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# Hey Blue! Online

## BC Umpire to World Championships

Kelowna umpire Kelly Hunter was selected by Baseball Canada to represent Canada at the Women's World Baseball Championships in Venezuela August 13-20. This is Hunter's first International assignment in baseball, but she is no stranger to International competition. Hunter was the Canadian representative at the Athens XXVIII Summer Olympics in 2004. Hunter decided shortly after that time to

take up baseball umpiring and has been working hard at her game ever since.

The BCBUA wishes Kelly well in her newest challenge.



Kelly working the plate at the recent Level 4 Clinic in Kamloops

## Way up North..... By Lance Brommeland – Area Director Northern BC.

Greetings from the north. A multi-night umpire clinic was held in Quesnel, coordinated by Jim Sagert, and nine participants attended.

In Prince George, we had a strong turnout of 21 attendees, with great thanks to Diane Lowery of the Prince George Youth Baseball Association for her work with

the administration of the clinic. Planning for a second small clinic is well underway. We'd like to give a special welcome to senior

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## Calendar of Events

July 29-Aug. 2	Midget AAA Provincials	Kamloops
July 29-Aug. 2	Midget AA Provincials	Prince George
July 30-Aug. 1	Premier Provincials	Nat Bailey, Vancouver
July 30-Aug. 2	Sr. Men's Provincials	Trail
Aug. 5-9	Peewee AAA Provincials	Kamloops
Aug. 5-9	Bantam AAA Provincials	Cloverdale
Aug. 12-15	Midget AA Westerns	Newton
Aug. 12-15	Bantam AA Westerns	Newton
Aug. 12-15	Peewee AA Westerns	Newton
Aug. 11-16	Baseball Canada Cup	Kindersley, SK
Aug. 18-22	Baseball Canada Peewee West	Brandon, MB
Aug. 19-23	Baseball Canada Midgets	London, ON
Aug. 19-23	Baseball Canada Jr.'s	Trois-Rivieres, PQ
Aug. 26-30	Baseball Canada Bantams	Vaughan, ON
Aug. 26-30	Baseball Canada Girls Bantams	Richmond, BC
Aug. 26-30	Baseball Canada Sr.'s	Halifax, NS
Sept. 1-6	Grand Forks International	Grand Forks
Nov. 4-7	Baseball Canada Convention	Richmond

It is a busy season in Area 6 for umpiring this season with some great opportunities for some of our umpires.

From a Registration point of view, Area 6 has increased their registration this year with the recruitment of younger Peewee aged umpires....We are looking for some more Adult umpires (parents) in the area as that portion of our registration has dwindled due to retirements, relocation or work commitments.

In April, Kamloops hosted the BC version of the National Umpire Clinic which was attended by our Province's National Members and a few selected Level 3 umpires who are trying to enter into the National Program.

In May, Kamloops hosted two Golden Baseball Exhibition games between the Victoria Seals and the Defending League Champs, the Calgary Vipers. The Golden Baseball League is a Independent Professional league with teams out of the United States and Mexico - except for three Canadian Teams (Calgary, Edmonton and Victoria). 3 BCBUA umpires were asked to umpire the 2 games. Chris Connelly, Kris Hartley, and Josh Kennelly. Hopefully, Kamloops will get a franchise in the next couple of years.

Those three umpires and Steve Boutang umpired the CCBC College National Championship hosted by Thompson Rivers University. It was a good weekend overall with the host committee & League Representative very happy with the umpiring. Thompson Rivers University was selected to be the host of this National Championship for the next two years so there should be more opportunities for BCBUA members to work this event!

Looking toward to the rest of summer, Kamloops has a few more baseball events to host. Kamloops is hosting 3 Provincial Championships in July and August. The Junior Provincials, Midget AAA is July 30<sup>th</sup> – August 2<sup>nd</sup> and Peewee AAA is August 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>.

On the administration side of things (besides being the Area Representative), I am the allocator of umpires for Bantam AAA, Midget AAA, Sr. Men's, and College (Thompson Rivers University) in Kamloops. As well, this season, I took over from Richard Christie as the Umpire Allocator for the only Canadian team in the West Coast Baseball League, the Kelowna Falcons.

*(Editors note – Kris is a level 5 Western Hockey League official since 2002 and holds Baseball Canada level 4 status).*

## Youth Umpire on CTV!

Abbotsford umpire Jordan Bjornsson was recently featured on a segment of the CTV sports program "Perry's Prospects". Check out the BCBUA webpage for the link to the video. Everyone at the BCBUA is proud that we have a celebrity amongst us at just 12 years of age!



Calling balls and strikes is simple. Any trained monkey can eventually do this. What separates the good umpires from the average umpires is when you can develop a solid strike zone that is consistent through the course of the game from the first pitch until the final out. And I'm talking about being consistently competent. It is all fine and well to be consistent, but if you are calling pitches strikes that are in a batter's eyes all the time, you are not competent. You have to learn to be good at both.

The following tips on Consistency include excerpts from a recent article

in Referee Magazine....

*Consistency is the foundation of an official's credibility. But because officials see the game differently from coaches or spectators, our definition of consistency differs as well. Consistency is virtually impossible to measure. Statistics don't always tell the truth either. Stats might be useful to an evaluator but they are not indicative of an official or a crew's level of consistency.*

*To be effective, an official must be capable of something called competent consistency. Consistency*

*from game to game is related to the ability to concentrate on the task at hand. This can be difficult for officials who are working beer league baseball, blow out games, or for those who run to the park and get changed in the parking lot as they run to the field. But to work at a high level, concentration skills are a must.*

*It is easier for an umpire to develop consistency when umpiring at the same level game in and game out.*

*Officials working at amateur levels often find themselves jumping*

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## National Umpires Announced:

The BCBUA supervisory team of Richard Christie, Troy Carmont, and Steve Boutang, in consultation with President John Berry, are pleased to announce the following selections to Baseball Canada Championships this summer. We are sure that they will all represent us with distinction and honour.

**Bantam Girls:** Linda Sam, Rhonda Pauls, and Lisa Brown-Rooke

**Peewees:** Jim Train and Andre Jean

**Bantam:** Jeremy Bresler

**Midget:** Matt Lowndes

**Canada Cup:** Kris Hartley and Don Violette

**Junior:** Mark Bodwell

**Senior:** Fabian Poulin

The BCBUA would also like to congratulate 4 of our members who were asked to Supervise. In order to Supervise at a National Championship an individual must hold a Caravan Senior Course Conductor standing at minimum and have umpired many National championships at the highest levels.

**Troy Carmont** – assistant supervi-

sor at Canada Cup

**Rob Allan** – assistant supervisor at Midget

**Don Hass** – assistant supervisor at Bantam Girls

**Richard Christie** – Supervisor for Bantam Girls.

The 11 umpires and 4 supervisors represent the highest number of umpires that BC has ever sent to National championships. Congratulations again to those selected.

## Say what???

*If a woman has to choose between catching a fly ball and saving an infant's life, she will choose to save the infant's life without even considering if there are men on base. ~Dave Barry*

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umpire Tyler Morrison, who has moved from the Lower Mainland to "God's Country".

We are looking forward to the Midget AA provincials at Prince George Citizen Field and Rotary Field in Prince George, July 29 to August 2. We already have a strong local crew in place with Terry Shaw, Andre Jean, Tyler Morrison, Rainer Lippmann and myself committed to working the tournament.

The planning for umpires and officials for the 2011 Enbridge World Baseball Challenge next July is well under way, working with John, Richard, Steve and Troy on a memorandum of understanding between WBC and the BCBUA. Among the major projects on the table are a

significant move of portions of the left field and centre field fence, to make the venue fully-capable of the international level of play, and that will mean a relocation of the fabulous electronic scoreboard in place at Citizen Field.

I recently had the pleasure of making a trip to Toronto in mid-May to meet with the Toronto Blue Jays as part of a contingent that is in discussions with the Jays on many areas of furthering the relationship between the MLB team and WBC, which is now the highest-level amateur baseball tournament in Canada. It was a treat for me in that I was able to step onto an MLB field before even seeing my first live MLB game, and we were treated so well by Steve Brooks of the Blue Jays, who toured us through the facility,

allowed us to take pictures and video that will help in preparations for the 2011 WBC, introduced us to Paul Beeston, Alex Anthopoulos, Tony LaCava and Michael Volpatti, and hosted us for two Jays wins over the Texas Rangers. I was also able to leave with a bat autographed by Vernon Wells, and managed to fit in a trip to the Hockey Hall of Fame. After those meetings, it is quite clear the Blue Jays organization is in tremendous hands and we may well see a return to glory sooner rather than later.

Thanks, and the best to all this season.

Check out the website for continuing information about the World Baseball Challenge at: <http://www.ballcharts.com/worldbaseball>

## BCBUA MEMBERSHIP RISES:

BCBUA Secretary George Smith reports that 2010 membership is up nearly 25% from last year. Preliminary numbers indicate that BCBUA has 1478 members this year, an increase over the 1180 reported in 2009. There are significant reasons this is the case, including the addi-

tion of new members from associations who had previously not utilized BCBUA for their education and clinics. Further, the associations that have always used BCBUA for our services had a small increase in most cases. This can be attributed to good work that local UIC's and

Area Reps are doing to promote umpiring in this province.

President John Berry says he doesn't recall seeing numbers this high, which is very encouraging given the financial burdens associations have taken on with the reduction of Gaming funds.

## Berry Re-elected

***BCBUA President John Berry was re-elected to the post of President of Baseball BC at their recent Annual General Meeting.***

***Berry, in his 4<sup>th</sup> term as BCBUA President, leads the board made up of member organizations (Sr Men, Jr Men, BC Minor, Babe Ruth, Little League, and BCBUA).***



# Junior Premier Provincials 2010 *Pictures by Rob Allan*



## All Female Umpire Crew:

A historic night took place recently at Kelowna's Elks Stadium when the West Coast League's Kelowna Falcons defeated the Cowlitz Black Bears 11-7. There was little significance to the baseball game itself, but for 2 ladies, it was a memorable evening. Kelowna umpires Kelly Hunter and Siobhan Doherty made up the league's first ever all-female umpire crew, with Hunter

acting as the plate umpire. While both umpires have worked in the league previously, it was the first time that they had worked together. It was a historic moment from the league's standpoint, which has been in operation for 6 years.

*"I was nervous until the 6th inning"* said Hunter.

*"It was neat. I was proud of us,"* added Doherty.

Hunter is a well recognized umpire in the Interior, having recently been selected to umpire at the Women's World Championships this summer. Doherty, a 2009 attendee of the Jim Evans Academy of Umpiring, recently moved in from Calgary. Both are in the Baseball Canada program.

## Did you Know?

The baseball world lost one of its most recognizable voices in July of this year. New York Yankees Public Address Announcer Bob Sheppard passed away following a lengthy illness. Sheppard was the iconic voice that welcomed fans to the house that Ruth built for 56 years! He started work in 1951 when the lineups of the game between Boston and the Yankees featured greats such as Joe DiMaggio, Yogi Berra, Mickey Mantle, and Ted Williams. He announced an amazing 4500 Yankees games until he retired unwillingly in 2007. He passed away at the age of 99!

## Stump the Ump Answer from Spring 2010 *by Brian Cargnelli*

So here is a recap of the question. If a player who has been ejected from a game is due up in the batting order and no one else is available to take that player's place due to injury or other ejections, who is the correct batter. In the scenario I outlined in the last issue this was exactly the case and it resulted in a batting out of order protest.

As one of the umpires on the field we ruled that the player next up in the batting order was the correct batter as we believed that the player who was ejected from the game is just skipped for their turn at bat. Now some of you would say that once a team doesn't have 9

players in the line-up the game is over, but as I pointed out in the last issue that is actually not the case. It's only when a team cannot *"FIELD"* 9 players that the forfeit takes place. In the scenario that I outlined, the game situation was bottom of 7, home team at bat and trailing 5-4 when the protest comes into play regarding the batting out of order.

Well just like the other protest, our decision was upheld by the protest committee. It is not a batting out of order if the player in question happens to be on base when he is next legally due to come to bat so the interpretation was exactly the

same here. How could a player who is due to come to bat also be on the bases though? Good question. What if somehow a Batting out of Order (BOO) happens that legalizes incorrect batters so that the next person up is also on base. The rules actually stipulate that in this case you skip the person who should be up and go to the next legal batter. Same as our situation.

As an aside, the team that we had ejected all of the players finally got a call in their favour. Was that enough to show them that we umpires actually knew what we were doing. Nope, they argued that too. Guess we can never win.



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*from one level to another, perhaps handling a peewee game one day and a Premier League game the next.*

*All of these factors can make achieving consistency more difficult.*

*Experienced umpires will tell you that you have to develop a balance and a style to suit each division. What will the players and coaches expect and accept out of you depending on what level you are working.*

*The strike zone is a perfect example. For a mosquito or peewee game, the plate umpire will probably give at least a ball or 2 on the corners of the plate. At the Midget or Premier level, the ball has to be*

*touching the plate to be a strike.*

*You also have to forget about friendships. We don't live in a vacuum. We develop friendships with players and coaches. That's a fact. But when we go on the field, it is important to treat everyone the same. That's part of consistency. Players and coaches will know this when they see it.*

*If you show that you are friendly on the field with coaches and players, the opposition –who may not know you – will have a preconceived notion that you are a homer. There will be a lack of trust there.*

*The ability to handle situations while still being able to maintain a high level of consistency will differentiate the extraordinary official from the merely capable ones.*

*If we can learn to handle the same*

*situation the same way every time, it's going to come across to people the same.*

*A good example of this would be to remember this when coaches and players are yelling at you....*

*"believe what you see". Just because people are hollering doesn't mean you are wrong! Have confidence in what you see.*

*Do not respond emotionally or start flipping imaginary coins to make calls. Coaches often question umpires so that they can "get the next call".*

*The question of whether consistency is a natural attribute or a skill acquired over time may never be completely answered. But maintaining your own personal consistency will improve your game no matter what level you work.*

## Fun Facts



The late George Steinbrenner III purchased the New York Yankees for 8.7 Million dollars from CBS in 1973. The club is worth an esti-

mated 1.6 Billion dollars in 2010 – about 20 times what he paid for it initially.

The "Stein" or "The Boss" as he was known hired and fired 20 managers in the first 23 years he owned the club. The most infamous manager of all was Billy Martin who was hired on 6 different occasions and fired 4

times from 1975 – 1988. In a bizarre period between July 24, 1978 and October 28, 1979 Martin resigned, was hired back 4 days later, resigned, was hired back, and was fired again.

Can you name any of the other managers under Steinbrenner's employ?

## Level 3 Evaluation Update

Level 3 co-ordinator Bill MacMillan reports that there have been more level 3 evaluation requests this summer than last year. However he reminds everyone that time is running out quickly to get your field evaluation completed this year. Umpires are reminded that they must submit

a \$50 cheque to Bill and request an evaluation.

Everyone in the level 3 Provincial program must receive a passing grade on a field evaluation (plate and bases) once every 3 years. For those of you who have still not submitted your level 3 exam, please do

so at your earliest convenience.

And for those of you who have received an evaluation more recently than 3 years ago, don't be afraid to ask one of our qualified evaluators to come out and watch you umpire. Helpful feedback on a regular basis is a recipe for success!

**Personal:**

**Age- 28**

**Residence- Kamloops, BC**

**Occupation-**

**Full Time Sports Official (Hockey, Baseball & Fastpitch) - going back to school in Sept to pursue Elementary School Teacher**

**Family- Mom, Dad, Brother Scott, 2 yr old Niece Emily & my Fiancee Michele**

**Years Umpiring- 6th year of Baseball (2005-Present)**

***Top of the 1<sup>st</sup> .... Do you have any Superstitions?***

**None that I am aware of but if I paid attention - I probably put my right shin pad on before left one!**

***Top of the 2<sup>nd</sup> .... Who is your favourite actor and actress?***

**Favorite Actor is:**

**Morgan Freeman**

**Favorite Actress is:**

**Sandra Bullock**

***Bottom of the 3<sup>rd</sup> .... What is your favourite movie of all time?***

**I'm a Sucker for any "Based on a True Story" movie like "Rudy", or recently "Invictus"!**

***Bottom of the 4<sup>th</sup> .... What hobbies do you have?***

**watching Movies, Spending time with my Friends and Family and assisting younger/less experienced officials in the 3 sports I officiate to improve themselves.**

***Top of the 5<sup>th</sup> ... What is your favourite ball park food?***

**I guess a Burger & Fries as the only Pro Ball Parks I have been to is Olympic Stadium in Montreal and the Sky Dome (both back in 2001).**

***Bottom of the 6<sup>th</sup> ... If you could spend 1 hour with anyone in history, who would it be?***

**I think Nelson Mandela or Pierre Elliot Trudeau**

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

**Never had a drop of Coffee in my life so Diet Soda as I am a Type 1 Diabetic.**

***Bottom of the 8<sup>th</sup> ... What is the longest game you have ever been involved with?***

**Fastpitch = a 17 inning Championship Final Fastpitch Game (1-0 Final score) on the plate between a California Team & Atlanta team in front of approx. 4000 fans @ Softball City in Surrey. We had an "officials Timeout" in the 14th so the base umps could use the washroom.**

**Baseball = Midget Nationals 2 years ago in Halifax. We started the game @ 10am & didn't finish until 830pm due to Rain, Lightning, etc - we were not able to leave the ballpark either!!**

***Bottom of the 9<sup>th</sup> .... If you could umpire a professional baseball game what park would you chose to work in?***

**I think "Fenway Park" or "OLD Yankee Stadium" just because of**

**the history of those ballparks.**

**Lets go Extra Innings with Kris Hartley....**

***Top of the 10<sup>th</sup> ... Which do you like to work best? The Plate or the Bases?***

**Plate. I like the fact you have to stay completely focused for every pitch of the game.**

***Bottom of the 11<sup>th</sup> ....Day Games or Night Games?***

**Night Games are nice as they are cooler than Day games in Kamloops. But otherwise it doesn't make a difference to me.**

***Bottom of the 12th.....What is your main goal in baseball?***

**To represent BCBUA and Baseball Canada to the best of my abilities, game in and game out, regardless of the level and hopefully that allows me to achieve the highest level possible (that I can) in the Amateur Ranks and continue to**

