



Hey Blue! Online

BCBUA Honours Its Founding Fathers

It was November 1974, and 9 men met at the Newton Inn to discuss the formal beginnings of today what we call the BC Baseball Umpires Association. Shortly thereafter, regular meetings of the newly formed association were held in Victoria at the Imperial Inn.

Richard Christie was one of those original 9 men and he outlines the history of this association on our webpage.

On November 21, 2009, 5 of these surviving members were honoured at our 35th anniversary celebrations held in the same hotel which was

once called the Imperial Inn. Original Founding members honoured were Doug Hudlin (first President), Howard



Chapman (first Supervisor), Richard Christie, Bill Murphy, and Chuck Blaikie. Most of these men have served our association more or less continuously for 35 years.

Each of these men was presented with a plaque signifying their long service to our membership and they took time to speak about their experiences with the BCBUA. There was an excellent memorabilia display created by organizer Eric Rasmussen.

Also, former Major League umpire Ian Lamplugh of Victoria was given a special recognition award for being the most successful BCBUA product in the 35 year history of the association.

For those in attendance, it was a great celebration of history, life, and old umpiring stories.

HeyBlue! enters Electronic World

HeyBlue! as you have known it for the last 20 years continues to undergo massive changes. And the BCBUA Board of Directors is pleased to announce that we are entering new territory in an effort to constantly improve the product. With the success of the online version of HeyBlue! over the past 16 months, the board recently decided to produce only 1 printed version of HeyBlue! annually and send the remainder of the issues out electronically to our membership. There is some solid reasoning behind this decision. Firstly, the vast majority of our membership is computer literate and able to access this information on the web at our association's webpage, www.bcbua.ca.

Secondly, the printed product is extremely time-consuming

and labour intensive to format and print out. Our editors are able to format an online edition in hours compared to the days it took to layout, print, and mail out the printed hard copy.

Finally, and most importantly, is the cost factor. It was costing our association nearly \$2000 per issue to print and mail an edition to each household 3 times per year, many of which were returned to us as undeliverable anyway. It seems like a significant misuse of funds in this day and age, never mind the obvious environmental costs that are so prevalent in today's world. It costs the membership zero dollars to publish this information online an infinite number of times if we so choose. Since we intend to produce 1 printed version each fall, in

advance of the AGM, simple math would indicate that we will immediately save \$4000 a year on publishing costs.

As you are probably also aware, funding issues are plaguing all sports organizations in our province as Gaming Grants are not being approved.

BCBUA is no exception. We are looking for ways to save money so that we can continue to offer top notch programs to our members. In this case, we feel that we have enacted a solid plan to save money, while providing our members with a better information vehicle. We hope you like it. If you have questions or comments about this decision, please feel free to speak to any BCBUA board member or comment through the BCBUA Forum page.

BCBUA AGM 2009 Highlights

John Berry Acclaimed as BCBUA President



Burnaby's John Berry was acclaimed to his 4th term as BCBUA President at the November 22 Annual General meeting in Victoria. Berry ran unopposed as has been the case in each of his previous 3 election bids.

With his election, Berry joins Doug Hudlin (1974-1981) and Bill Murphy (1991-1998) as the only 4 term Presidents in the association's 35 year history.

Treasurer Lorne Raymond officially turned over his responsibilities at the AGM, and Fabian Poulin of Nanaimo was acclaimed to the position.

There was another change to the BCBUA Board of Directors with the unexpected decision by Area 4 Director Rob Allan not to run for re-election. Abbotsford's Rhonda Pauls, the former Assistant Area Director, ran successfully to replace Allan and became the new Director for Area 4. Allan will become the BCBUA Database Manager.

All other board positions remained the same.



BCBUA Hall of Fame Created

The BCBUA Board of Directors approved a proposal by Awards Chairman Steve Boutang to create a Hall of Fame for umpires who have had outstanding careers on the field. A selection committee made up of long standing and respected umpires in BC has been formed to make the initial election of up to 5 umpires into this new award category. Anyone can make a nomination. Please contact Steve Boutang if you would like to nominate someone or want more information on the process.

National Umpire Certification Program

BCBUA has 6 more nationally certified instructors in its midst. The 6 were on hand for the intensive Caravan training program in Edmonton in late October. Graduates are: Troy Carmont, Chet Masse, Rhonda Pauls, Chris Addison, Jim Train, and Danny Huzar.

Richard Christie Immortalized



It seemed only fitting that on the weekend where BCBUA recognized 35 years of history, and recognized 5 of the men who are still alive today who started it, that one of these men was immortalized with his own award. Provincial Supervisor Richard Christie was honoured by the Board

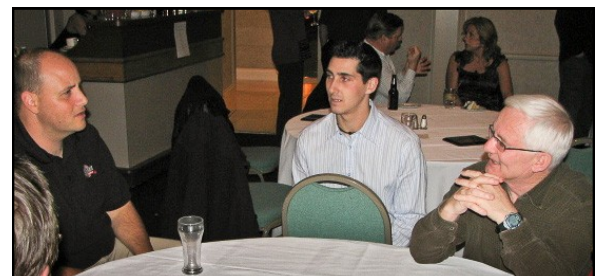
of Directors by having the Unsung Hero award renamed as the Richard Christie Award – for the Unsung Hero. All living Founding Members except Richard have an award named after them and board members felt it was time to right this injustice. Founding Members have been honoured in such a fashion over the past number of years as BCBUA counted down towards the 35th anniversary.

New Assistant Provincial Supervisors Announced

BCBUA Provincial Supervisor Richard Christie has announced that he has appointed 2 Assistants Supervisors to share the chores of leading the Education of all umpires in the province and the operation of the National Program.

Troy Carmont and Steve Boutang were announced to the positions at the AGM and their appointment takes effect immediately. Carmont and Boutang are both level 5B umpires and each have over 25 years umpiring experience.

In the immediate term, Carmont will be in charge of instructor and clinic bookings in the Lower Mainland, while Boutang



BCBUA AGM 2009 Highlights Continued...

2009 Award Winners Announced

The BCBUA congratulates all of the award winners for the 2009 baseball season. We were fortunate to have our Original members in attendance at the AGM to present their namesake awards to this year's recipients.

Howard Chapman Senior Umpire of the Year Award - Will Hunter, Courtenay

Ian Lamplugh Up and Comer Award - Nick Moore, Courtenay

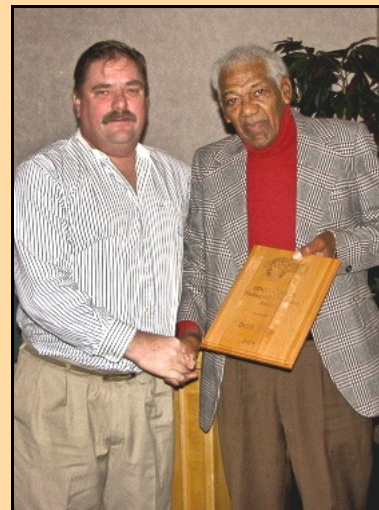
George Connelly Builder's Award - Lloyd Nelson, Rutland

Doug Hudlin Distinguished Service Award - Don Hass, Richmond

Bill Murphy Most Improved Umpire Award - Jim Train, White Rock

Chuck Blaikie Outstanding Contribution Award - Eric Rasmussen, Victoria

Richard Christie Unsung Hero Award - George Smith, Richmond



Pro-Image Junior Umpire of the Year

Area 1 – Jordan King-Nyberg, Lake Cowichan

Area 2 – Morgan Wasiliew, Comox

Area 3 – Brayden Koslowsky, Abbotsford

Area 4 – Griffin Troup, Halfmoon Bay and Jonah Lussier, Halfmoon Bay

Area 5 – Kyle McLennan, Ladner

Area 6 – Jordan Avila, Kamloops

Area 7 – Micah Reim, Vernon

Area 8 – Jerrod Roberts, Cranbrook

Area 9 – none submitted

Additional Award for Junior Umpires

BCBUA Board of Directors voted unanimously to supplement the Pro Image Jr. Umpire of the Year award with a \$300 annual fund which will be utilized by the Awards Committee to provide additional recognition to our youth umpires who have earned this award. This policy will be in effect each successive year starting in 2010.

FUN Facts...

The Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown New York opened in 1936. When it opened it was to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the origination of the game of Baseball. There were 5 original members:

Ty Cobb, Babe Ruth, Walter Johnson, Christy Mathewson, and Honus Wagner.

There are 291 men currently enshrined including 9 umpires. The newest umpire inducted was Doug Harvey who will be enshrined in 2010.

Did You Know???

The world's economic crisis has hit the country of Cuba where it hurts the most.....its baseball program. This year's 90 game regular season (which runs from November to February) will feature mainly daytime games. Evidently there is a ban on non essential artificial lighting in urban areas at night – which means no field lighting for night baseball games.



Here is a recap of the question from the last issue.

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?

Well I guess there are several real possibilities for this play. First off, you have to understand that no runs can score when the 3rd out of an inning is a force out or when the batter is put out before touching first base. Clearly this happened in this case. So on the basis of this statement, no runs should score. But the problem seems to be that the umpires got together and discussed the play and during this discussion the defensive manager inadvertently overheard them saying that the Batter-Runner had not gone to 1st. They disallowed the appeal based on the fact that the defensive team had left the field of play and maybe that the Manager had overheard them discussing the play. So we now have a protest on our hands.

Whenever there is a protest, the crew chief (usually the plate umpire) leaves the field of play and discusses the ruling with the protest committee. All other umpires remain on the field of play. In regular season play the protest would be documented and a report sent to the president of the league where the protest would then be decided. It is in that report that the umpires have their say. But fort this case, the protest committee has only one thing to decide, did the umpires make a ruling mistake.

In fact they did. When the 3rd out of a

game is a force out based on a scenario like this one (batter didn't go to first on a home run), the umpires can call the batter out for abandoning his effort to run the bases. The protest committee should rule that no appeal was required on this play and the umpires should declare the batter out for abandoning his effort to run the bases. The batter has to only touch 1st in this situation to fulfill his obligation on this rule.

Some of you think this would never happen. It did to me in a National Championship Little League 18 year old game a number of years ago between Quebec and Ontario. The batter hit a clear home run to center field, but just like the question, failed to go to first base. I waited for the batter runner to leave the field before I got the crew together to discuss the play. As the plate umpire in that game I stated the case to the rest of the crew and we called the batter out without the appeal being made by anyone. The defensive team was ecstatic obviously, the offense not so much. They of course protested the call and the protest committee upheld my decision after nearly 5 minutes of discussion.

The game went into extra innings and was finally decided after another 3 innings of play on a catcher's interference call once again by yours truly. But that play and protest is another story for another day.



Interview with Troy Carmont

On November 21, 2009 Provincial Supervisor Richard Christie announced that he was taking on 2 experienced umpires as his assistants in administering the umpire development program in BC. Veteran Troy Carmont of Surrey is one of these assistants. He sat down with HeyBlue! co-editor Steve Boutang to discuss his life in baseball.

SB - You are often associated with the Little League program in BC. Tell me about your umpiring experiences in Little League?

TC - I started umpiring at age 12 in Little League, it is certainly where my roots are. I have met many life long friends on my travels throughout Canada and the US. I have been a League UIC, Provincial and National Umpire Consultant and travelled throughout North America instructing clinics for over 20 years. I have been fortunate to Umpire 20 Nationals for Little League, supervise numerous tournaments and represent Canada at two World Series - the 16-18 World Series in 1993 in Florida and in 2006 the Little League World Series where I was the first Canadian umpire to work Home Plate in the World Championship game.

SB - For those who don't know, what are the main differences

from an umpiring standpoint between Little League and BCBUA in this province?

TC - The primary difference is Little League umpiring program was founded on Volunteering to work your games. Now over time this has changed and many leagues now pay their umpires.



Another difference is loyalty. Once you have umpired in the Little League Program you are part of a community and many umpires return to volunteer their time at tournaments and clinics.

SB - Who were the main people who influenced you in the umpiring world?

TC - The main influences were my first Umpire in Chief, Gordon Nettles. He was about 5 ft 2 inches, but was a giant of a man in character and knowledge. I would say the other was Abe Shapiro, he was also commonly named, the "Prof". He helped

me develop the game management side when I started working higher level baseball.

SB - As you mentioned, you umpired the Gold Medal game at the Little League World Series a few years ago. Tell us about that experience.

TC - This was a dream come true! For all those involved in Little League Baseball this is the ultimate prize. It was also very humbling to be acknowledged and recognized as a Canadian umpire to get this assignment. The atmosphere was electric with over 40,000 people watching live and many thousands watching around the

World. That experience certainly has prepared me for many new challenges to come with Baseball Canada.

SB - What kind of advice would you give to young umpires who want to improve their game?

TC - I would tell them to work hard, be patient and find someone who you can work along side to be a mentor. I would also tell them to be a sponge, take in as much information as possible. If you work hard at your game you can reach heights you never thought you could. Look at me as an example of that.

What a great year for our 35th!

We have had some amazing successes this year. And a few challenges that will keep us busy for years to come!

Our clinics keep getting better, as we improve our ability to instruct and serve our members. We have built on a successful instructor's clinic by delivering level 1 and 2 clinics with better-prepared instructors who provide consistent, up-to-date instruction and materials. Our SuperClinic was our flagship clinic at the advanced level, with a really impressive array of quality instructors. Our umpire supervisor, Richard Christie, brought his trademark enthusiasm to a new event for our national (and international) umpires. And we have more national umpires, as several of our members achieved that milestone when they passed their exams. As you will see elsewhere in this issue, BC was again very well represented with umpires at national tournaments. Also, by the time you read this, we will have had another umpire Caravan, jointly with Alberta.

Many of our members were prominent at the World Baseball Challenge in Prince



George, and in umpiring in leagues that are at and near the professional level.



Some of our other activities should be highlighted, too. Our website continues to be a central vehicle for our communications with our membership. Our webmaster, Brian Carnelli, keeps improving it, and keeps it fresh. Hey Blue itself continues to evolve as its role adapts to a more (but not entirely!) electronic world. Our database project is nearing completion, and it is a vital part of our efforts to properly serve our membership, even though it may appear mostly in the background.

These successes don't happen by accident. There is a great deal of dedicated effort by the members of this board, and by so many other umpires who volunteer for the many things necessary to make an organization work. The clinic instructors, the tournament supervisors, the league UIC's, the umpires willing to mentor other umpires, allocators – all these people play a vital role with umpiring and with baseball. Your board is a group of dedicated individuals, and I especially salute the Area Representatives and their Assistant Area Representatives. Their work in promoting the development of umpiring, building on the leadership of our umpire supervisor and our education committee, is instrumental in serving the grassroots so vital to any or-

ganization. And in a related vein, thanks to Pro Image for its continued sponsorship of our Junior Umpire awards, which are given to an outstanding young umpire identified by each of our Area Reps.

I also want to salute the partners we work with in baseball. Just as the cliché "games don't happen without umpires", we need to work well with the leagues and associations, the coaches and players. This year, we have developed new contracts for provincial-level tournaments, and they provide a more consistent basis for our work with the leagues involved. I'm especially pleased that the contract with BC Minor goes a bit further than before, and provides for a joint committee to meet at least annually, and look at ways we can together better develop officiating.

We're going to continue to have our challenges as we move into next year. Funding is going to be a real challenge, as recent provincial government cutbacks in funding for youth sports are abrupt and severe. But our sport and our officiating will rise to that challenge, and we will emerge even stronger!



Tip of the Month

The winter months are great for forgetting all about baseball. The Holiday season is upon us....Hockey is in full swing, people are busy decorating, and Christmas is just around the corner. But what happens after the Holiday season is over. The winter blahs happen. It will be February and March before you know it, and you haven't taken your gear out of the bag since your last game in August. And people tend to procrastinate more often than not at the prospect of opening that stinky equipment bag for fear of finding some kind of science project growing inside.

Don't put this off any longer. The winter months after Christmas are the perfect time (if you haven't already) to get out

all your gear, clean your chest protector, your shin guards, and your mask, wash the sweat stains out of your hats, and do a complete inventory of the little odds and ends that you tend to use up during the season. Items like medical tape, safety pins, shoelaces, and spare pencils. Replenish items that you always need during the season. If you don't have sundries on hand, resolve to purchase these items now when you have lots of time on your hands.

Take the time to order anything that you need or replace old items that look in poor condition. Nobody says you have to wear brand new clothing each year, but your appearance is important. If you are wearing faded hats and pants and

shirts that don't fit, your respect level goes way down amongst coaches and players.

There are lots of reputable places to obtain good quality gear for reasonable prices. Ordering early in January gives you access to stock when there are still common sizes available. The newest models are available as well.

Once your ordering and purchasing is complete, vacuum out your bag and repack things in an orderly fashion. That way you'll be ready to go in short order when the season's first game arrives. And more importantly you won't come across that broken shin guard strap when you are in the dressing room getting ready for your first game of the

2009 Championships Umpires

The Following umpires represented BCBUA at various Provincials, Westerns and National Championships tournaments in 2009.

PeeWee AAA – Coquitlam

Ed Berkenstock (Supervisor)
Adam Berkenstock
Sean Weatherill
Pat Cascio
Brad Woof
Bryon Williscroft
Kenny Colosie

Bantam AAA – Rutland

Dennis Windsor (Co - Supervisor)
Lloyd Nelson (Co – Supervisor)
James McLaughlin
Darcy Rysz
Kelly Hunter
Gerry Huggins
Clarence Bodden
Chuck Abney
Tyler Gelowitz
Mark Glowacki

Midget AAA – Victoria

Ed Berkenstock (Supervisor)
Scott Eckhart
Al Tulloch
Adam Berkenstock
Rick McBride
Chet Masse
Bill Roberts

Midget AA – Mission

George Smith (Supervisor)
Gary Webber
Gary Wagner
Bryan Goosen
Jerry Tregaskis
Manny Alexiou
Brad Woof
Bobby Olszowiec

Junior – Victoria

Bill Roberts
Ed Berkenstock
Tim Stocel
Eric Rasmussen
Evan Keenlyside
Wray Watson

Senior – Nanaimo

Howard Chapman (Supervisor)
Fabian Poulin
Kyle Williams
Scott Eckhart
Chet Masse
Dan Rogers
Will Hunter

JRPBL - Abbotsford

Rhonda Pauls (Supervisor)
Les Maerov
Leo Gauthier
Jerry Tregaskis
Ron Wernike
Manny Alexiou

PBL - Langley

Troy Carmont (Supervisor)
Eddy Lang
Keith Hartup
Greg Teasdale
Leo Gauthier
Ossie Chavarria

Western AA – Newton

PeeWee AA

Sean Weatherill
Patrick Girtas
Bryon Williscroft
Gary Webber

Bantam AA

George Smith (Asst Supervisor)
Pat Cascio
Rhonda Pauls
Bobby Olszowiec

Midget AA

Ted Williams (Supervisor)
Kyle Williams
Brad Woof
Les Maerov

Bantam AAA Tier 1 Westerns – PoCo

Don Hass (Supervisor)
George Smith
Pat Cascio
Brad Woof
Howard Chapman
Les Maerov

2009 National Championship Umpires

Each year the BCBUA sends some of our top umpires to represent us at Baseball Canada National Championships. These umpires represent us in all of the best possible ways both on and off the field. It is a true honour to be selected to represent your province at a national championship and all of the following umpires have earned our respect through their hard work and dedication to the BCBUA and its education program. Well done folks.

Chet Masse	Canada Summer Games
Steve Boutang	Senior Nationals
Will Hunter	Senior Nationals
Fabian Poulin	Junior Nationals
Fred O'Rourke	Junior Nationals
Jerry Tregaskis	Midget Nationals
Chris Connelly	Bantam Nationals
Ed Berkenstock	Pee Wee Nationals Western Canada Region
Bill MacMillan	Pee Wee Nationals Western Canada Region

Extra Innings – with BCBUA Assistant Supervisor Troy Carmont

Personal:	Golf	Carmont....
Age-40	<i>Top of the 5th... What is your favourite ball park food?</i>	<i>Top of the 10th... You have been to many National tournaments. Which one was your favourite?</i>
Residence- Surrey	Garlic Fries, Smokies	The Midget Nationals in 1995 in Red Deer, my first Baseball Canada Tournament, I umpired with Corrie Davis and Stephan Dupont. Howard Chapman was our Supervisor.
Occupation- Financial Planner 20 years	<i>Bottom of the 6th... If you could spend 1 hour with anyone in history, who would it be?</i>	<i>Bottom of the 11th... If you could umpire in any Major League park, which one would it be?</i>
Family- Married for 18 years to Kim, 4 kids Tyler 16, Kaitlin 14, Tanner 10, Kennedy 8	Abraham Lincoln	I would have to say Fenway Park because of its history.
Years Umpiring- This will be my 28th season	<i>It's the 7th inning stretch.... Will you be reaching for a beer, wine, coffee, soda, or something else?</i>	
<i>Top of the 1st Do you have any Superstitions?</i>	Americano from Starbuck's	
No, Everything happens for a reason	<i>Bottom of the 8th... What is the longest game you have ever been involved with?</i>	
<i>Top of the 2nd Who is your favourite actor/actress?</i>	18 Innings Plate game	
Chevy Chase	<i>Bottom of the 9th Who is the most famous player you ever umpired for?</i>	
<i>Bottom of the 3rd What is your favourite movie of all time?</i>	I would say Larry Walker if we are talking Canadians, also Alex Rodriguez at the Big League World Series in 1993.	
Planes, Trains & Automobiles		
<i>Bottom of the 4th What hobbies do you have?</i>		
I coach Soccer, Baseball, Enjoy	Lets go Extra Innings with Troy	