don Hass, Don Violette

Okanagan: Chris Connelley

Northern BC: Lance Brommeland

Kootenays: Bill MacMillan, Steve Boutang

Brian Cargnelli from the Okanagan and Richard Christie from the Lower Mainland joined 4 instructors from out of province. This event took place over a 4 day period starting the evening of January 25 and ending the afternoon of January 28. An exceptional amount of information was presented and needed to be processed by all of the participants. Many felt overwhelmed despite the fact that they were apprised of the commitment. I do not think that they truly believed the involvement that was expected of them until they were in the thick of it. Regardless, most reported having learned a great deal and ultimately improving their abilities as instructors. I would like to offer my thanks to all of the participants who took time and effort to ultimately benefit our association.

Special congratulations go out to Rob Allan who achieved his Senior Course Conductor status despite the fact that this was his first time attending Caravan.

This has become a greater challenge than ever before. The curriculum is far more intense than in past years and as such the criteria for success is certainly more onerous. Rob joins Mark Bodwell, Don Hass, Kevin McDonald, Fred O'Rourke, Fabian Poulin, Perry Roussy, and Jerry Tregaskis who had achieved their Senior Course Conductor status in previous Caravans. Also, as a result of his performance as an instructor, Brian Cargnelli achieved his Master Course Conductor status and joins Richard Christie and Howard Chapman who had previously reached this plateau.

In addition to the obvious benefit of improving our instructional techniques, this program affords us more visibility in the Baseball Canada community and hopefully a greater participation for our members in prestigious National and International assignments. I hope that our association has both the will and resources to continue its participation in this program.

Another area that has improved somewhat, but not enough, is the filing of 'Ejection Reports.' This is still short of the mark. I get every single report that is filed with our organization, and I know that there are more ejections than reports. We had a serious situation with a coach who threatened the life of one of our umpires in earshot of several witnesses. The coach's defence was that he said it in the heat of the moment and did not mean it. I heard a lot of rhetoric about all of the times that this particular coach was ejected, however, we were not able to corroborate it because we did not have the reports on file. Demonstrating this individual's propensity for unacceptable behavior was not possible. As such, the severity of his discipline was likely less than what would have otherwise been meted out if we had the proper paper trail to present.

If you do not file a report with BCBUA,

the ejection is treated as though it did not happen, and one day it may come back to bite you in the lower region of your backside. Not filing the report is an abdication of your responsibility to yourself, to your fellow umpires and to the sport of baseball itself. We have tried to make it as easy as possible by having one form for all ejections posted on our website, however, if you have any suggestions to make it even easier please let me know.

Another one of my responsibilities as Vice President is to chair the Discipline Committee. This season we received complaints against 3 of our members. Two of the complaints were withdrawn. The third was very serious and was referred to a committee to be investigated. I was unable to chair this committee as I was away at the time. As such, Richard Christie was appointed to chair the committee and recruited Troy Carmont and Howard Chapman to sit on the committee with him. I would like to thank all three for stepping up to the plate. The in depth investigation yielded no corroboration of the complainant's accusation and as such the umpire was absolved of any wrong doing.

We will be holding our next Annual General Meeting on Sunday, November 18, 2007 in the Lower Mainland and the details are published elsewhere in this issue. Please make an effort to attend.

Update on Umpire Don Hass -from Steve Boutang

I am sure many of you have heard about the unfortunate health problems of our friend Don Hass of Richmond.

For those who have not, Don suffered a stroke on September 16 and is now undergoing extensive rehabilitation of the affected areas of his body.

Fortunately Don's stroke, while very serious, was not as debilitating as it could have been and we all hope that with the support of friends and family and the ongoing health care that he will be receiving that Don will be back to his normal self in the near future.

As you all know, Don is our province's top umpire having umpired in 3 World Youth Championships, and the World Cup a few years back. He is in consideration to represent Canada at the upcoming Olympics.

Don's wife Brenda has been providing us with updates regularly and thanks all of us who have been taking the time to visit or send notes of encouragement via email.

If you wish to contact Don, it is best to do so by email. thedonald@shaw.ca

I have been a close friend of Don for many years and so I know how much determination and courage he has. I have no doubt that he will be able to overcome these health issues and rejoin us on the field sometime soon. Get well soon Don. We are all thinking of you!

REPORT - AREA 1 Vancouver Island South

Well we had an exciting year in the South Island. In 2007 we had a total of 7 clinics in Victoria, Duncan, Ladysmith, and Nanaimo. Recent exciting news is that the Nanaimo area baseball program has switched affiliations from Babe Ruth to BC Minor. Over the recent years the Umpire community in Nanaimo has declined for a variety of reasons but hopefully this change will re-ignite some interest in the Mid-Island. Many thanks to Fabian Poulin who has remained a strong BCBUA voice in Nanaimo despite the years of challenges. If anyone has friends in the Nanaimo area that would like to get involved in umpiring, please have them contact Fabian or myself.

This summer Victoria hosted 2 Provincial tournaments, the Midget AAA and the Senior. This was quite a challenge to have these 2 particular tournaments in the same city on the same weekend. Many of the umpires were capable of doing both levels and both tournaments wanted to use as many locals as possible. With some hard work by the Provincials Committee, both tournaments got enough umpires to fill the rosters with a reasonable mix of locals and out of town guys. Both tournaments were a strong success in umpiring and all the umpires involved did a commendable job!

I would like to take this opportunity to publicly apologize to two of our members in my Area, Rick McBride and Neil Lundin. Rick and Neil requested field evaluations from me early in the baseball year. For a variety of reasons, and some of them personal, I was not able to fulfill their request. This is certainly not a common practice for me as I have endeavored to be a fully competent and diligent Area Representative. But this year some things got in the way of me doing all of my responsibilities for and for that I am sorry. I am pleased to say that the issues surrounding my neglectfulness have been resolved and should not restrict umpire growth for the upcoming season.

Next year we plan to have a Level 3 clinic somewhere on the Island. Please contact me if you are interested in attending so we can get an idea of how many umpires are interested. As this develops, a date and location will be posted on the website so keep checking to stay up to date.

Please think about attending the upcoming AGM at Douglas College November 18th. These meetings are where the business of the BCBUA is debated and formalized. If you want to see something changed or want your opinion to be heard, you have to come out and speak up!

I hope everyone has a wonderful upcoming Holiday Season and we'll see you at the Spring clinics!

Eric Rasmussen-Area Director

REPORT - AREA 2 Vancouver Island North

With 2007 rapping up, I hope all of you had a successful season. From my stand point it went well.

At the start of the year, it was nice to see Erik Erickson at the Super Clinic on the mainland. The extra effort to attend this valuable clinic proved to be beneficial to his game, all season long. Super Clinic will be held again this year in Vancouver.

There were five Level 1& 2 clinics held this year on the North Island. First timers for me were Port Alberni & Port McNeill. Also clinics were held again in Courtenay, Parksville and Campbell River. Thanks goes out to all who organized the clinics including Pat Cooper in Parksville, Lynette Walley in Campbell River, Jerry Swaney in Port Alberni, Hugh Connon in Port McNeill and Dave Miles in Courtenay.

We will be hosting a Level 3 Advanced Clinic on the Island in the spring of 2008. Location and date to be announced after Eric Rasmussen and I confirm the details. I'll be in touch in the new year.

Our numbers increased over last year but we are still needing more senior umpires in the Port Alberni, Parksville and Campbell River areas. I know this sounds like old news but it continues to be a problem so keep encouraging anyone who loves the game and that might be interested to come on out and give it a try.

Again the Parksville Royals held their annual tournament on the May 24th long weekend.

This year all the attending umpires were from Vancouver Island. Way to go, Island Guys!

A special thanks to Howard Chapman for making the trip over to do umpire evaluations all weekend long, with Chet Masse. It was a well organized tournament as usual with some good baseball.

Although the North Island did not host any provincial championships this year, Nanaimo did host the Junior Premier Provincials in which some of our area umpires were used. This level is a great stepping stone to gain experience before entering the Premier level. Next year I expect more of our umpires to make this step. Here is hoping that we see some provincials within the area next year.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you umpire schedulers (you know who you are) for your ongoing dedication. What would we do without you?

I had the opportunity to umpire with my son in the Bantam AAA Provincials in Rutland this year. It was a lot of fun and I would highly recommend spending time on the field together for all you Father/Mother and Son/Daughter teams out there.

The BCBUA Annual General Meeting will be held again at Douglas College in New West-

minster in November. I would love to see you all attend to hear who the Area 2 Pro Image Junior Umpire of the year will be. So plan ahead to join us.

As I wind this up, I would like to announce that Nick Moore has accepted the position of Assistant Area 2 Rep. I am looking forward to working with him next season. Thanks to Louis Gravel who stepped down because of other commitments.

Pack up your gear, but keep your rule book near.

Ed Berkenstock-Area Director

REPORT - AREA 3 Lower Mainland-East

No report received by press time

-Eddy Lang - Area Director

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN 2007-2008

-John Berry

The Following is a listing of the Committee Chairmen as appointed by the President. The Chairmen are responsible for appointing their own committee members as they see fit to get the job done. Committee members must be members in good standing with BCBUA. If you have an interest in serving on any of these committees, please contact the Chairman and express your interest.

- **Awards** - Steve Boutang
- **Bylaws Review** - Lance Brommeland
- **Caravan** - Danny Huzar
- **Contracts** - Danny Huzar
- **Discipline** - Danny Huzar
- **Education** - Steve Boutang
- **Ejection Review** -- Eric Rasmussen
- **Finance** - Richard Christie
- **Hey Blue** - Jerry Tregaskis
- **Level 3** - Bill MacMillan
- **Library** - Jerry Tregaskis
- **Membership** - Danny Huzar
- **Provincials** - Troy Carmont
- **Supervisors/Evaluators**
-Jerry Tregaskis
- **Supplies** -- Jerry Tregaskis
- **SuperClinic** - Steve Boutang
- **Technical Director**
-Richard Christie
- **Website** -- Brian Cargnelli
- **Women's Umpire Development**
-Lisa Browne-Rooke

REPORT - AREA 4 Lower Mainland-West

To start off this report, I'd like to take this opportunity to offer Don Hass and his family our sincere best wishes for a speedy recovery. Our thoughts are with him and his family as they go through this difficult phase toward healing. I am certain most of you have heard that Don suffered a stroke in early September 2007 and is now on the mend.

I've never had an opportunity to umpire with Don, but over the years I have always been impressed by his due diligence in his participation at the Super Clinics. This year, when I came on board as the Area 4 Rep, Don, along with Terry Owen, agreed to stay on as assistant reps. I take this opportunity to thank both these gentlemen for all their hard work and assistance in regard to facilitating and serving as course conductors at various clinics in our area.

I would be remiss not to add that Don basically took care of the enormous Richmond area and covered my tracks in many other locals.

In addition I would like to thank all the other instructors who came on board in assisting me with the various clinics. Living on the Sunshine Coast does not give me the opportunity to visit the majority of the area I am responsible for.

In truth, I do not have very much to add to this report, because all the members in my area worked very hard throughout the year and gave it their best efforts. As area rep, I received no complaints from any of the associations in regard to umpires.

For those of you who may be taking on the task of arranging for clinics next season, please contact me early in the new year. This past year we had to do some scrambling in regard to getting instructors for some last-minute clinics.

I would like to conclude by thanking Howard Chapman for his many years of dedication to the sport of baseball, and congratulate Richard Christie on becoming our new Provincial Supervisor.

-Chuck Bertrand - Area Director



REPORT - AREA 5 Lower Mainland-South

The season has finally ended! It was a very busy one for myself and our area. My season started early as I participated in the Baseball Canada Caravan in January of this year, four days of intense training and presentations.

The clinic season went well as most associations went to the multi-night program as opposed to the one long day clinic. Our total membership is 243 slightly lower than last year. We also held our first BCBUA clinic in Langley.

The Fall Classic went well as Langley was one of the three sights for the tournament. Thank you to Richard Christie for helping with evaluations and congratulations to Matt McMann, Brian Wainwright and Michael Hills for achieving their level three status. I encourage you all to take advantage of this tournament to get valuable experience and feedback.

Due to some changes at the executive level, I have been appointed to replace Richard Christie as treasurer until the AGM. Richard will be taking over in 2008 as our new Provincial Supervisor. I would like to welcome Arne Pederson as my successor as area representative, I know Arne will do a great job. I wish to thank Arnie Coones, Bobby O. and Lisa Brown for their help as my assistants over the last year.

I would encourage more of you to get involved in our Association and make plans to come to the AGM in November.

Troy Carmont-Former Area Director

ADDENDUM

As the new Director for Area 5, I am pleased to note that the three Assistant Area Reps - Lisa Brown, Bobby O., and Arnie Coones have agreed to continue their roles to help manage the activities of this region.

Although the season has just ended I would like to ask the UIC's to begin thinking about your training needs for 2008. In order to establish clinic dates and ensure instructor availability, early planning is necessary. We want to accommodate all requests so that we can have every umpire well-prepared prior to going on the field.

Danny Huzar has put together a template for planning clinics which will be a valuable tool to assist in the successful implementation of training.

I look forward to being the voice of Area 5 on the BCBUA Executive and will endeavor to work towards continued improvement of umpiring in BC.

Arne Pederson-Area Director

REPORT - AREA 6 -Thompson-Okanagan

Well this has been an interesting year indeed in the Thompson Okanagan zone. Salmon Arm and Kamloops once again hosted BCBUA clinics this past year and a total of 56 people in our area are now full members of this association. Big time Kudos goes to Dennis Stockford of Salmon Arm and Rob Kloster of Kamloops for organizing and hosting these clinics. Without these two guys doing some of the on-site preparation there is no way we could ever offer instruction in either of these cities. I would also like to welcome those new members in Chase who either travelled into Kamloops or to Salmon Arm to take part in one of these clinics. Great to see that type of commitment to your education of baseball officiating. And I would also like to recognize Rob Kloster, Chris Connelly, Matt Lowndes, Kris Hartley and Kelly Hunter of Kamloops who all travelled to New Westminster last February to attend the 2 day Superclinic that BCBUA hosts every year. This is an advanced level clinic that offers the students who attend a higher level of instruction than can be offered at a local level 1-2 clinic. If you want to take your officiating to another level next summer and you are at least a level 2, there is information on the BCBUA web site (www.bcbua.ca) that will explain this clinic in detail.

Another big achievement for our area this past year was that Chris Connelly attended the Baseball Canada National Caravan and achieved his Novice Instructor status. The Caravan is one of the most intensive workshops that Baseball Canada puts on and is designed to teach people how to instruct an umpire's clinic under the NUCCP. Chris was the youngest attendee by several years and as one of the instructors of this clinic, I can tell you he did our region proud. Well done Chris! BCBUA is in the process of planning on hosting another Caravan in the future and we will train more people from our region to be National Level instructors. We are also planning on hosting a Provincial Instructor Clinic early in the spring of 2008 and are looking for people who want to learn to instruct our Level 1-2 clinics. Yours truly will be one of the instructors and I am sure we will also utilize the newly learned skills of Chris and the other 10 people from this province who attended the Caravan in helping train the next group of instructors for the BCBUA.

As I mentioned above, several people from Kamloops attended the Superclinic this past February. Three of these people, Chris Connelly, Matt Lowndes and Kris Hartley wrote and passed their Level 4 Exam. These 3 then were field rated this past summer and all 3 achieved their full Level 4 standing. This is the first time that an interior town (Kamloops) can boast of having 3 Level 4 and one Level 5 official.

ELECTIONS AT THE AGM

The following positions are up for election at the AGM:

- President
- Treasurer
- Area Directors for the following areas:
 - Vancouver Island South
 - Lower Mainland -East
 - Lower Mainland -South
 - South Okanagan
 - Northern BC

Congratulations to all the umpires who were selected to work at a Championship Tournament.

To Umpire Championships or not to Umpire Championships; that is the question.
by Danny Huzar

"One of the really wrong theories about officiating is that a good official is one you never notice. The umpire who made that statement was probably a real poor official who tried to get his paycheck and hide behind his partners and stay out of trouble all his life. Control of the ballgame is the difference between umpires that show up for the players and the managers." - National League Umpire Bruce Froemming

Although I do not fully agree with the above statement made by Bruce Froemming, it does have a modicum of truth attached to it. Some umpires get to a comfort zone and are afraid to leave it.

The umpires on these 2 pages have been noticed. Their game is getting better all of the time. As their game improves, the assignments that are offered to them increase in stature. Officiating at a high level such as a Provincial, Western Canadian, National or International Championship, not only rewards officials but helps further their skill set. The feedback that umpires receive at these championships encompasses far more than you may expect to get at your local levels.

In the past few years the number of umpires that apply for these tournaments has dwindled. We have speculated as to what the reasons for this may be. I now think that one of the primary reasons is that like the umpire that Bruce Froemming was referring to in the quote above, some umpires are afraid to be noticed. They are afraid to put their egos into a vulnerable arena and potentially be crushed. If that is the reason that you have not applied for a high profile tournament, please reconsider immediately. The feedback that you will receive is constructive not destructive. It is intended to improve your game, to make you a better umpire and capable of doing higher level ball.

However, when you apply for a championship tournament, try to be realistic. It is unlikely that you will be assigned to a Senior tournament if you do not regularly work that level of ball in the regular season. However, if you are willing to work your way through the ranks, we have supervisors that will be delighted to assist you. These experiences will be highly rewarding in regard to your development as an umpire. We all may improve our games. No one has yet reached perfection, so sign up for next year and take the next step in your personal development.

NATIONAL TOURNAMENTS

Bantam Boys:	Chris Addison	VANCOUVER
Bantam Girls:	Lisa Brown-Rooke	DELTA
Junior:	Danny Huzar	PORT MOODY
	Fabian Poulin	NANAIMO
Assistant Supervisor:	Chet Masse	VICTORIA
Midget:	Jerry Tregaskis	DELTA
Peewee:	Bill MacMillan	TRAIL
Senior:	Brian Cargnelli	MERRITT

WESTERN CANADIAN TOURNAMENTS

Senior Western Canadian

Supervisor:	Howard Chapman	BURNABY
	Tom Brock	BURNABY
	Scott Eckardt	VICTORIA
	Louis Gravel	COURTENAY
	Matt Lowndes	KAMLOOPS
	Nick Moore	COURTENAY
	Dan Rogers	NANAIMO

Midget AAA Western Canadian

Supervisor:	Robert Allan	MAPLE RIDGE
	Rob Grey	WEST VANCOUVER
	Kris Hartley	KAMLOOPS
	Eddy Lang	PORT MOODY
	Jim Train	WHITE ROCK

Peewee AAA Western Canadian

Supervisor:	Jerry Tregaskis	DELTA
	Stephen Bailey	DELTA
	Lisa Brown-Rooke	DELTA
	Richard Christie	WHITE ROCK
	Michael Hills	SURREY
	Bobby Olszowiec	DELTA

PROVINCIAL TOURNAMENTS

Premier League

Supervisor: Troy Carmont	SURREY
Jeremy Bresler	VANCOUVER
Joe Bilyeu	PORT ORCHARD
Richard Christie	WHITE ROCK
Keith Hartup	LANGLEY
Bill Howieson	LANGLEY
Danny Huzar	PORT MOODY
Eddy Lang	PORT MOODY
Joe Winniford	PORT ORCHARD

Premier League - Junior Division

Supervisor: Fabian Poulin	NANAIMO
Ed Berkenstock	COURTENAY
Michael Eade	NANAIMO
Erik Eriksson	COURTENAY
Louis Gravel	COURTENAY
Nick Moore	COURTENAY
Dan Rogers	NANAIMO

Senior League

Supervisor: Howard Chapman	BURNABY
Robert Allan	MAPLE RIDGE
H. Mark Bodwell	SURREY
Louis Gravel	BURNABY
Bradley Gunnlaugson	VANCOUVER
Chet Masse	VICTORIA
Fabian Poulin	COURTENAY

Junior League

Supervisor: Brian Cargnelli	MERRITT
Chris Connelly	KAMLOOPS
Kris Hartley	KAMLOOPS
Matt Lowndes	KAMLOOPS

BC Minor Midget AAA

Supervisor: Bill Murphy	VICTORIA
Jordan Blackstock	VICTORIA
Neil Blackstock	VICTORIA
Rob Grey	WEST VANCOUVER
Andre Jean	KITIMAT
Evan Keenlyside	SIDNEY
Nick Moore	COURTENAY
Glenn Sebelius	LADYSMITH
Al Tulloch	BRENTWOOD BAY
Don Violette	COQUITLAM

BC Minor Midget AA

Supervisor: Ted Williams	PORT MOODY
William Keegan	SURREY
Bill Murray	MAPLE RIDGE
Ken Raison	SURREY
Bruce Steele	WHITE ROCK
Herb VanHorne	SURREY
Bryon Williscroft	BURNABY
Brad Woof	DELTA

BC Minor Bantam AAA

Supervisor: Jerry Tregaskis	DELTA
Adam Berkenstock	COURTENAY
Ed Berkenstock	COURTENAY
Leisha Blais	PENTICTON
Lisa Brown-Rooke	DELTA
Gerry Huggins	KELOWNA
Bobby Olszowiec	DELTA
Syd Kendrick	PEACHLAND
Ken Spence	KELOWNA
Patrick Yates	KELOWNA

BC Minor Pee wee AAA

Supervisor: Chuck Bertrand	SECHELT
Chris Bailey	DELTA
David Bailey	DELTA
Stephen Bailey	DELTA
Arnie Coones	WHITE ROCK
Michael Hills	SURREY
Matthew McMann	SURREY
Jim Train	WHITE ROCK
Brian Wainwright	SURREY

Babe Ruth - Cal Ripkin

Supervisor: Lance Brommeland	PRINCE GEORGE
Matt Blake	PRINCE GEORGE
Eric Honsel	PRINCE GEORGE
Rainer Lippmann	PRINCE GEORGE
Terry Shaw	PRINCE GEORGE
Jim Swanson	PRINCE GEORGE
Gerry VanCaesele	PRINCE GEORGE
Dan Zacharuk	PRINCE GEORGE

BC Baseball Fall Classic

Supervisor: Troy Carmont	SURREY
Supervisor: Howard Chapman	BURNABY
Supervisor: Chet Masse	VICTORIA
Ed Berkenstock	COURTENAY
Tom Brock	BURNABY
Lisa Brown-Rooke	DELTA
Scott Eckardt	VICTORIA
Erik Eriksson	COURTENAY
Louis Gravel	COURTENAY
Michael Hills	SURREY
Danny Huzar	PORT MOODY
Eddy Lang	PORT MOODY
Les Maerov	VANCOUVER
Matthew McMann	SURREY
Shawn Mills	LANGLEY
Arne Pederson	SURREY
Greg Teasdale	COQUITLAM
Jim Train	WHITE ROCK
Brian Wainwright	SURREY
Bryon Williscroft	BURNABY
Brad Woof	DELTA

Area 6- continued from page 5

As such when Kamloops hosted the Provincial Junior Championships, these 3 young men were the Gold Medal crew, with Matt Lowndes getting the honour of calling balls and strikes. As the Supervisor of Officials for this tournament, I was proud to see how these three young men handled a very tough game and the professionalism that each has shown afterwards. The officiating at this tournament was as good as what these teams could expect at any National Tournament and these three are a definite reason why. Well done people!

Brian Cargnelli-Area Director

**REPORT - AREA 8
-The Kootenays**

Well, another season has come and gone. And I'm pleased to say that I didn't burn the area down in my first year as Area Rep. I had sizeable shoes to fill when Bill MacMillan stepped aside last Christmas to allow me to continue on the board after I was not re-elected as Vice President. And while I thank Bill for doing so, I must also thank Bill for providing me with a tremendous base to work with here in the Kootenays. Bill has lived here for many many moons and I am just a transplant. Consequently, my work and the transition was made much easier because of Bill's willingness to assist me in the clinics and the administration of the area, particularly west of Creston. I hope that you all noticed minimal disruption in how you all communicate and get your information from the BCBUA.

This season we conducted clinics in Nelson, Trail, Cranbrook, and Invermere. We welcomed back Invermere this year after many years of not hosting clinics. I was privileged to go to Invermere and meet Greg Anderson and his gang who showed great hospitality. Many thanks to UIC Robert Gordon for his continued pressures on the local minor baseball group to fund an umpire's clinic. I hope we were able to live up to your expectations and I look forward to a return to your area this coming year.

Additionally I congratulate this area's own Bill MacMillan and Will Hunter of Castlegar who both attended Baseball Canada Championships in Quebec City.

I can also provide some information to you as a baseball fan. The popular Grand Forks International Baseball Tournament, which is typically held each week prior to Labour Day, will be returning in 2008 according to local officials. There was no tournament this year, which was a real hole in the Kootenay baseball schedule. As an umpire at this event I can tell you that it is the finest baseball this province has to offer and it will be welcomed back with open arms.

I continue to welcome suggestions and commentary from all umpires in this region. I am always pleased to discuss baseball, rules, or whatever. As an example, Don Daloise in Cranbrook is always asking me questions about rules. Either he doesn't know much, or else he is just interested in strange rules. (Just kidding Don).

Anyway, enjoy the winter folks because the AGM is just around the corner and next season is not that far away either.

Steve Boutang, Area Director

**REPORT - AREA 9
Northern BC**

Greetings from the soon to be white north! With the 2007 season complete, it's time for a bit of reflection.

Our area was fortunate to be able host 3 provincials this year. Gyro Park in PG played host to the Babe Ruth 60'. Congratulations to Matt Blake, Gerry VanCaesele, Jim Swanson & myself for our participation. Also, Citizen Field again in PG played host to Little League's Senior & Big League Provincials. In addition, Andre Jean worked the Midget AAA in Victoria.

A total of 3 clinics were held in the area. Level I's in both PG & Quesnel, and a level I/II PG. Many thanks again to Steve Boutang for coming all the way up to PG to instruct the level I/II. Also, I participated in Baseball Canada's "Caravan" this spring, a clinic for developing clinic instructors.

The "World Baseball Challenge" has been announced for July of 2009 at Citizen Field in PG. Check out the WBC website (www.world-baseball.ca) for more details.

Thanks to all for your assistance this season. See you in the spring!

Lance Brommeland, Area Director

SUPERCLINIC 2008

***Education
Chairman Steve
Boutang has
confirmed that
SuperClinic 2008
will be held in the
Lower Mainland.
While a date and
place have not
yet been selected,
watch our website
for confirmation
www.bcbua.ca***

***Last year's
SuperClinic was a
great success and
Steve promises
2008 will be a
good one!!***

**IMPORTANT
NOTICE RE:
HEY BLUE!**

We are somewhat sad to report that, for economic reasons, we are going to only print and mail a single edition of **Hey Blue!** each year. Commencing with the Fall 2008 edition, **Hey Blue!** will contain a brief summary of the years events, Details of award winners, announcement of the AGM and such other details as may be fitted into a single edition.

However the good news is that **Hey Blue!** will continue to be published electronically and posted on our website. Those wishing to receive a copy by e-mail will be able to do so.

We are considering the publication of a number of editions, and the frequency of publication will be decided shortly. These varied editions may include (but not be limited to):

- A General Edition targeted to all members
- A Training Edition- highlighting various subjects, new methods or mechanics.
- An Advanced edition with info and training targeted to Level 4 & 5 members.

Decisions on the above changes will be finalized at the BOD meeting to be held in conjunction with the AGM in November and details will be announced at the AGM and published on the website.

To receive any of these Future editions by e-mail, it will be necessary for you to "sign up" for them by following the instructions which will be posted on our website in the very near future

Please visit the website regularly as it will shortly become the primary source of info to all members



**Little League
Umpires Report**

No report received by press time.
Roger Shaw, PUC Little League BC

-Continued on page 7

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Education

-Steve Boutang, Chairman

As we reflect on the past season I would like to update you all on the advancements we have made in the area of Education in this province over the past year.

BCBUA has spent significant monies in the area of Education this year. And when I say that we 'spent' money I really mean that BCBUA lost potential revenues because we operated clinics at a loss or purposely without making money as we have in past years. Despite this being poor business, it made sense to us to provide a bigger bang for our collective dollars in the value we hopefully provided to up and coming umpires.

Beginning last January, BC hosted Caravan. This training seminar for our course conductors provided National certification for 10 of our members, including Sr course standing for Rob Allan. This means that Rob will be able to supervise at National tournaments and help train our up and coming course conductors. Brian Cargnelli was also awarded Master Course conductor status which allows him to not only supervise at National tournaments, but becomes one of the country's top trainers of course conductors and will lead the development of all course conductors in BC. Congratulations guys.

Superclinic was a huge success. The goal was to put on an Educationally sound learning experience regardless of cost. Superclinic was run with a 'break-even' goal, rather than being a money-maker for BCBUA. Judging by the positive commentary received, this was accomplished with great success. We hope to provide another value-for-dollar experience this coming February in Vancouver. Dates and locations are to be announced soon.

Level 3 umpires in the Interior were also provided with a higher education experience with an Advanced Level 3 clinic in Kelowna. 20 umpires took part. This clinic also ran at break-even.

Level 1 and 2 clinics were conducted in more remote areas than we have visited in past years and these clinics operated at a loss. Again, this is a valuable service being provided to our old and new members in these areas. More user friendly clinics were held, particularly in the Lower Mainland. The popular evening sessions were expanded this year to encompass most of the Vancouver clinics. We are hopeful that the retention level will improve as a result of the many short sessions as opposed to the single day long session. And we hope that we will get more members attending clinics as a result because there are many opportunities to attend rather than a single day. All of these clinics cost much more money to put on because we have to pay honorarias to several clinicians over several nights. This was a decision that was taken knowingly by your area reps and board members as we attempted to improve the quality of education in this province.

In the coming season we will continue to strive to improve the quality of education in this province. Financially we may have to adjust how we pay clinicians or make other adjustments in our organization as we ensure the continued viability of the BCBUA.

LEVEL 3 REPORT

-Bill MacMillan, Coordinator

2007 was a year of innovations in our attempts to deliver the Level 3 program to all of our members. We had mixed success but overall we finished with more Level 3 umpires in BC than we have had for several years and the potential to retain a higher number for next year.

We delivered two Advanced Clinics this year. The Super Clinic was held in New Westminster at Douglas College and an Advanced Clinic was held in Kelowna. The second one was a departure from the policy established a few years ago as a cost saving measure in that we would only hold a Super Clinic. We realized, however, that this policy was depriving some of our members of the opportunity to advance their skills by imposing a significant financial burden on them in the form of traveling costs. The Rutland, Kelowna and Penticton organizations stepped up to the plate by combining to defray a significant portion of the clinic costs and therefore make the Kelowna Advanced Clinic a success. Many thanks to them and as a result we are looking for ways to duplicate this effort somewhere on the Island in 2008. We had a combined attendance of 77 members and 10 instructors for these two clinics.

Our next efforts then were to increase the number of members that wrote the Level 3 exam and gave themselves the opportunity to advance. First, we reduced the cost of a Level 3 membership to \$65 from \$75. Next we introduced a third opportunity for our members to write and submit the Level 3 exam. Prior to 2007 (2008 exam year) we only had electronic or mail in exams but this year we allowed a time block at each of the Advanced Clinics for the exams. 31 members took this opportunity to write the 2008 Level 3 exam and 14 members wrote the 2008 Level 4 exam. Over all we had 55 Level 3 exams submitted for 2008 and only 5 of those did not pass.

At the Convention in 2006 we allocated \$100 for prizes as an incentive for members to get their exams in before May 20th so that the Provincials committee would have as complete a list of qualified umpires to assign as possible. Jerry Tregaskis provided the Ron Luciano trilogy from the BCBUA Library (we had extra copies of each) and we purchased The Illustrated Rules of Baseball by David Nemeck giving us four prizes. On the 21st of May I had my lovely wife draw four names from those that had already submitted their exams and we shipped of the books to the lucky winners. The winners were David Miles (The Umpire Strikes Back), Bobby O. (Strike Two), Jim Train (The Fall Of the Roman Umpire) and Norm Robinson (Illustrated Rules of Baseball). Congratulations to all the lucky winners.

The last and certainly most difficult of the facets of a Level 3 qualification to obtain is the Field Evaluation. Not because it is the

most difficult to perform but because it is the most difficult to arrange. The Area Rep. must coordinate both the umpires and the evaluators so that everyone is where they need to be at the same time. This is much easier in a tournament setting than a single game basis but not everyone can be assigned to the appropriate level of tournament. This leaves the onus on the umpire that requires their tri-annual (once each 3 years) evaluation to contact their Area Rep. to a) find out if they need one and b) arrange to have it done. The Area Reps are very busy and are not trained Baby Sitters so don't get complacent and assume that you don't need an evaluation. Find out!

We don't have all of the evaluations in from the Fall Classic and the various Provincial Tournaments yet but I can tell you that we had fewer than a dozen requests province wide for out of tournament evaluations this year. That is not enough, Be Proactive! Make it happen!

Let's end this on a positive note. In 2007 we had more qualified Level 3 umpires (44) than we have had in a good many years and our contingent of Level 4 & 5 umpires increased also. We are making progress. Good Luck and see you on the diamond next year.

LIBRARY

-Jerry Tregaskis, Chairman

The Fall 2006 issue of *Hey Blue!* contained a detailed listing of the materials available from our library. Since then we have added many new items and an updated listing can be found on the BCBUA website. We now have one of the most complete libraries of recreational and instructional libraries of books, VHS tapes and DVD's in North America and it is all available to our members at no cost, except for postage.

We encourage all members to take advantage of this valuable resource to further their interest and improve their skills in baseball officiating. Ordering is easy and can be done on-line from our website.

Don't be reluctant to use this resource!



Area Director-Ed Berkenstock presents award to Junior Umpire of the Year, Colin Wright of Parksville

NOTICE OF MOTION

The following is a motion which was endorsed by the Board of Directors last Fall but was not published in **Hey Blue!** in time to be ratified at the 2006 AGM. It will be presented for ratification at the upcoming 2007 AGM.

GUIDELINES FOR LIFE MEMBERSHIP

The following statements are the recommendations that are put forward as Guidelines for future nominations of Life Membership for umpires within the BCBUA.

1. That each person nominated for Life Membership have been a member of the BCBUA for a cumulative total of at least 10 years.
2. That each person nominated for Life Membership have made a significant contribution to his local area or association such as serving as an umpire in his area, or an Umpire in Chief/ Umpire Supervisor for his association.
3. That each person nominated for Life Membership have made a significant contribution to the BCBUA as a whole by either serving on the elected Board of Directors with distinction or by completing several special projects on behalf of the association.

The following statements are the recommendations that are put forward as the Process for selecting Life Members for umpires within the BCBUA.

1. The name of a prospective Life Member must be forwarded, in writing, to any member of the elected board. The nomination must be complete with the credentials of the individuals and the reasoning for the nomination of Life Membership.
2. Upon receipt of the name of a prospective Life Member, that person's name will be brought forward at the nearest meeting of the Board of Directors.
3. At this meeting, the President shall accept the name of the prospective Life Member and appoint the Chairman of a selection committee to review the credentials of the person named.
4. This Chairman may or may not be a member of the elected Board of Directors, but must be someone who is a long time and well-respected member of the umpire community. He must be a member of the BCBUA.
5. This Chairman must then name 2 members to the selection committee to deliberate the person's credentials.
6. The 3 person selection committee must be made up of at least 2 members of the elected Board of Directors.
7. At the following meeting of the Board of Directors, the Chairman of the selection committee will forward a recommendation to the elected Board of Directors to either accept or not accept the person for Life Membership.
8. The elected board will then vote on the recommendations of the selection committee with majority requirement to carry the recommendation.
All of which is respectfully submitted.

Chuck Blaikie/Steve Boutang

UMPIRE EDUCATION & INSURANCE

A good number of BCBUA members are also members of the National Association of Sports Officials (NASO), a group dedicated to the education, development and protection of Sports Officials in all sports. They publish **Referee Magazine**, part of the REI family of sports-oriented publications, which is read by more than 77,000 officials, coaches, administrators and the media every month. **Referee** is the only monthly publication devoted to sports officiating. Since its first issue in 1976, the magazine has expanded and developed into the industry's most respected source.

The magazine has a whole section on Baseball every month which includes instruction, quizzes and news for baseball umpires. They also publish a whole series of books of interest to sports officials.

NASO also has a very excellent insurance program for sports officials which make an economical and beneficial addition to the insurance currently provided with your membership to BCBUA.

They also provide a free internet service "MyReferee" launched in December 2006, which gives sports officials the chance to access content customized to their needs, courtesy of two officiating industry leaders — Referee magazine and TheArbiter.net. Along with relevant articles selected by sport, MyReferee includes a searchable database containing Referee magazine articles. Users of TheArbiter.net are able to access their schedules, calendars and all other Arbiter information within MyReferee. Log on to www.referee.com and take a look!

We have made arrangements for any interested member to receive a free-no obligation issue of **Referee Magazine**. We encourage all members who are interested to send in the application which will soon be on the website. In addition to a free issue of **Referee Magazine**, you will receive a free copy of "Smart Baseball Umpiring-How to get Better Every Game" which is yours to keep whether you subscribe to Referee or not.

It will really be worth your time!

Test Your Baseball knowledge

In each of the following, you are given a situation and at least two possible answers. You are to decide which answer or answers are correct based on Pro Rules. Answers on page 12.

1. Bottom of the ninth with the visiting team leading, 2-1. With R1 on third, the pitcher balks and immediately delivers to B1. B1 hits a homer over the fence. The umpire calls the balk and:

- a. The ball is dead, R3 scores, no pitch.
- b. The ball is dead, R3 scores, a ball is awarded B1.
- c. The ball remains live; the game is over and the home team wins, 3-2.

2. With runners on the corners, the pitcher balks but delivers immediately. The pitch hits B1.

- a. B1 remains at bat.
- b. B1 is awarded first.
- c. R1 remains at first.
- d. R1 is awarded second.
- e. R3 remains at third.
- f. R3 scores.

3. With the bases loaded and a 3-2 count on the batter, the pitcher balks but delivers immediately. The pitch is called ball four.

- a. B1 remains at bat.
- b. Each runner is awarded one base on the balk.
- c. The play stands.

4. With a runner at third, the right-handed pitcher assumes a windup stance. Before making any other movement, with his pivot foot on the rubber, he steps toward third with his non-pivot foot and throws there.

- a. Legal.
- b. Legal, but a feint would have been illegal.
- c. Illegal; call a balk.
- d. Illegal; call a ball.

5. With a runner on first, the pitcher takes a set position stance. F3 holds the runner on by standing with both feet completely in foul territory.

- a. Legal.
- b. The fielder must have at least one foot in fair territory.
- c. The fielder must have both feet in fair territory.
- d. It is a balk if a pitch is delivered.

6. With two out, no runners on base and a 3-2 count on the batter, the pitcher delivers from the set position and B1 swings and misses.

- a. Legal, the strikeout stands.
- b. Balk.
- c. Illegal pitch, ball four.



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