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Hey Blue! Online

BCBUA Anniversary Celebrations

To commemorate the 35th anniversary of the BCBUA, organizers are planning to hold a celebration on Saturday November 21 at 7:00pm as part of the Annual General Meeting weekend in Victoria. Long time members will be honoured, including the original members who are still alive and with us. Most of our Past Presidents will be in attendance for this special occasion as we celebrate 35 years as an association.

The celebration will be held at the Traveller's Inn City Center in Victoria at the Poolside Bar and Grille. The reception will include a variety of appetizers and snacks. A no-host bar will be available for those who wish to partake in an adult beverage. There is no cost to attend and all BCBUA members and spouses are welcome to be part of the festivities.

Some of the Annual Awards will be presented and information on a new awards category will be revealed.

If you have any old memorabilia of note, photographs in particular, we encourage you to loan them to us for a display that will be set up in the banquet room.

Contact Steve Boutang if you have anything you wish to include as part of our celebration.

AGM Information

This year's BCBUA Annual General Meeting will be held at the Comfort Hotel and Conference Center, Douglas Room, 3020 Blanshard St, in Victoria. The meeting starts at 12:00 noon.

On the docket will be the usual updates from all board members and department heads. It will be an opportunity for you all to hear about the year past, and the plans for next year.

Elections of officers will take place as well. The following positions are up for election this year:

President: John Berry has indicated he will be running again for a 4th term.

Treasurer: vacant as of AGM



Area 1 – Vancouver Island South (incumbent Eric Rasmussen)

Area 3 – Lower Mainland East (incumbent Rob Allan)

Area 5 – Lower Mainland South (incumbent Bobby Olaszowiec)

Area 7 – Okanagan South (incumbent Dennis Windsor)

Area 9 – Northern BC (incumbent Lance Brommeland)

position of Treasurer. While many competent people have served in this capacity without having any financial background whatsoever, it seems prudent for BCBUA to actively pursue someone who holds this experience level. The job is one which requires a certain degree of organizational ability, and obviously the ability to manage a ledger. If anyone is interested, or knows of somebody who would be good at this position, please contact Steve Boutang at sboutang@shaw.ca with your recommendations.

As noted, BCBUA is actively looking to recruit an individual with a financial background who may be interested in letting his/her name stand for the



Calendar of Events:

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| November 7-8 | Baseball Canada AGM |
| November 21 | BCBUA 35 th Anniversary Celebration – Victoria, BC |
| November 22 | BCBUA Annual General Meeting – Victoria, BC |

Tip of the Month

As the 2009 baseball season is now behind us, this is the perfect time to analyze the season in greater detail than the grind of the summer often allows us to.

During a 5, 6, or 7 month season when we grind out games every weekend and sometimes several times during the weekdays, we often go through slumps. Umpires are not prone to having a stretch of games when they 'didn't see the ball well' or make glaring errors on the bases. Umpires are like players in many ways. The best umpires, like players, are the ones who can minimize the length of these slumps and get back to the top of their game.

You should all be taking stock of the season past. What did I do well? What can I improve on? What goals should I have for next year? Write down the mistakes you made and record the things you improved on and did well at. Then analyze these things notes and come to conclusions.

As an example, if you felt you were good at calling balls and strikes, why was that?

Was it because of good set up and good positioning? If so, then record these things next to "Good Strike Zone". If you felt you could improve on your strike zone, list sound mechanical techniques

fore the play happens. Record the things you felt you got better at during the season.

All of these things should be written down at season's end. Review these lists before your first game. And when you are in a slump in mid-season, review these lists to see what you did to improve the previous seasons or remind yourself of why you were making mistakes the last time. It will be easier to get out of those prolonged slumps that cause umpires to break down during the summer.

If you have any questions you would like to ask, or topics you would like advice on, send the editors an email and we'll be pleased to pass along some educational tips for you.



that can be used to improve. If you felt like you made lots of mistakes on the bases, list the reasons why. Poor positioning? Quick Timing? Not following the ball into the glove? Reacting too slow? And list the ways to improve that... Better setup, see the ball into the glove, knowing where you're going be-



Stump the Ump Answer from August 2009 Issue # 4

As a reminder here is the question from Issue #4

With 2 outs and runners at 1st and 3rd, the pitcher delivers a quick pitch to the batter who has a 3-2 count. The plate umpire immediately calls a balk on the pitcher verbally, but does not signal the call since the pitch is on its way to the plate. The batter ignores the umpire's call and hits the ball into short center field.

The runner from 3rd breaks for home on the hit as there were 2 outs, but the runner at 1st hearing that the plate umpire had called a balk slowly makes his way to 2nd base.

The batter meanwhile has now realized that the plate umpire called a balk on the pitcher and has remained in his batter's box unaware that the runner from 3rd is coming home. The throw from the center fielder is also on its way to the plate at the same time. Needless to say the batter is run into by his teammate from 3rd just as the ball arrives from the center fielder. The Catcher catches the ball and tries to make

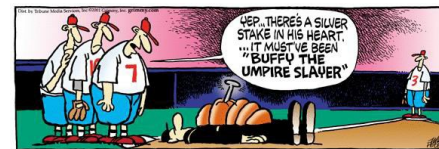
a play on the runner from 3rd who still had not touched the plate due to the collision with the batter. However, the batter is in the way of the catcher making a play on the runner.

The plate umpire seeing the mess at the plate calls time. What is the correct ruling on this play? Where should the umpire place the runners and the batter? What if anything should the umpire have done to avoid this situation in the first place.

The first thing to do in this situation is enforce the balk ruling. The batter is allowed to try and hit a pitch that is delivered to him on the balk call and if he and all other runners advance at least 1 base safely, the balk call is ignored. In this situation the batter stayed at the plate and thus did not advance one base. Call time as soon as it becomes obvious that the batter will not make it to 1st and enforce the balk. In Baseball Canada approved rulings there is a section that talks about

a balk call with subsequent play that is the basis for this ruling. So the runner from 3rd advances and scores, R1 goes to and on the balk and the Batter stays at the plate since on this play a quick pitch is considered a balk.

Some people may think that the plate umpire should have signaled the balk call right away and by doing so could have stopped all of the subsequent problems. Possibly, but the action is continuous and probably very fast so the plate umpire had to get ready for the pitch. He did the right thing in not calling time right away since the batter has a "free shot" at hitting the pitch. In this situation as soon as the umpires see that all runners including the Batter Runner are not advancing at least one base safely, call time and enforce the balk.



Fun Facts

October is the month of the World Series. Here are some interesting World Series facts.

1. The first World Series was a 9 game series played in 1903 between the Boston Pilgrims (American League) and the Pittsburgh Pirates (National League) won by the Pilgrims 5 games to 3.
2. Each member of the winning club pocketed the sum of \$1182. Today, the members of the winning club get about \$250,000
3. The Chicago Cubs have gone the longest without winning a Series....1908.
4. The New York Yankees have
5. won the most World Series 26
5. Reggie Jackson was known as Mr. October for his outstanding statistics in the World Series. He hit 10 homeruns in 27 World Series games and hit .357. He won 6 World Series titles.



Stump the Ump Answer November 2009 Issue 5

In the championship game of the Mudville Senior Men's Baseball League the score is tied in the bottom of the 9th inning with 2 out. The bases are loaded and the pitcher runs the count to 3-2 on the batter. On the next pitch the batter hits a long fly ball down the right field foul line that just clears the fence in right field for a home run. Since there were 2 out, all runners were running as soon as the pitch was delivered to the batter. The runner from 3rd easily crossed the plate before the fly ball is declared a fair ball and a home run.

Meanwhile, the batter not knowing if the ball was going to be a home run or a foul ball has not moved from the plate area, but instead has watched the ball clear the

fence in fair territory. Once the ball is declared a home run by the umpires, the batter realizes that he has just hit the championship winning home run and instead of running to 1st base turns to celebrate with the rest of his teammates.

As the celebration continues on the field, the entire defensive team leaves the playing field dejected and sits in their dugout watching the winning team celebrate. The defensive manager comes out to congratulate the winning manager and thanks the umpires who are now all huddled in a group around 1st base. As he is thanking them, he overhears one of the umpires saying that the batter did not touch first base. At this point the defensive manager asks for an appeal at 1st base. Since all of the defensive

team have now left the field and the celebrations for the winning team are well underway, the umpires say that an appeal is not allowed. The defensive manager immediately protests the game.

So here is the question, what should the protest committee do. Did the umpires ere in not allowing the appeal? Did they inadvertently make mistake by telling the defensive Manager that the Batter never touched 1st. Or should they have just walked off the field as soon as the home run was hit rather than get together to discuss the situation. What would you do?

As always, log onto the BCBUA web site and register you answer in the online forum page.

