

Hey Blue! Online

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the BCBUA!

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- BCBUA Awards
- Debut of GEARHEADS!
- Eager Beaver sighting
- 1st Female Umpire in Mexican Pro League

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

AGM HIGHLIGHTS	1
AWARDS PICTURES	4
UMPIRES CHALLENGE GAME VS PLAYERS	7
PRESIDENT'S REPORT	9
L3C IN P.E.I.	10
EQUIPMENT	12
T12	13

AGM HIGHLIGHTS FROM RICHMOND

The BCBUA Annual General Meeting has taken place in Richmond. Due to travel concerns the meeting was moved from the Okanagan to the Coast, but BCBUA President Sean Sullivan maintained that the meeting will be planned for the Okanagan next year.

"We recognize that weather has an impact on safe travel at this time of the year and so we will work with a host community to hold our meeting in the Okanagan next year instead"

Kelowna or Kamloops are the locations on the short list.

In other news from the AGM, our committee reports were read highlighting a busy summer of baseball and umpire activity. Supervisor of

Umpires Steve Boutang reported that BC sent more umpires to Nationals than ever before and 4 of our umpires were

selected to work Home Plate in the Gold Medal game of their events. A true testament to our development program and improvement of our umpires on the whole.

Treasurer Rick Antoniak

reported that BCBUA

executives delivered on numerous projects and goals for 2018 but that the organization spent

approximately \$20,000 more than it took in, for an overall budget shortfall for 2018. He noted that this was done by

design in many ways as BCBUA



carried a balance surplus of \$45000 prior to the year beginning. There was no dissent from those in attendance as it was felt the association

delivered much work that was needed....

Continued on page 2

ADVANCED/NATIONAL CLINIC DATE CHANGE!

The annual National Umpires Clinic date has been changed to Thursday April 12-Sunday April 15 and will be held in Kamloops as per normal.

The Level 3 Advanced clinic, which will be planned in conjunction with the National

clinic, will also be moved to those dates to allow integration for some events.

The change was made because of the tournament dates being changed by the hosts, which necessitated a change by the umpire group. Supervisor of

Umpires Steve Boutang indicates that this will be the 10th successive year that Kamloops will host this invite only clinic and looks forward to working more with the Level 3 clinic attendees as part of the event. Check the website for registration details after the holidays.

AGM Notes... *continued from page 1*

Secretary Phil Bourgeois reported a membership base of approximately 1500 members. This is the 3rd highest total membership on record for the association since its inception in 1974.

Bourgeois reported 73 clinics took place across the province in 2017, also a new high.

Vice President Rhonda Pauls reported on Discipline and Education/Mentorship in her dual roles of VP and Education Chair. Mentorship across the province is at record levels with nearly 350 recorded mentorships of level 1 and 2 umpires taking place across the BCBUA's communities in 2017. Many of those mentorships were completed by National level umpires as part of their mandate to increase their presence at lower levels of play. From a discipline standpoint, Pauls indicated that 2 cases of complaints were of significance. Both dealt with the inappropriate use of Social Media. A new section of the Discipline Policy will be delivered to deal with infractions in this area going forward.

President Sean Sullivan reported the ongoing discussions surrounding with Baseball BC surrounding the re-appointment of Supervisor Boutang to his post and indicated that the matter had been resolved and that Boutang had finally been re-appointed to a new 3 year term. This is Boutang's third term, in addition to the dual role supervisor situation he took over from when former Supervisor Richard Christie resigned in spring of 2010.

Sullivan also spoke of the work he and others have been doing with BC Minor Baseball over the abuse of umpires by coaches and fans. Ejections were up significantly overall in 2017. BC Minor has since approved a motion to go back to rules more closely resembling the original rule 15.11 which prohibits coaches from engaging umpires at peewee and below. MLB rules will apply to any coach at any level who challenges an umpires judgement over any judgement call.

Elections occurred.....

Sean Sullivan was acclaimed to his 2nd term as President

Rick Antoniak was acclaimed as Treasurer

Scott Eckardt, Brad Jones, Gary Webber, Darcy Rysz, and Matt Lowndes were also acclaimed as Area Directors for their respective regions.

Veteran umpire John Pentland of Delta was elected as Area Director for Lower Mainland South Area 5 as Brad Woof elected not to run again.

BCBUA Honours Top Umpires

At the recent AGM, the BCBUA handed out the hardware to top umpires and those whose efforts make this a great association.

The following umpires were recognized:

Howard Chapman Sr Umpire of the Year – Phil Bourgeois

Don Hass Most Inspirational National Umpire – Phil Bourgeois

Doug Hudlin Distinguished Service Award – Nick Moore

Richard Christie Award (for the Unsung Hero) - Craig Bernes

Chuck Blaikie Award (for Outstanding Contributions to the BCBUA— Michael Yamaguchi

Bill Murphy Most Improved Umpire Award – Lane Yakemchuk

George Connelly Builders Award – Keith Hepburn (posthumously)

Ian Lamplugh Award for the Top Prospect – Ethan Wong

Abe Shapiro Mentorship Award—Gary Webber

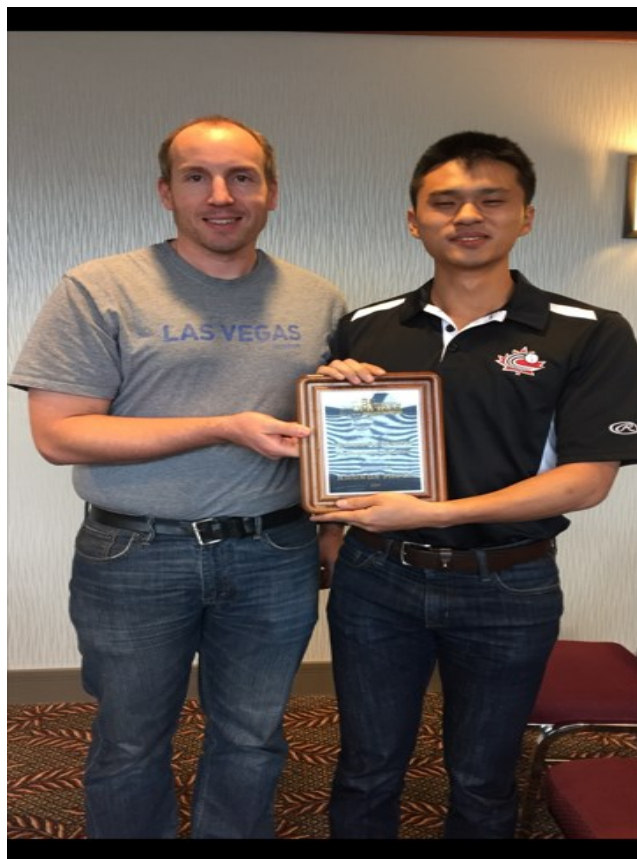
Female Umpire of the Year—Rhonda Pauls



Blue Jays Tournament 12 took place for the 5th time at Rogers Center in Toronto this past September.

Front Row (L to R) Rhonda Pauls – BC, Steve Boutang – BC, Matt Payne – AB, Kelly Hunter – BC, Scott Mills – SK, Mark Bodwell – BC
 Back Row (L to R) Guario Laverty – ON, Corey Dalton – ON, Stephane Dupont – QC, Ron Shewchuk – MB, Trevor Grieve – ON,
 Adam DeCair – ON, Kris Hartley - AB

Pictures from the AGM Awards Ceremony



Michael Yamaguchi of Richmond



Gary Webber of Maple Ridge



**Sr. Umpire of the Year Phil Bourgeois (L)
with Awards Chair Scott Eckardt**

**Ron Boutang Umpire Scholarship winners
Shawn Schaefer (Top Right) and Mark
Penner (Bottom Right) receive award from
Foundation Chairman Steve Boutang.**



**Rhonda Pauls of Abbotsford receives the Top
Female Umpire Award from Scott Eckardt.**



AGM NOTES....CONTINUED.....

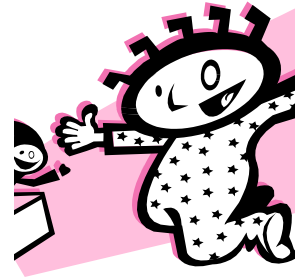
In other AGM news and notes, membership fees were kept the same as previous years. Ages 13 and under will be \$25 and 14 and over will be \$50. The level system remains in place. Each new umpire begins at level 1 and does that in year 1. Level 2 can be started in the 1st year as well once the level 1 curriculum is complete. Level 2 will take a total of 2 years to complete. If an umpire has passed all of those segments then they are eligible to start their level 3 process.

The bylaws of the BCBUA have been reviewed by a local lawyer and sugges-

tions have been made to bring our wording up to code with respect to the Society Act. These revisions must be completed by 2018.

Other reports were issued by various department heads and are placed elsewhere in this issue.

Finally, the Ron Boutang Memorial Umpire Scholarship was presented to both Shawn Schaefer of Ridge Meadows and Mark Penner from Chilliwack. We wish them both well as they pursue professional umpire school this winter.



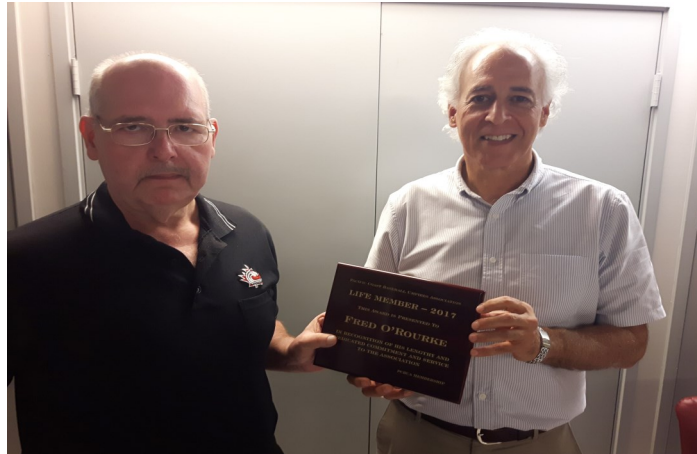
"if you ain't cheatin' you ain't tryin' hard enough to win" -Billy Martin who died December 25 1989

FRED O'ROURKE HONoured BY PCBUA

Recently, at the Pacific Coast Baseball Umpires Association (PCBUA) AGM, Life Membership was presented to long time umpire and executive member Fred O'Rourke.

O'Rourke umpired at several nationals during his career, and has been a mainstay umpire in the lower mainland for over 30 years. Congrats Fred!

PCBUA President Les Maerov (right) presenting Fred (left) with his plaque.

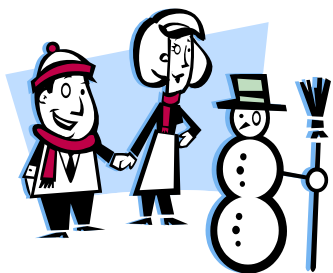


BOURGEOIS TAKES THE HELM AT PCBUA

At the recent PCBUA AGM, secretary Phil Bourgeois was elected—uncontested—to his first term as President.

Past President Les Maerov declined to run for a third term. Maerov was elected Secretary instead.

Umpires were told to expect a seamless transition.



UMPIRES VS PLAYERS BASEBALL CHALLENGE

Umpires Hold own against Sr Champs....

On Saturday September 16th, a group of 11 BCBUA umpires played a scrimmage game against a mix of current Burnaby Bulldogs as well as some Bulldogs' alumni at Robert Burnaby Park. Despite the potential amusement that could have happened between teams on paper, a quality game ensued with Bulldogs eventually emerging victorious with a 3-2 win in the bottom of the 7th.

The umpires fell behind 1-0 in the 3rd inning

after back-to-back 2-out doubles scored the 1st run of the game for the Bulldogs. Undaunted despite falling behind, the umpires replied for 2 runs in their half of the next inning off of a bases-loaded 2-out hit by Trevor Sharpe.

With the umpires leading 2-1 going into the bottom of the 7th, the Bulldogs placed runners at 1st and 3rd with one out, when the umpires' loaned pitcher

James Zamko, spun to pick off the runner at 1st base and never threw the baseball, balking in the tying run. The Bulldogs then managed a base hit to plate the 3rd run resulting in the victory.

In what is surely a piece of baseball history, Zamko ended up with the Win and the Loss as well as a blown save on his pitching line for the day.

Continued page 8...



.Front Row (Left to Right) Thomas Brock, Jun Ryu, Brendan Lim, Shawn Schaefer, Rick Antoniak

Back Row (Left to Right) Les Maerov, Corey Klein, Tim Dow, Trevor Sharpe, John Ryu, Phil Bourgeois

UMPIRES VS PLAYERS.... CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

Shawn Schaefer pitched 4 complete innings, surrendering 1 run, and returning to catch later in the game as the rare left-handed catcher. Schaefer also hit an early double, easing the early umpire fears of being no-hit on the day.

Brendan Lim pitched a scoreless inning of relief as well as recording a 2-RBI hit in an extra 8th inning that was played.

Jun Ryu managed to reach base 3 times on the day out of the leadoff spot and scored twice.

Phil Bourgeois also reached base 3 times out of the #2 spot, finishing 0-1 with a HBP and 2 walks, scoring once.

Trevor Sharpe caught 5 strong innings and contributed offensively at the plate with an RBI single, as well as coming in to relieve the aforementioned Zamko on the mound after the game was officially over and limit the damage.

Corey Klein managed a bunt single, which was met with a loud chorus of "Booo's" from the umpires dugout.

In what was probably the most impressive stat, the umpires managed to play error-free baseball until the bottom of the 7th inning when a hole emerged at 3rd base in the umpires' defense. As a team at the plate, the umpires struck out a combined

2 times in 7 innings, showing off their impressive knowledge of the strike zone.

Special thanks go out to Thomas Brock and Corey Klein for their efforts in organizing the game and the following dinner, as well to Burnaby Bulldogs GM David Laing and manager Mike Sinclair for providing the classy opposition. Manny Alexiou is to be credited with calling a solid and fair game behind the plate.

Both parties were very happy with the day's events in general and had a great time playing each other, and plans are already underway for a repeat event in 2018.

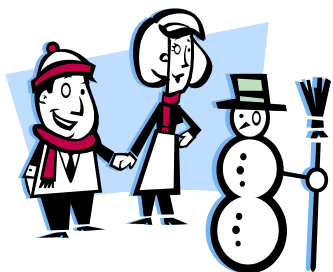
FEMALE ARBITERS COMING TO MEXICAN PRO LEAGUE

The Mexican baseball league is on track to get its first female umpire in the 2018 season. The league said Wednesday that Paulina Rojas and Luz Alicia Gordo are in training and at least one will officiate a game during the regular season. Gordo has played softball for

21 years and has served as a softball umpire for five years. Barajas has been an umpire in baseball youth leagues. Mexico's Triple-A-equivalent league will get a female umpire before Major League Baseball, which hasn't had any yet. One woman, Ria Cortesio, was an umpire in Double-A play in

the United States for nine years, until 2007. Before that, Pam Postema umpired in the Triple-A Pacific Coast League for six seasons in the 1980s. Both women also were umpires in MLB exhibition games, but they never worked games in the regular season.

BASEBALL CANADA UMPIRE COMMITTEE CHANGES



At the recent Baseball Canada Convention in Hamilton, the Baseball Canada Umpire Committee changed 2 of the 5 Portfolio Chair positions and added a 6th Portfolio.

Derrick Dubell from Manitoba resigned as Grass Roots Portfolio Chair and was replaced by Mark Jones of

Newfoundland. Chris Wilhelm of Ontario resigned the post of Portfolio Lead of Instructor Development to take on the new Chair of Communications. Ron Shewchuk of Manitoba was immediately installed as the new Portfolio Lead for Instructor Development..

At the Awards Banquet, Scott Mills of Saskatchewan was named the Dick Willis Umpire of the Year. Mills had an outstanding season working in both the Canada Games and T12 in Toronto.

Congratulations Scott!

FROM THE OVAL OFFICE - PRESIDENT'S REPORT

BY SEAN SULLIVAN

Off season planning is in full swing as we ready for the 2018 baseball season. Last year the BCBUA hosted over 70 umpire clinics around the province. We are implementing some minor changes to the course curriculum and will be delivering advanced training to our instructor cadre to get them ready for the 2018 season. The BCBUA plan on hosting two Advanced clinics (Level III) this year with one on the Island and the other in Kamloops during our National clinic. Dates will be forthcoming so keep checking the BCBUA website if you are interested.

We recently made a presentation at the BC Baseball (BC Minor) annual general meeting in support of added protection for our young umpires working Mosquito and Pee Wee baseball games. The presentation was a resounding success and they adopted our recommendations, which was to bring back the old Rule 15.11 for these levels of baseball. This effectively restricts a coach, player or parent from challenging an umpires decision during a game. More information on this will be taught during the 2018 clinic season.

Lastly, our mentorship and grassroots programs continue to flourish and grow year over year. We will be making a formal presentation to Baseball BC seeking their support as we advance these programs. Stay tuned for more information on this as getting our experienced Senior umpires out to assist those new umpires has resulted in greater retention of umpires, improved on field product and excitement amongst our partner organizations as they are turning their mind to the fact we need to develop umpires just like we develop players.

Enjoy the off season and I hope to see you on the field again in 2018 !

FROM THE CHIEF'S DESK—SUPERVISOR'S REPORT BY STEVE BOUTANG

It's the time of the year to reflect on the past and make plans for the future. A time when we can all celebrate our successes, and set goals for ourselves moving forward.

I encourage you all to take the time to do so. Pat yourselves on the back for a job well done in 2018! And plan out your goals in earnest for 2019. Think about

what it will take to attain your goals. Plan your season accordingly. Work at levels that will challenge you to get better. Make a resolution to improve at least once part of your game. Plan to attend a clinic in spring. Read up on the rules this winter while you are bored watching other sports and waiting for spring to arrive.

Baseball aside, I urge you all to enjoy the

Holiday Season. Spend time with family and friends, be thankful for what you have and what we have as a country. Appreciate the moments together. Family always comes ahead of sports and hobbies like umpiring. Be good to yourselves this offseason, and may 2018 bring you the prosperity you all deserve. Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the BCBUA!

HIGH LEVEL CLINIC POSTPONED...



Unfortunately, the BCBUA has decided to postpone the High Level clinic, originally slated for Feb 9-11 weekend.

Venue issues, instructor issues, and a resource crunch were listed as reasons for the postponement according to Provincial Supervisor of Umpires Steve Boutang. The

clinic will be rescheduled for a future time in 2019 when a suitable venue is arranged and instructors are more readily available.

The association held a highly successful clinic of this nature 2 years ago when MLB umpires Tripp Gibson and Stu Scheurwater attended.



EAGER BEAVER—LOST IN THE MARITIMES!

L3C Trilogy

Book 10

Summer of '17

So.....there I was, your intrepid reporter for the Hey Blue! (yes, you guessed it, Eager Beaver in the flesh) sitting in the grandstand at the Bantam Nationals in Summerside, Prince Edward Island taking notes for my grand allegory entitled....Eager Beaver's Baseball Story...catchy, huh? When all of a sudden, out of the blue comes a glidin' and a stridin' none other than our own Level 3 Coordinator (L3C) – the one and only Bill MacMillan.

I was dumbfounded, flabbergasted and

delighted to meet such an august personage such as he at a random tournament.

"Well howdy" says I "what chu dooin' way out here?"

"O hello Eager, I am here for my last National Tournament, what about you?" says he.

I explained all about my grand allegory and then started asking deep and penetrating questions as us reporters often do.

"We haven't heard from you in a while, what have you been up to" I asked.

"As it happens" he said, "I have been working with our BC Supervisor, you remember Stevie Boots? And Rona Mona our associa-

tion Veep on the various Mentorship and Evaluation programs we ran this summer. I have to say they were a smashing success too!

"Oh?" I asked penetratingly, "what were they about".

"Let me explain" he said.

"For years we have had problems trying to get all the senior umpires in the province involved in the development of our younger umpires. There have always been a few that were involved on their own but we didn't have a formal process other than the Level 3 program.

I started asking deep and penetrating questions, as us reporters often do.

A couple of years ago Rona Mona started the Grass Roots Mentorship program in a few organizations and that worked pretty well. Well enough to continue and grow but still in just a few areas.

This program is still ongoing and growing all the time but we needed more.

Stevie Boots and Rona Mona and I was dooin' some serious deep thinkin' one night and came up with the idea to get some money so we could get the senior umpires from all over the Province to participate without sacrificing all of their game fees. So we (reluctantly) consulted with the PREZ...Dudley Doo Rite and we hashed out a couple of programs that we thought

had a chance to work.

We took it to the BOD (Board of Deep Thinkers) and this is what resulted from that conclave.

We would start with a base amount of \$50.00 per game (cuz that was about what most of the Senior umpires got for a game fee). From there we would schedule Senior umpires to work at the younger levels of house ball (PeeWee and below) on the bases along with one of our younger members on the plate. During and after the game the Senior umpire would coach and give feedback to the younger umpire. The Senior umpire would then complete a form online that was distributed to the

Data Base, the L3C, the young umpire and the Senior umpire. When that was completed we would then top-up whatever game fee the Senior umpire received for working the lower level of game up to \$50.00. So if they received \$30.00 from the house association as a game fee we would add \$20.00 as a top-up."

"I see" I mused "but I also see ways for this to be abused and used as a cash grab, how do you solve that" I asked.

"Very simple" the L3C explained "we worked through the local allocators to ensure that two things were monitored. First, no one went to a game without being assigned by the allocator and secondly,

we made sure that senior umpires didn't take too many games away from the younger umpires"

"OK, that would work, were there any other ways to help out the younger umpires"

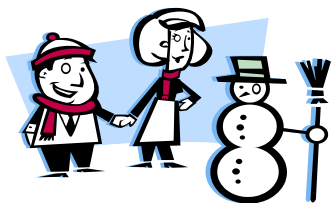
"Yes, it is good of you to bring that up" said the L3C "we also had two other methods of mentorship that we used and paid for. The first was to have

a Senior umpire in the stands to coach two young umpires on the field before, during, and after the game and then the same procedure with the forms was followed. For that, the Senior umpire received \$50.00.

The second method we utilized was to have an On-Field Mentor. This was a Senior umpire actually in uniform on the field to coach and mentor the younger umpires. In this

case the Senior umpire had to make it very clear to the younger umpires and the coaches involved that they were not there as officials but only as mentors. The Senior umpires would NOT make any calls or rulings. As with the other methods the appropriate paperwork was completed and the Senior umpire would receive \$50.00"

Continued on page 11



"Well, that all seems very good in theory but how well did it work and how was it received by the local associations" I enquired.

"As a matter of fact it all worked very well" enthused the L3C "the younger umpires loved it and learned so much more that you can learn at a clinic or from a book. The local associations were mostly supportive and loved to see the Senior umpires at PeeWee and Mosquito games. We, as an association, are looked upon in a much better light as a result of all this".

"This all sounds very good, but there was a mention of money, wasn't there? How much did all this cost and how many of these mentorships were actually done?" I wondered.

"It is good that you asked that, Eager because I am proud to say that all of this came in well under budget. We originally allotted \$4000 for the entire program and we weren't really sure if it would pan out.

EAGER BEAVER—LOST IN THE MARITIMES...CONT'D

make room for the younger umpires climbing past me. I will still be involved in the Provincial association but my National umpire career has come to an end. I would like to thank everyone who has helped me along the way and a special thanks to my lovely wife, Pat, who made the journey with me."

"I have to go get ready for my last game, it was nice talking with you, Eager"

In 2016 we had 118 Umpire Development Forms submitted by a total of 13 Senior umpires and in 2017 that total rose to 275 UDFs (a 135% increase) submitted by 33 Senior umpires (a 250% increase). These are amazing numbers and out of the \$4000 allotted for this program we spent less than \$3500!

A truly amazing feat of fiscal responsibility with a program of young umpire development that makes us the envy of all of the other provinces."

"That is truly special" I agreed "You all should be very proud.

Earlier in the interview you mentioned that this was your last National Tournament. Why is that?" I asked, seeking clarification.

"It is like this, Eager. I have been around for a long time and gone to 10 Nationals. 9 with Baseball Canada and 1 with Little League. I feel that it is time to step aside from this part of my umpiring career and

And with that he went glidin' and a stridin' off to do his game.

A 'Very Well Done' is in order to all of those umpires both young and old who participated in these programs this year.

Eager Beaver
Summerside, PEI

"I feel that it is time to step aside from this part of my umpiring career"

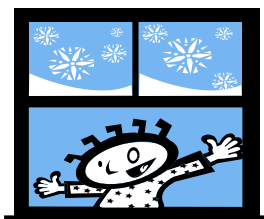


Shawn Schaefer at PeeWee Atlantic



L3C Making the Call!

NEW COLUMN ON EQUIPMENT TRENDS



Just like any hobby or endeavor, there will be people that must have the best: the best gear, the best equipment, 3-4 of each kind of the latest.

This column is for you, as well as anyone looking to replace an old piece of gear or update their on-field wardrobe.

What we will try with Gear-Heads is to touch base with the BCBUA community on what is coming or existing in umpires' apparel and equipment. What are your options in making sure you are protected and professional looking on the field?

We hope you enjoy this new column in our Hey Blue! Online newsletter.



Gearheads Author Brad Jones

GEARHEADS—FOR THOSE WHO CAN'T GET ENOUGH!

For our first column, we will look at important pieces of gear for a plate umpire.

Starting from the top and moving down, we will start the first edition by looking at keeping our noggin safe and pretty.

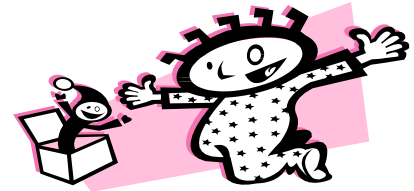
For masks, there are two types: Hockey Style Mask (HSM) or traditional style mask. The mask's bars can be made of hollow steel, titanium or aluminum. These metals will weigh heavily into the price, strength and weight of the frame, which are the most common factors umpires consider when buying a new one.

Steel masks are strong and inexpensive,

but can be heavy. Wearing one for a long-period of time can fatigue your head and potentially affect your ball and strike calls later in the game.

Aluminum masks are lighter and slightly more expensive than steel, but cannot take a hard shot like a steel mask can without suffering damage. They can bend and have their welds break under an intensive blow to the frame.

Titanium masks are the Cadillac (or is that Mercedes?) of masks. Being both lightweight and stable these masks hit the high end of the price scale, well into the 100's of



dol-

lars. However, masks are one thing that an umpire should not be thrifty with when putting together your equipment bag for your plate assignments. With the awareness of concussions being more reported in the media, making sure you have a good

I { Merry Christmas and Happy New Year }

mask is important to your own long-term health and well-being.

No matter what style you are looking at buying, what you may take into consideration are: the design of the cage, the padding used to diffuse the impact of a shot, and quality of the harness.

Single bar frames are the best design for umpiring because they improve the vision of the umpire by not blocking your field of vision with reinforcing bars on the frame;

For the harness, the proper adjustment ensures proper placement of the mask for an umpire's vision and protection while distributing the weight on your head.

Make sure you take the time to adjust the harness of your mask before taking the field. Put your 4-stitch or 6-stitch cap on and slide the mask on before game time. The mask should be comfortable but not sloppy on your head with the two horizontal bars above and below your eye levels. Practice taking off your mask with your left

hand. Does it come off without pulling your cap in a distracting manner? Test it at least 3-to-4 times before walking to the field.



GEARHEADS—CONT'D

After the frame, the next piece of the mask that should be your focus when buying is the padding. The padding should dissipate and displace the force of the blow to the point you cannot tell where the ball hit you.

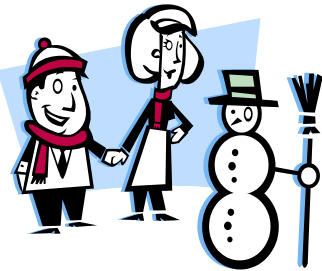
Ideally, if you could ever get your hands on a set, the best pads are Team Wendy pads for your cage. Made with Zorbium® foam, the pads can

be ordered from select official stores from the United States online such as Ump-attire or Honig's Whistle Stop or Gerry Davis Sports.

Another accessory to pimp up your cage is a solid throat protector. While most cages have the metal protector as part of their frame, a throat protector can add extra coverage to your Adam's apple area

and strengthen the transition of protection from your mask to your CP. Mizuno or Wilson are good choices when beefing up your cage.

As with any search for high-quality gear, one can always start the search for a new mask with Force 3 gear, followed by Wilson, All-star, Diamond (all three available at pro-image.ca or homerunsports.com).



T12 TAKES PLACE AT ROGERS CENTER

Tournament 12 took place for the 5th time at Rogers Center this past September. The event is a showcase of baseball talent for players 18 years old and younger. Scouts are in attendance from Major League clubs and US Universities and Canadian Colleges. It's a big deal for the players to be selected from within their province to participate. It is also a big deal for umpires to be selected to attend. Umpires selected are the very best umpires in each province who are looking to get a recommendation to possibly umpire an International tournament down the road, or work another International event for the veterans.

The tournament is run by former Blue Jay Robbie Alomar and a host of Blue Jays

Alumni. The Jays do a fantastic job of creating a Big League atmosphere for all the players, coaches, and umpires. To be able to play baseball on the Blue Jays field, dress in the players rooms, and sit in the Jays dugout is a real honour.

BC has been lucky to have several umpires participate in this event over the years. In 2017 BC had 4 umpires in attendance. Steve Boutang, Rhonda Pauls, Kelly Hunter, and Mark Bodwell.

Besides having a chance to umpire at Rogers Center, there is plenty of opportunity to hang around the Jays alumni. Former Jays greats Robbie Alomar and father Sandy, Devon White, Lloyd Moseby, Duane Ward, Jesse Barfield,

George Bell, and many more players make this a really special occasion.

The following article was composed by BCBUA Vice President Rhonda Pauls, a veteran of 3 International tournaments. 2017 marked the first time she was able to participate at T12 and she shares how she felt arriving, getting ready, and then going onto the field for the first time.

It should be noted, Rhonda is a lifelong Jays fan, so for her it was extra special being able to walk onto the field where her heroes have played.

We hope you enjoy this inside look at T12 at Rogers Center.

MY EXPERIENCE AT T12—BY RHONDA PAULS

As I set up my locker in the Blue Jay visitor's clubhouse for the weekend, I could not help but smile as I put my gear away in the locker identified as "MACHADO 13". The Orioles had just left the night before and their locker signs were still up.it just got better from there...

"Can I get some baseballs please?" I say when my ball bags are empty. I look into

the 1st base dugout knowing that the 11 year old ball boy is way more enthralled with the baseball royalty he is schmoozing with than he is in running me baseballs. But Lloyd is paying attention..."I got ya...I got this...." He says to me with a giant grin on his face as he strides out with hands full of baseballs. Yes, Lloyd Moseby brought me baseballs....to say it was surreal would be conservative.

Tournament 12 was an amazing experience. To work games where the Jays play...to see the stadium and the sky from field level...to have the opportunity to meet and talk with Blue Jay alumni...to work 4 man with some of the best officials and supervisors in the country was truly a privilege. We were given the opportunity to learn every day.

"Tournament 12 was an amazing experience"

Aside from getting feedback during the game from the on-field supervisor, we did a field walk post-game with the 1 or 2 off-field supervisors, and we talked about situations and mechanics that happened during the game at every base. We could participate in this regardless of whether we had worked that game or not – the purpose was to learn from each other's games and benefit from the supervisor expertise. Our challenge was to apply what we learned in our next game.

Second base is amazing. Learning the angles and opportunities for a better look there that we don't get working in a 2 or 3 person system is constant thinking...route planning...anticipating what comes next. To work this base well, you really have to understand the need to keep changing your angle depending on the potential next throw or play coming to second. There is no "x" marks the spot for this base...you actually *have to* umpire.

I think we all took away good learning and were better umpires for the experience, but as awesome as it was to work in Sky Dome (that is what it will always be to me)...or to occupy Manny Machado's locker...the best part of this game is always the amazing people we get to meet and work with. I got to sit and chat with Robbie and

Sandy Alomar... have Lloyd Moseby chat me up all game as he ran me baseballs, I got to meet George Bell and Devon White...all of these guys are arguably some of the best all-time Jays ever. I kept asking myself, "who gets to do this???"...and then I would shake my head...because I realized that I DID.

The experience was over too soon...but it will never be forgotten. I am ever thankful for the amazing people who have supported me and helped me grow in skill and wisdom as an

umpire. The list is long and my gratitude is huge.



Kelly Hunter poses with Jays Alumni Robbie Alomar, Lloyd Moseby, and Sandy Alomar



Rhonda Pauls working 1st base at Rogers Center



Rhonda Pauls rubbing the endless supply of baseballs in the Visitor's Clubhouse at Rogers Center



Left to Right – BC Umpires Rhonda Pauls, Steve Boutang, Mark Bodwell, Kelly Hunter

BCBUA Executive

President – Sean Sullivan

Vice President – Rhonda Pauls

Treasurer – Rick Antoniak

Secretary – Phil Bourgeois

Provincial Supervisor of Umpires -

Steve Boutang

Assistant Supervisors—

Scott Eckardt

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Area Directors

Area 1 Vancouver Island South— Scott Eckardt

Area 2 Vancouver Island North— Brad Jones

Area 3 Lower Mainland East— Gary Webber

Area 4 Lower Mainland West— Michael Yamaguchi

Area 5 Lower Mainland South—John Pentland

Area 6 Thompson—Mark Wright

Area 7 Okanagan - Darcy Rysz

Area 8 Kootenays - Bill MacMillan

Area 9 Northern BC – Matt Lowndes

**GROWING GREAT
UMPIRES!**

AREA NAME CHANGES FOR KAMLOOPS AND OKANAGAN REGIONS

At the recent Board of Directors Meeting, Area 6 and Area 7 were re-named.

Area 6 will now be known as “Thompson” and Area 7 will now be known as “Okanagan”.

The decision to make the change was explained by Secretary Phil Bourgeois as being an administrative issue.

“People living in the north Okanagan were registering in Okanagan South when they should have been registering in Thompson Okaangan. Some people simply didn’t know the dividing lines. This will make it less confusing”

Bourgeois was not alone in his thoughts as the majority of the board felt that the names were confusing. Simplifying the areas into one discernable name should make it easier for everyone.

The boundaries of the regions were not changed in the process.

Area 6 will be comprised of Merritt, north of Vernon to Revelstoke, Kamloops, and north to Williams Lake area.

Area 7 will encompass everything in the Okanagan Valley from Vernon and south to Osoyoos.

