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BRITISH COLUMBIA BASEBALL UMPIRE'S ASSOCIATION

Hey Blue! Newsletter

BCBUA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING NOTICE

The BCBUA Annual General meeting will take place on Sunday November 21, 2010 at 12:00 (noon) at : **Holiday Inn – Vancouver Airport, 10720 Cambie Road, Richmond, BC**

Elections will take place for the following Board of Directors Positions:

Vice President: **Steve Boutang** (incumbent)

Secretary: **George Smith** (incumbent)

Area Directors:

Area 2- N. Island: **Ed Berkenstock** (incumbent)

Area 4- LM West: **Don Hass** (incumbent)

Area 6- Thompson/Okanagan: **Kris**

Hartley (incumbent)

Area 8- Kootenays: **Bill MacMillan** (incumbent)

There are also several important agenda items to discuss. We hope you are able to make the BCBUA AGM a priority and attend. It doesn't matter how old you are. All 2010 paid members of the BCBUA are eligible to vote.

It is expected that there will be discussions surrounding membership dues, evaluation fees, and the direction of clinics in the province.

As usual, the Annual Awards ceremony will take place. Come out to help recognize our association's top umpires and contributors.

BASEBALL CANADA CONVENTION IN BC!

The annual Baseball Canada Convention will take place in Richmond BC from November 4-7. The last BC city to host the event was Kelowna in 2000.

The convention features a number of events for coaches, players, and umpires.

The annual umpire's

AGM takes place during the event. Awards will be presented during the gathering. Also, there will be a seminar on November 3 relating to a new program being coordinated by National Supervisor of Umpires Corrie Davis. It is called the Long Term Officials Development program.

The program is designed

to help younger umpires improve and aspire to the National program and to help the current National level umpires improve so that they can be the best that they can be within the program.

For more information, contact Troy Carmont or Steve Boutang.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November 4-7	Baseball Canada Convention	Richmond, BC
November 20	BCBUA Board of Directors Meeting	Vancouver, BC
November 21	BCBUA Annual General Meeting	Vancouver, BC

What a great year we've had!!

Now's the time to celebrate our successes, even as we start to plan for how to make next year even better.

Where to start? Well, it's always safe when one is writing for publication to congratulate the editors! In this case, it is also most apt, as we have moved this year to a more fulsome, more regular Hey Blue online as our major means, along with the website on which it appears, of communicating with our members. There is terrific content, it is presented well in a reader-friendly manner, and it has something for all of our members from someone starting out to the most seasoned international umpire. Brian Cargnelli and Steve Boutang, take a bow!

Our membership is up very significantly this year, going over 1500 for the first time in more than 10 years. Our supervisors, clinicians, our area representatives and assistant representatives and other board members, all were working very well to achieve this result. Perhaps most of all, our efforts to cooperate with leagues and association in sponsoring clinics, in using only carded BCBUA umpires, have borne fruit as more and more leagues are choosing to sponsor clinics and make sure their games have a supply of qualified officials. It is great to see the leagues showing good, responsible leadership.

Another success is our role in providing umpires to a large and growing number of provincial tournaments. BCBUA allocates and supervises the higher-level tournaments directly, but our members organize and work many more. This year, we have received quite a number of bouquets for our efforts, with a general view that we as BCBUA have done a better organizational job, getting the right umpires to the right tournaments, and that our many members who participated did a good job on field. Folks in blue need to treasure these kudos. At risk of missing people I should single out, I am going to give special thanks to George Smith, our Provincials chair (and BCUBA Secretary) for his

unflagging efforts to get this outcome. But there were so many others who assisted him, such as supervisors and area reps, too numerous to mention but without whom we simply couldn't have achieved success.

We have enjoyed a good relationship with Baseball BC as well. While it might be said that this isn't surprising given that I'm also President of that body, the reality is that Baseball BC is a federation of several provincial-level baseball organizations. Umpire bodies and league bodies sometimes have different interests, so good dialogue and communication is really important there, too. We really are all there for the good of the sport and all its participants. Some of the things we have recently addressed with Baseball BC include the Provincial Supervisor position, a joint appointment between Baseball BC and the BCBUA. With Richard Christie's resignation from that position, it has been agreed by BCBUA and Baseball BC that Steve Boutang and Troy Carmont (recently assistant supervisors) will act as co-supervisors on an interim basis until a new supervisor is named. We've also addressed some financial matters, and in recent developments Baseball BC has received additional government money, some of which has been committed to umpire development.

I want to thank Richard very heartily for his service as our Provincial Supervisor. He has provided an overview and leadership to umpiring that reflects his long and expert service to our vocation, and he has brought some clear thoughts on how we can improve at the national level and below, especially in umpire development. I also want to recognize Troy and Steve, both for carrying many responsibilities as assistant supervisors over the past year, and in accepting a joint appointment on an interim basis, knowing the challenges that a joint approach involves, but also wanting to serve our immediate needs in the best way possible. And in a bit of a unique approach, Baseball Canada have agreed that Troy and Steve can jointly represent BC at the

(Continued on page 14 "Pres.")

TIP OF THE MONTH *by Steve Boutang*

I can attest as well as anyone (because I've made my share of errors in 27 years), that any decent umpire is well aware of when they make a bad call. Nothing feels worse on a ball field than calling a player out when he should have been safe, or vice versa, especially when the result of your call changes the course of the game.

I'm not talking about missing a pitch here and there. I'm talking about booting a call on a close

play (or not) at the plate, or making a blatantly incorrect call on the bases.

Usually the entire ball park saw a play a certain way, but for whatever reason you saw it the other way. The fans are raising havoc in the stands, the players are coming unglued in the dugout, the team who benefitted from your error might even be snickering in the dugout knowing that they got away with one. It is painful for your partners on the

field to see. Most umpires can't even bring themselves to tell their partner that they got it wrong – even after the game in the confines of the clubhouse.

And when the manager comes out to argue, or save his player from an ejection, the discussion will usually turn sour very fast. If a bunch of foul language doesn't come out of the manager's mouth you can be thankful at least for that. But rest assured

(Continued on page 7 "TIP")

THE GENESIS OF THE LEVEL 3 GRAND STRATEGY 2010 *by Bill MacMillan*

Once upon a time, on a dark and stormy night in a land far, far away there was a lonely Level 3 Coordinator sitting in his garret atop the tower of the castle. This forlorn soul was in a quandary! How to increase the number of Level 3 yeomen (yeopersons?) in the kingdom?

"Oh woe is me!" wailed the Coordinator. "What must we do? Is it a lack of interest that plagues us or simply a lack of opportunity?"

The Coordinator ruminated long into the deep watches of the night searching for an answer. He considered this, rejected that and examined the other and suddenly was struck with an epiphany (or was it a brick?...no matter). "Eureka" he cried, disturbing the bats in the belfry. "I have it, we must make evaluations easier to get not harder. When we do that we will increase our numbers thereby allowing us to reward our

Level 3 yeomen (yeopersons?) with the plum assignments."

The coordinator raced out the door and down the winding steps to the Great Hall where he presented his revelation to the King and King's Court with great enthusiasm. "How wouldst thou make this work?" questioned the King. "Well my Lord," answered the Coordinator "we could remove the

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TREASURER'S REPORT *by Fabian Poulin*

As my first year as Treasurer comes to an end, I find that this year has been a relatively good one for the Association from a financial point of view. As many of you may be aware, our main source of revenue is from registrations at clinics and there was a large increase in memberships this year. This increase in memberships, as well as various cost savings measures shown by all board members, helped to make this a good year financially for the Association. The Association was able to purchase some supplies, while prices were lower, that we will be able to use for more than one season, so that we will be saving more money next year. I feel that the Board will have the ability to move forward with some new ideas without putting the Association in financial risk. I look forward to presenting my full report at the AGM where I can answer any questions you may have.

CHANGE IN PROVINCIAL SUPERVISOR

As previously reported, Richard Christie resigned as Provincial Supervisor this past spring. Christie served as Supervisor for just under 3 years after succeeding Howard Chapman in January 2008. Christie cited personal reasons for stepping down. He is one of the founding members of the BCBUA.

On September 8, Troy Carmont and Steve Boutang were appointed as Interim Co-Supervisors of the Province by the BCBUA Board of Directors. Baseball BC recently ratified their selection.

The term of the appointment was left as indeterminate. A committee was struck to come up with a process to elect a single Supervisor. The progress of the committee's work will be evaluated at the end of January 2011 and an estimate will be given as to when the selection process will take place.

It is expected that Carmont and Boutang will continue in the joint role until at least the beginning of the 2011 baseball season.

Christie made the following statement....

To All BCBUA Members:

As you may or may not be aware, I have officially stepped down as the Provincial Supervisor for the BCBUA. I have concluded that I just don't have the time in my life right now that this position requires. Perhaps at another time in the future I will be better able to give the position the attention it demands. I want to thank each and every one of you for your support over the past two years. I was honoured and privileged to be selected to serve you. I especially want to thank the BOD of the BCBUA, and in particular John Berry, Steve Boutang and Troy Carmont for all the help and advice they have given me during my brief tenure.

As the association moves forward, I am confident that you will continue to grow as an organization. You have strong and capable people in leadership, and some tremendous talent

showing up on the field. The number of members is growing once again, and the provincial and national programs are strong. I am very pleased with the reports I have received from both the provincial and national championships this past year regarding the quality of officiating provided, and individual evaluations have been excellent. The overall talent of baseball officiating in this province continues to improve due to the dedication and hard work you are all putting in. Keep up the good work!

I am not leaving baseball. I love the game too much for that. I will continue to be involved with the BCBUA in some capacity, and I will support the new supervisory team of Steve Boutang and Troy Carmont in any way that I can. I also plan to continue umpiring games locally, and I hope to be available to supervise both provincially and nationally if needed. I look forward to meeting and working games with you in the near future. Good luck to all of you, and I wish you continued success.

Yours in Baseball

Richard Christie

The BCBUA owes a debt of gratitude to Richard for taking on the role of Supervisor during a difficult period in time. He has been instrumental in moving us forward into new territory and we should all be thankful for his dedication to this association" said incoming Co-Supervisor Boutang.

The BCBUA had only 1 Supervisor, Howard Chapman, from 1974-2008, before Christie took on the post.

Carmont and Boutang will be attending the Baseball Canada Umpire Convention as the BC Representatives hoping to build on the work Christie has been doing for the past 3 seasons.

WORLD BASEBALL CHALLENGE TO RETURN!

Tournament officials in Prince George confirm that the World Baseball Challenge will return to BC's Northern Capital in July 2011. Announcements are expected shortly as countries and clubs are confirmed for next summer's event. BCBUA is

negotiating to provide umpire services for this International exhibition event which was won by Team USA in 2009.

Check out their website for more information.
www.worldbaseball.ca

DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE

The Discipline Committee was very active in 2010. There were a total of 6 complaints levied against umpires. 3 of the complaints levied were against the same umpire who resides in the Lower Mainland. 2 of those cases required investigation, but were dismissed. 1 was dismissed outright as not being a

legitimate discipline complaint.

The other 3 complaints levied this year were against umpires from the Lower Mainland as well. 1 complaint was dismissed after the usual fact finding investigation. 1 complaint was resolved with an 'educational discussion' with the umpire in-

involved. It is noted that this discussion does not constitute official sanction against that umpire.

The final complaint was serious and is still ongoing. The umpire has refused to participate to this point and has been suspended indefinitely until he does.

CO-SUPERVISORS EXCITED FOR CHANGE *by Troy Carmont & Steve Boutang*

As we start the fall and the so called off season for Baseball I am reflecting on the previous Baseball Season and the progress we have made here in the Province regarding Umpire Development and look forward to the future.

I am pleased to say that Steve Boutang and I have been named Co-Supervisors until we can work out a process to name a Permanent Supervisor. We are excited about the opportunity to contribute to the Umpiring and Baseball Community throughout the Province. We know that there is a lot of work ahead but believe that the two of us can help accomplish many of the goals we have for the coming year.

We are also looking at a package to help UIC's to recruit and retain

their Umpires throughout all of the Minor Baseball Associations in our Province. We need to spend more time and resources with our younger Umpires to help train them and retain them in the program.

The Spring Season began with a very successful Advanced Clinic in Abbotsford, a special thanks to Rhonda Pauls for all her hard work in organizing this.

This was followed up by a very successful National Clinic in Kamloops in early April attended by 30 Umpires, special thanks to Steve Boutang and all the Instructor's for their time put in to help instruct and evaluate.

The Provincial Championships from

all reports went very well, a big thank you to George Smith who chaired the Provincial Committee and all Umpires who contributed on and off the field.

We also sent 11 Umpires and four Supervisors to Nationals this August, the most ever, and they all represented our Province in a very Professional Manner.

BC is now preparing to host Baseball Canada and the Annual convention in November in Richmond. There will be some activities our Members will be able to participate in, stay tuned to the website for more details.

We look forward to the future and helping our Umpires become the best they can be.

COLLEGE LEAGUE EXPANDS

Victoria is the newest addition to the CCBC as they were awarded an expansion franchise at a recent meeting of the league members. The following statement was released by the ball club:

Victoria Mavericks Baseball Association (V.M.B.A.) have been awarded a college franchise by

the Canadian College Baseball Conference (C.C.B.C.). We received a phone call from Mr. Ted Hotzak (President of the C.C.B.C.) last night who relayed and confirmed the good news to us that the membership vote was unanimous to grant the Victoria Mavericks Collegiate Baseball Academy (a division of Victoria Mav-

ericks Baseball Association) full membership into the C.C.B.C. for the 2010 - 2011 season.

Kamloops (Thompson Rivers University) will again host the Championship tournament in May. BCBUA has secured the rights to allocate the championship tournament.

HEYBLUE! ONLINE CELEBRATES!

HeyBlue! Online is nearly 2 years old, and for the past year the BCBUA website has been the exclusive delivery method of our Provincial newsletter.

The BCBUA is committed to providing its members with updates and information in a timely and cost effective manner, and the online newsletter is the best way to do this.

The BCBUA will continue to publish a single edition of the HeyBlue! newsletter each fall in advance of the Annual General Meeting, but look for HeyBlue! Online every few months on the website, www.bcbua.ca for all your news about the BCBUA.

FUN FACTS...

The inaugural World Series was played in 1903 between the Pittsburgh Pirates and the Boston Pilgrims with the Pilgrims winning. The initial Series was a Best of 9 affair.

The first "Championship of the United States" was contested in 1884 between the Providence Grays and the New York Metropolitan Club with the Grays being victorious.

Umpire Bill Klem has worked the most Fall Classics (18). His career spanned from 1908-1940.

The most appearances by a modern day umpire is 5 by Jerry Crawford.

SAY WHAT???

"I never thought eyesight was the most important thing in umpiring... The most important things are guts, honesty, common sense, a desire for fair play, and an understanding of human nature."

Bill Klem – World Series umpire

(TIP continued from page 3)

that the manager is usually there to let you have a piece of his mind, while gesticulating wildly, making a very uncomfortable situation. A lot of guys think that when you blow a call that badly, you deserve to take some heat. A lot of others will tell you that you treat each situation the same and eject the coach as soon as he crosses that magic line. Regardless of what you think, one thing that is almost sure to calm the manager down is to tell the truth.

The truth. That's a tough concept for some people. It takes guts, and fortitude to tell someone, "I made a mistake." Throw in the emotions of the moment and it makes it even tougher.

But an umpires' credibility goes up tenfold when they are big enough to say, "I kicked it."

This little lesson all relates to an

old friend of the BCBUA. His name is Jim Joyce. Jim is a Major League umpire who taught at Superclinic in Nanaimo in 2006. He was a great guy. Down to earth and he fit in really well with our group.

We all felt bad for what he had to go through.

Everyone knows his story by now. An incorrect call at 1st base with 2 outs in the 9th inning that cost the Detroit pitcher Armando Galarraga an historic Perfect Game.

The whole world seemingly hated Jim Joyce. Facebook pages calling for his head, death threats, and insults to his family.

But Jim Joyce did something that most other umpires (and players) rarely do these days in professional sport. He admitted he made a mistake. And what's better, he stepped back on the field the very next day – business as

usual.

Jim went from a zero to a hero. Why? Well, almost everyone hates a liar....but who doesn't like a guy who can admit failure? He became everyone's favourite Johnny Lunchpail. He was on talk shows, in the newspaper, and presented an award at the ESPY's awards show. The players themselves voted Jim as the top umpire in the game today by an over 40% margin. He was in the news for all the right reasons.

There is an excellent article on Jim in the September edition of Referee Magazine. Check it out.

In the meantime, keep this in mind. Nobody likes an umpire who is too egotistical to admit mistakes, or that he didn't see it. When you blow a call, don't be afraid to tell the truth if you know you missed it. It might save you some grief, and will give you all the credibility in the world.

(Level 3 continued from page 3)

fee for evaluations and supply evaluators at several of the regular season tournaments throughout the Kingdom and many of the Provincial Tournaments as well. By doing thus we would increase the opportunity for our yeomen (yeopersons?) to be evaluated and promoted to Level 3 and once we have enough Level 3 yeomen (yeopersons?) we could then reward them by giving them said plum assignments over the less qualified or motivated yeomen (yeopersons?) in the Kingdom."

"Hmmm" said the King "would the

yeomen (yeopersons?) still be required to attend the Advanced Clinic every 3 years and write the exam each year?" "Most assuredly my Lord, however I don't believe that to be a problem," stated the Coordinator confidently. "You see, my Lord, we already have many yeomen (yeopersons?) attending our Advanced Clinics and writing the exam each year but the bottleneck has always been the evaluations. I think this may help with that"

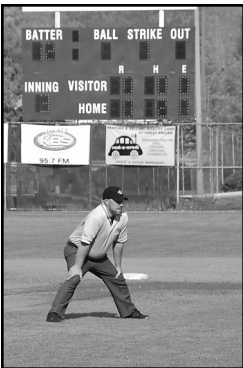
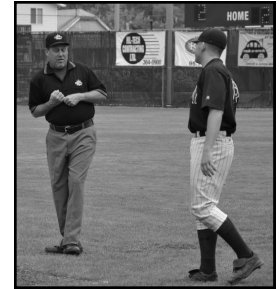
"I agree" said the King. "We will take this to the Council in November and let the gathered yeomen (yeopersons?) decide if this is a wise

course of action. Get thee hence, Coordinator, and devise a way in which we might implement this new strategy for the next jousting season and report it to the Council."

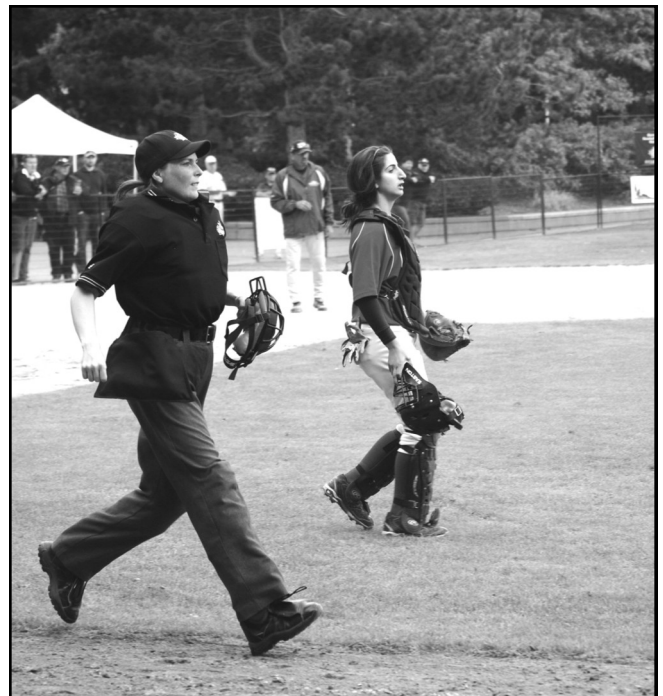
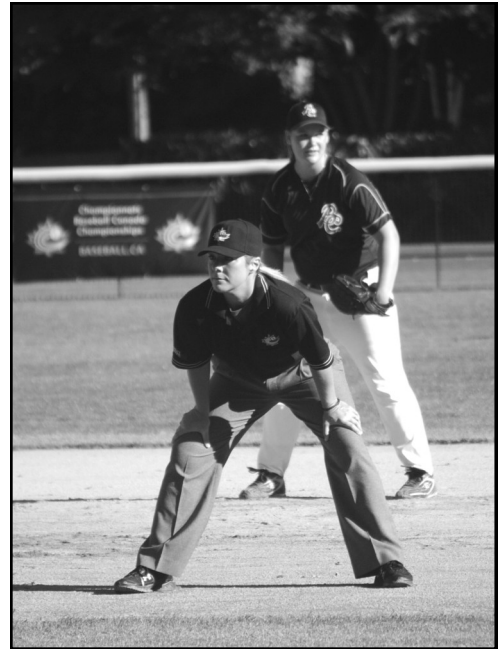
The Coordinator hugged himself with glee and raced back to his garret to begin the process of change.

Should any yeomen (yeopersons?) wish to be present at the great unveiling of the Grand Strategy at the Council Meeting in November I suggest thee watch for the Council Meeting information and get thee hence!

BC SENIOR MEN'S CHAMPIONSHIPS TRAIL 2010



BC UMPIRES AT THE BANTAM GIRLS CHAMPIONSHIPS RICHMOND 2010



This is a bit of a mind twister this time out so read carefully. Batting order is Able, Baker Charlie and then Daniel. For some reason Baker bats for Able and walks. Charlie comes to bat and also walks. Now Able realizes he missed his turn at bat and comes to the plate. He singles and now there are runners at all the bases: Baker at 3rd, Charlie at 2nd and Able at 1st. Daniel comes to bat. The pitcher comes to a set position and then tries to pick off Able at 1st base. Able is safe, but at this point the defensive manager realizes that there has been a batting out of order situation, asks for time and appeals to the umpires. The umpires agree that yes indeed there has been a Batting out of Order but since the attempted pick off of Able at 1st legalized everything to that point the correct batter should be Baker. But Baker is at 3rd. What should the umpires do. Is Baker out? Who is the correct batter? Should the umpires just call a do over? Answer will be in the Spring Edition of HeyBlue! Online.

PROVINCIALS REPORT *by George Smith*

Provincial Championships in 2010 were a huge success from a BCBUA standpoint, and an improvement on 2009 where we had some minor issues. With the fewest of exceptions, BCBUA was commended for their top notch umpires at Provincial Championships throughout the province by members of the BC Minor Baseball board. That makes our association look very good. Our umpires are owed a huge pat on the back for their great work this summer. Added into the mix were the BC Summer Games and I thank all the umpires and supervisors who volunteered their time for this worthwhile event. It was doubly difficult to staff our events this summer because of timing issues surrounding other events and the sheer number of Championships being held on the August Long weekend. Applications were up from last year which made the job of allocating umpires to tournaments easier than in the past. But we can still use many more experienced level 2 and preferably level 3 umpires to make themselves available for Provincials. Our commitment to our partner associations (BC Minor in particular) depends on the BCBUA members being available to staff these tournaments.

I thank those of you for being available and look forward to improving on our product next year.

BEHIND THE SCENES... *BCBUA umpire Kelly Hunter in Venezuela*

Some people in baseball umpire world don't realize that you have umpired softball and fastball for a number of years....Tell us about that?

First in Canada softball is slow pitch which I don't umpire for many reasons. Fastball is when the players do a windmill delivery. The balls move, they curved, dropped, raise and

some pitcher have a change up. Pitchers that I call for throw around 85km to 118 km. Internationally we call it Softball.

I started umpiring for extra cash in the late 80's and early 90's. My mentor came to me in 1994 and told me if I took it seriously, I could go places. This meant I had to go to schools, clinics and travel for games. For a couple of

years this was cool. It eventually took a toll on my family life and I was going to quit. My partner and I sat down and set goals for each year and a long term goal was the Olympics in 15 years. We were hoping for the 2008 Olympics. For ten years, I traveled for clinics, umpire schools, games down at the coast and

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2010 BCBUA PROVINCIAL, WESTERN, AND TOURNAMENT PARTICIPANTS

John Main tournament Working Assigner – Bobby Olszowiec

Peter Davis	Andrew Robson	Lisa Brown	Ken Kellham	Brian Horne
Daniel Colosie	Jim Beckman	Dave Bailey	Kyle Enns	Gary Webber
George Smith	Spencer Kyte	Curt Appleby	Dave Hoyt	Lindsey Paxton
Jordan Callow	Kenny Colosie	Lucas Main	Rick Antoniak	David Antoniak
Stephen Bailey	Jerry Tregaskis			

Junior Championship – Kamloops: Working Supervisor – Chet Masse

Kris Hartley	Josh Kennelly	Chris Connelly	Scott Eckardt
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Junior Premier Championship – Lower Mainland: Non-Working Supervisor – Rob Allan

Brad Woof	Andre Jean	Jim Train	Gary Webber	Jerry Tregaskis
Pat Cascio	Bill Keegan	George Smith	Sean Hardiman	Rhonda Pauls
Don Violette	Bill Boudreau			

BC Summer Games – Lower Mainland: Supervisor – Jerry Tregaskis Assistant – Danny Huzar

Coleton Besse	Dave Fortt	Jordan King-Nyberg	Matt McMann	Herb Van Horne
Jeremy Pauls	Lindsay Paxton	Arne Pedersen	Mike Pratt	Sean Weatherill
Brayden Koslowsky				

Senior Championship – Trail: Working Supervisor – Richard Christie

Don Violette	Mark Bodwell	Steve Boutang	Nick Moore	Fabian Poulin
Bill MacMillan	Jason Nazaroff			

Premier Championship – Lower Mainland: Working Supervisor – Chet Masse

Matt Lowndes	Ed Berkenstock	Greg Teasdale	Scott Eckardt
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Midget AAA Championship – Kamloops: Non-Working supervisor – Brian Cargnelli

Assistant Supervisor – Kris Hartley

Chris Connelly	Chuck Abney	Josh Kennelly	Kris Hartley	Rhonda Pauls
Brad Woof				

Midget AA Championship – Prince George: Working Supervisor – Jerry Tregaskis

Rick Antoniak	Rainer Lipmann	Terry Shaw	André Jean	Bobby Olszowiec
George Smith	Lance Brommeland			

Bantam AAA Championship – Cloverdale: Non-Working Supervisor – Troy Carmont

Assistant Supervisor – Jim Train

Howard Chapman	Brad Woof	George Smith	Leo Gauthier	Jerry Tregaskis
Arnie Coones	Les Maerov	Ken Raison	Ron Wernicke	Bill Keegan
Brian Wainwright	Keith Hartup	Jeremy Bresler	Mike Hills	Lisa Brown

PeeWee AAA Championship – Kamloops Non-working Supervisor – Kris Hartley

Josh Kennelly	Richard Connelly	Dan Durette	Mark Wright	Dennis Windsor
Coleton Besse	Rhonda Pauls	Jeremy Pauls		

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Kelowna, just to get noticed. My season started in Feb and did not end until Sept. Every weekend I would leave work on Friday after work and return home Sunday night around midnight. Every long weekend, every weekend I was on the diamond somewhere, sleeping in a tent sometimes or at another umpires couch.

Through evaluations at Provincials, Nationals, I achieved my level 5 and International Level in 2000. Still travelling to Vancouver to umpire Sr. Men's fastball.

The travelling started all over again except it was internationally. I travelled to China for the World's Jr. Women's. Shortly after that I received the phone call that I made the cut for the 2004 Olympics to represent Canada. My goal took 10 years instead of 15 but through hard work and dedication and family support, we made it. Some never will.

You went to the Olympics as a softball umpire. Describe that experience.

I was in shock, little me in a whole different place that I thought I would never get to go to. When all 12 umpires were on the diamond trying to listen to the UIC (umpire in Chief) explain the ground rules, we were not listening. We were little kids in a

big play ground. He final gave us 10 minutes to run in the field, we did. Bouncing off the fences sliding in the grass, running up in the stand to see what it would look like. My heart was racing, eyes filled with tears, then fear races over you. The "what ifs" started to come, what if I mess up, get if I get sent home for a bad rotation or a missed call. I started to think maybe I should not be here; I am



good enough to be here, were the questions going through my mind. Going to all the meeting we had to attend was hard. It was like we were on display for all the coaches and ISF dignitary to judge us. One small wrong move and we were to be disciplined. Which in the Softball world meant packing your bags and going home. My first game, I had mixed emotions. Started with excitement, turned to nerves, worry, then excitement again. I talked to myself a lot during a game, about rotations, stands and the whole tournament. Yes I deserved to be here, yes I can do this, don't let your country down. In Softball Internationally, we get evaluated 24 – 7. How we get along as a family off and on the

diamond. When the Olympics was over, my family and I stayed for 10 more days but the first two I really had to be lead around. My body was done, exhausted.

What made you decide to try baseball?

I did not decide to try Baseball. Four guys from Kamloops made that choice for me. LOL. I went to watch Kris Hartley umpire a game. During the game Matt Lowndes came and sat with me. We talked about the rotations and some rule differences. He kept saying "it is easy, we can use you". After the game Kris, Chris Connelly, Matt and I were talking and it

sounded easy. Then a couple of days later Chris phoned and said they were short an umpire so could I do the bases for him. Sure I said but make sure that the plate umpire knows I know NOTHING about baseball. Next year I found myself at a clinic with Brian Cargnelli. Next thing I know I am in a super clinic and then a National clinic and having fun doing it. I do a lot of studying during the week because it is hard for me to remember the different rotations from Softball to Baseball.

Tell us about some of the differences between a softball umpire and baseball umpire. There must be some differences in ball

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flight and whatnot when working the plate.

The biggest difference for me is the low strike zone in baseball. In Softball the balls are coming up and dancing. In Baseball the balls are coming down and dancing. On the plate in baseball, you have a little longer time focusing on the ball. The ball is smaller but easier to pick up. In Softball the ball is coming at you at a shorter distance. I think the speed is equal if you compare the distances of travel. Baseball base umpire positioning is easier, less movement and you have lots of time to move because the play takes time to develop (90 ft base path). Softball, we are closer to the play (60 ft) and we are on the outside of the infield. The balk and illegal pitch are different. Softball, illegal pitch is called, the rule is a ball on the batter and all runners move one base. A balk, the runners move and nothing happens to the pitch count. For me it is hard to award the penalties in baseball but if I was doing this for the same amount of time as Softball then it will come naturally.

You went to Venezuela recently. What was that experience like?

It was a great experience but different. We sat around in the hotel lobby doing the “just wait game”. There was no meeting for us until the night before the first game where we received our uniforms. We had to find the

other umpires on our own. Umpiring on the Major League stadiums was awesome. Finally meeting other umpires who have done big tournaments was great. Learning their way of umpiring was different, the language difference did not bother me because I was use to that. Not getting evaluated after any of your games was different for me. I did not know where I stood, whether I was rotating properly or not. At first I was wondering if the UIC did want to talk to us after the games but later figured out that they don’t do that in Baseball. If you needed to be spoken to, they would find you. Some umpires showed up 5 minute before a game, so no pre-game talk that was hard for me. Couple of umpires just did our pre-game at the hotel 3 hrs before we left for the game. The crowds were great, Venezuela games had 12,000 to 15,000 fans and noisy. There were dancers, bands playing, the security was tight. It was nothing like what I had experienced in Softball.

I would like to Thank Baseball BC, Baseball Canada for giving that wonderful opportunity. I did fall back on some of my International experience while I was there to get me through some of the different situations.

There was a shooting of a Chinese ball player while she was on the field. It resulted in the team going home and a bunch of security measures put into place. How disturbing was that

experience for you?

I found it quite exciting. After the shooting we were on lock down for around 36 hours. I had talked to the Canadian Coach and he told me if Canada goes home I was to go with them. That was disappointing because the tournament had just started. We had just met all the umpires and we had done nothing yet except umpire one game and we were there for 3 days by now. I can say thought, umpiring a game when a military helicopter was flying over the stadium, was different and uneasy. It was nice to be on the other side of the security for once instead of being the person guarding people. At first when the player went down, my crew was waiting for the game to end. The next thing I knew we were getting rushed into our locker room. We could not figure out what happened. Once in the room the umpires on the field told us. We were on a military base how could this happen? It was told to us that the base was near a gang related area. That got my blood pressure up but then my Sheriff experience kicked in and I helped relaxed some of the other umpires. I was glad to find out we had to move 2 hours away to a different town in order to continue the tournament. The sad part was I could not go anywhere without security. Which meant only to the ball park and return to the hotel. We did go out one night but it took us 5

(Continued on page 14 “Kelly”)

("Pres." continued from page 2)

umpire meetings at the Baseball Canada annual convention, to be held in Richmond in early November.

You will see reference to the folks who worked provincials, and also nationals, elsewhere in this publication. But I want to

highlight the nationals, where we have again sent a healthy number out of province, and several of our female umpires to the Bantam Nationals in Richmond. Congrats, too, to Kelly Hunter on her selection to the Women's World Cup championship in Venezuela.

Of course, we have had our challenges, too, and we have identified lots of areas that can be improved. Your dedicated board, and UICs and umpires everywhere, will work on some of those in the off-season, and come back refreshed and ready for more exciting, enjoyable officiating in 2011.

("Kelly" Continued from page 13)

days to get permission and the National Guard had to go with us.

How happy were you to arrive home after that?

I was glad to be home. We have a lot to be thankful for. To be able to come and go when you wanted to is nice. To look around and not see the National Guard, Police and the Army is really nice. I do miss the hot weather thought. For awhile

there if I did not eat another chicken or potatoes, that was a good thing.

What was the single most valuable thing you learned about your trip?

My valuable thing is to keep an open mind because anything could happen. Do not worry about things that are out of your control. Once again, I found the International umpires, does not matter where you travel, we are one big family. Some umpires do not get

the opportunities to learn the way we Canadians receive our education for Baseball. I left half of my equipment over in Venezuela because it is too expensive for them to have good equipment. Yet they are there for the love of the game and to put back what they received for it without any questions asked.

Thank you once again BCBUA and IBAF for this great opportunity to umpire in a world tournament. I am honoured to have represented Canada, and BC.

("Championship" continued from page 11)

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Personal:

Age- 47

Residence-Kelowna BC

Hometown-Dawson Creek, BC

Occupation- Deputy Sheriff

Top of the 1st –

What is your favourite food?

Pork Chops

Top of the 2nd

Do you have a favourite baseball team?

Not really, as I just started umpiring Baseball, all I watch is the umpires.

Bottom of the 3rd

If you could spend an hour with any famous person in history, who would it be?

It would be Bobby Orr. As I have met George Bush Sr., Carole Brunette, Anne Murray, and Bobby Orr, and a few NHL players, Bobby was the most interesting one. I also know Jim Evans. We email each other a lot.

Bottom of the 4th

You've travelled a lot in your life for sports. What has been your favourite city?

I would have to say Athens. Set aside that I was there for the Olympics. I did get to see the remains of the first

Olympic Stadium. The great wall of China was interesting as well.

Top of the 5th

What is your favourite hobby outside of umpiring?

Dirt biking, fishing. I found out that is what normal people do during the summer. I finally said no to some weekend tournaments and went fishing and dirt biking.

Top of the 6th

Who is your favourite actor/actress?

Other than ball players. I don't have one because I spend most of my spare time on the diamond.

Bottom of the 7th

It's the 7th inning stretch. Will you be reaching for a beer, wine, coffee, soda, or something else?

It will be a beer, a bud. But only when the weekend is over.

Bottom of the 8th

When you umpire, what is your favourite jersey colour? Why?

Black. In softball all the jersey are blue. Black looks important.

Bottom of the 9th

What was the most memorable gift you ever received?

My road bike, (pedal). To me, that

made training a lot easier riding to and from work. It is 25 km from the end of WestBank to the Court house. The gold medal from the Olympics is neat. The support from my partner is the best gift of them all. Without the support then it would be hard to umpire where I have umpired.

Lets go Extra Innings with Kelly Hunter.....

Top of the 10th

Who is the most famous person you have ever met?

I would have to say George Bush Sr. I met him in Athens. I walked up to him as he was going onto the field to throw out the first pitch. I said "Hi George buddy", hit him on the shoulder and asked to take his picture. He said "sure", I took the picture, shook his hand and walked away. Twice. Yup I did. If that does not count, then Bobby Orr, at the winter Olympics. Maybe Markus Naslund.

Bottom of the 11th

If you had free tickets to attend any concert in the world, who would you go and see and where?

I would go see Garth Brooks in New York City. I know country music and the big city probably does not go together but it is only a wish, right.

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