



Hey Blue! Newsletter

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING NEWS AND NOTES

The BCBUA AGM was held in Victoria November 17. Area 1 Representative Eric Rasmussen hosted our group for the weekend and put on an excellent show. The hotel was first class and we thank Chateau Victoria for providing us with excellent hotel and meeting rooms and top notch service and hospitality. A good local turnout occurred and so Victoria area umpires are to be commended for coming out and supporting your association.

The AGM itself was concluded in good time and was chaired by Vice President Rhonda Pauls as President Berry was absent.

There was only 1 item that was voted on by membership –

The people in attendance also raised \$200 for the Ron Boutang Memorial Umpire Scholarship through a raffle for donated items.

The meeting allowed BCBUA to recognize many individuals through our longstanding Awards Program, including the Induction of Ian Lamplugh, Brian Cargnelli, and Don Hass into Life Membership in our association. They are in rare company indeed as the total Life Members now number just 18 in the 40 year existence of the association.

Our members elected the following individuals to the Board of Directors for 2 year terms.

John Berry – President (acclaimed through our new nomination system)

Sean Sullivan – Treasurer (acclaimed through our new nomination system)

Eric Rasmussen – Vancouver Island South (acclaimed at meeting)

Gary Webber – Lower Mainland East (acclaimed at meeting)

Rick Antoniak – Lower Mainland South (acclaimed at meeting)

Darcy Rysz – Okanagan South (acclaimed at meeting)

Matt Lowndes – Northern BC (acclaimed at meeting)

There were no resignations at the meeting from any current standing members so the remainder of the board remains status quo for 2014.

Rob Allan (new Assistant Provincial Supervisor) and Fabian Poulin (retirement) did not run for the positions they held in 2013.

Berry enters his 6th term as President making him the longest such tenured President in our association history. Berry continues as Baseball BC President as well under a separate jurisdiction.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 25, 2014	Instructor Workshop	Richmond, BC
January 26, 2014	Board of Directors Meeting	Richmond, BC
April 3-6, 2014	National umpires clinic	Kamloops, BC
June 25-June 30	Grand Forks International	Grand Forks, BC
July 30-Aug. 4	BC Minor Provincials	
	Mosquito, Peewee, Bantam, Midget AA	T.B.A.
	Midget AAA	
July 30-Aug. 4	Men's Provincials	Trail, BC



I'd like to welcome everyone to a new year in baseball umpiring.

Your Association has been preparing for a year that will again highlight umpire development, and build and extend the efforts from the year just past. Writing

this note, I'm struck by the efforts of so many people who work quietly and effectively to make our Association, and baseball umpiring in BC, as effective as it is. At the obvious risk of omission, I'm going to highlight the efforts of a few of those folks.

Many of our clinic instructors will be attending an instructors clinic in January, where they will become familiar with the new instructors manual and the new workbooks that will support our level 1 and level 2 clinics. An enormous amount of work has gone on to prepare for our new year, and soon our members will see some of the results! I particularly want to salute the efforts of Brian Cagnelli in getting us to the point where we can move forward with our plans to revamp our clinic materials to provide support that is better linked to the clinics themselves. Brian is a former chair of our BCBUA education committee, before some health issues forced him to step aside from that position. As a professional educator, and a qualified master course conductor in the Baseball Canada Umpire Caravan program, Brian has brought the expertise as well as the time and effort to bring this concept to life.

Our new education committee, chaired by Rob Allan, is developing its plans on a number of fronts, some of which you will see elsewhere in "Hey Blue" now and in the future. Our able Secretary (and provincials committee chair among other roles), George Smith, has continued to devel-

op our database so that it better meets our needs as an Association, and is increasingly user-friendly. Steve Boutang, our provincial supervisor, has been working both with our provincial efforts, and the national umpiring program under Baseball Canada. He's getting ready for another national clinic in April, something that is proving very effective in helping to develop umpires new (and some not so new!) to the national program. Steve's also got plans to work with his new supervisor team, and put more emphasis on in-season mentoring, evaluation and development of our national umpires. Rhonda Pauls, our Vice-president, has been a big part of some pilot approaches with mentoring and with provincial supervising, that we hope will be extended and improve both what we do and how we work well with our partner leagues.

For umpires doing BC Minor ball, I'd like to highlight a rule change that was passed at their AGM in November. It restricts what coaches may do in coming out to speak with an umpire. As I write this, we are working with BC Minor on a joint approach to ensure umpires and coaches understand the new rule as much as possible, before the season starts. BC Minor have introduced this rule in a serious effort to eliminate inappropriate behaviour, including abuse of officials. While there may be some adjustment required on the part of officials and coaches, we need to pay careful attention to the rule and support its orderly implementation. BC Minor is to be commended for this effort to protect our officials!

A big welcome to the new members of our board – Treasurer Sean Sullivan, and Area Reps Garry Webber and Matt Lowndes. And thanks to retiring members Treasurer Fabian Poulin and Area Reps Terry Shaw and Rob Allan.

Let's have a great season!

NATIONAL CLINIC REGISTRATION

The National qualification clinic will take place April 3-6 in Kamloops. All level 4 and 5 umpires are expected to attend. Any fully qualified level 3 umpire wishing to attempt their level 4 certification may request, in writing, to Supervisor Steve Boutang to be considered for an invitation. Any level 3, 18 years old as of January 1, 2014,

wanting to be considered MUST be available for April 4-6 inclusively. As usual, all level 4 and 5 umpires will be required to work 2 days of the tournament. We expect another full clinic. Special Guest Instructors will include Jon Oko and Andrew Higgins from Alberta. Class sessions, exam preparation and completion, Infield po-

sitioning for 3 man system, plus at least 2 games will be completed by each umpire. Your registration cost will include all meals for 2 or 3 days, hotel accommodation, and your Baseball Canada and BCBUA membership dues. Registration will commence soon so check the BCBUA website for more details.

MEET OUR NEWEST AREA DIRECTORS



MATT LOWNDES

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the new Northern Area Rep for the BCBUA.. I'm a teacher in the Bulkley Valley,

Harry Wendelstedt School for umpires. For the next two seasons I umpired in the now defunct Independent Professional Golden Baseball League. I have also worked in the West Coast Collegiate League

having recently relocated to Smithers. I have been a proud BCBUA member for 16 years, and am thankful for the opportunities that umpiring has given me. In 2008 I

attended the

since 2007 and the Western Major Baseball League. I am Baseball Canada Level 4A umpire and have worked numerous provincial championships, and two Baseball Canada National Championships. I have also umpired in the World Baseball Challenge in Prince George in 2011 and 2013. I look forward to working with the umpires of the North to improve not only the number of umpires, but the quality of officiating on the field. If you have any questions feel free to contact me. You can find my contact info on the BCBUA website.

GARY WEBBER

Hello my name is Gary Webber and I am your new Area 3 BCBUA Umpire Director. I started my umpire career a lot different than most, in 1973 I umpired my first Little League game and hated it. Over the next three years I umpired some baseball games and a lot of basketball games. It was 1976 when I was in my first year of College at LCSC, Lewiston Idaho, and was refereeing basketball to make extra money that I got an assignment with Ed Chef, the NAIA Baseball Coach (at the time I had heard the name but did not know him) to do a High School basketball game. I ended up doing 4 or 5 games with him that year, one night he told me I should take the Sports Officiating Class that the College offered and that it covered many sports, including baseball. I loved the class and learned the correct way to officiate many sports, including baseball. The next

fall I ran into Ed and he asked if I had enjoyed the Officiating Class and ask me to come out and umpire for his Fall Ball team at the college. I ended up doing three full fall seasons of baseball, Legion Summer games, High School and AAU games and three spring games all at the NAIA Level, I then entered the United States Air Force and spent 12 years in the USAF, I umpired baseball when I got a chance in my spare time. I worked Little League and High School games in Arkansas, Washington State and some games in Okinawa, Japan where I was stationed for three Years. While in the Air Force I meet a Canadian girl and got married. After the Air force I moved to Canada. That was 22 years ago. Since then I have coached my sons through Midget Baseball and did some umpiring part time and in 2000 started umpiring full time. I have been the UIC at Coquitlam-Moody, Ridge Mead-

ows, and Poco Men's League. I have umpired over 100 games a year at Mosquito to senior levels the last 11 years. I did my first Provincial at the Bantam AAA Level in Poco in 2008 and have been to 13 Provincials since. I have done 2 Peewee AA Westerns and last year I was on the crew that did the Bantam AAA Westerns. This last year I passed my Level 4 Baseball Canada National Rating after a couple years of hard work. I currently work for the Coquitlam Park and Rec Department and when I am not on the Baseball Field, This next year I hope to work as a mentor with the Mentorship Program that our BCBUA VP Rhonda Pauls started last year, and I will continue the hard work that Rob Allen has put into being the Area 3 Umpire Director and of course umpiring all levels of baseball.



Arnie was a fantastic baseball player in his day, playing well into his 50's.

In November, BCBUA lost our oldest active umpire when Arnie Coones of White Rock BC succumbed to cancer. The news was a surprise to so many of us. We wish to offer our thoughts of sympathy to the family, particularly his long time wife Fran.

There aren't many umpires out there who everyone liked, regardless of whether they got calls right or wrong. It's a job that puts you into conflict with people from time to time and mostly there are a few people out there who will truly dislike you because of it. But Arnie was one of those guys that everyone liked.

BCBUA was planning to honour Arnie at the AGM this year with the George Connelly Builders Award for all his hard work over the years, but unfortunately he passed away before the meeting. We will present that award to his family at the memorial service on February 8, 2014 at 2pm – location TBA.

One of Arnie's closest friends was Richard Christie. We asked Richard to say a few things about Arnie so that everyone could get to know what kind of person he was.

HEY ARNIE – WE WILL MISS YOU

It was a sad day when I received the news that my good friend Arnie Coones had passed away last month from a recent bout with cancer. I had heard that he was ill and that it was serious, but he went so fast that his ultimate passing still came as a great shock. Like many others, I didn't have a chance to say my good-byes. For this I will always have remorse. Arnie was a fixture in the White Rock baseball association. Everyone knew him, respected him and loved him. The players always affectionately called out "Hey Arnie, How you doing?" He always seemed to know everyone by their first name, and he always said hello. Arnie always had a smile and a joke, and a positive attitude that couldn't help but bring a smile to your face. I know that every time I was scheduled to work with him I truly looked forward to the game.

Arnie had a way of making everyone warm up to him: players, coaches and fans alike. Even if he blew a call (don't we all?), within an inning or so he would have everyone laughing along with him once again. Don't get me wrong. He took the game seriously, but he just had a way of making the outcome seem less important

than living in the moment. He made the game fun!

All of the young players and umpires he came to know loved him, and he loved working with them. Arnie was always doing things for the kids. He was a great teacher, role model and confidant; and there was nothing he enjoyed more than dropping down to work a game at the younger level where he could mentor some young, aspiring umpire and get to know a new group of kids, parents and fans. But there was another side to Arnie as well, a life away from baseball. He had a loving wife (Fran) who he adored and doted on over the last few years as her own health was starting to deteriorate. He also had a part time job driving a school bus where his passengers were a group of special needs kids. He loved those kids and they loved him. He spoke of them often. They will probably miss him more than anyone.

So the baseball world and the umpiring fraternity has lost another great man. Thankfully he will be remembered fondly by all those who had the privilege of coming into contact with him. I know that I consider myself lucky and blessed to have had him as my good friend.

Yes Arnie – we will miss you!

Editor's note: Please check the web site www.bcbua.ca for more information about a memorial service for Arnie this February.

As I write this article I see the calendar change from 2013 to 2014. Wow. Where has all the time gone? Time moves rather quickly when we think about it, even if things seem to take an eternity when we want them to happen fast.

And with the elapse of time comes change. It's inevitable. You can't remain current in the best practices of anything if you refuse to change. Sometimes there is no need to change things that are working well. Sometimes change is essential.

We are currently at a phase of umpire training where-by change is essential.

We have slowly been changing some of our methods for a few years now. We changed the level 1 and 2 clinic format so that there were separate clinics for each level, with different materials offered at each, and different gym drills in most cases. This has proven to be successful.

We have started doing more evaluations during the course of the year so that umpires get more feedback on improving their games. This has resulted in great successes, particularly at the provincials each summer. We have developed better level 3 clinics and established a bona-fide Level 4 clinic each year. The result of our high level umpires at the Nationals over the last few years has shown us that this strategy is also work-

ing.

And this year, we will make more changes that will be positive for umpire education. And it concerns our level 1 and 2 educational materials.

We have developed new workbooks for level 1 and level 2 clinics. They feature discussion points, group exercises, individual exercises, visual aids, demonstration items, and much more class participation. We will focus on mechanics for the 60 foot diamond at level 1 and mechanics for the larger diamonds at level 2. So if you are planning to work both mosquito baseball and peewee/above baseball, then you really need to attend both clinics. Or, you should attend the level 2 clinic. Level 1 and 2 clinics are free incidentally. You only pay a single membership each year. So take advantage of the learning opportunities.

All of this relates to my initial statement about change. If we don't keep up with new methods of instruction, then all our umpires suffer. We become stale, we become stubborn, and we develop poor habits because we aren't learning.

Change is a good thing.... And it's a sure thing. Just like taxes... so embrace the changes we are making and give us a chance to show that it will be a good thing.

TIP OF THE MONTH

Winter is boring. And in Canada, they are longer than some areas of the world. We all sit around in the cold consuming potato chips and beer and watching hockey – the entire time waiting for March and April to spring up on us... (pun intended). Because that's when baseball starts again. But most of us who are inactive, and feeling like things are getting a little tight around the vestible from all the Christmas meals, often feel sluggish when baseball season comes upon us.

Here are a couple of ideas to help with fitness over the winter months that might be of assistance to us with our umpiring and decision making skills. Take up officiating another sport. Seriously. If you referee hockey or basketball, for instance, you keep your judgement skills

sharp, your game time decision making sharp, and you burn a few extra winter calories by sweating out those extra pops you drank while watching the Canucks game. It doesn't even have to be highly competitive. The entire purpose is to keep your mind sharp and your body in better shape. Not to mention the few extra bucks you make for your time.

Lots of baseball umpires are taking up officiating a winter sport not only for the money, but for the residual benefits outlined.

Think about it this summer and do some research. Try to convince an umpire colleague to give it a try with you next winter and go for it!

2013 BCBUA AWARD RECIPIENTS

Howard Chapman Sr. Umpire of the Year – Brian Wainright - Cloverdale

Female Umpire of the Year – Chloe Elston – Parksville

Doug Hudlin Award for Distinguished Service – Fabian Poulin - Nanaimo

Ian Lamplugh Award for the Most Promising Umpire– Mitchell Petersen – Delta

Richard Christie Award for the Unsung Hero – Dan Rogers – Nanaimo

Bill Murphy Award for the Most Improved Umpire – Phil Bourgeois – Burnaby

Chuck Blaikie Award for Outstanding Contribution to the BCBUA – Al Lexier – Richmond. This award was given Posthumously as Al passed away earlier in 2013.

George Connelly Builders Award – Arnie Coones – White Rock. This award was given Posthumously as Arnie passed away in November.

Abe Shapiro Mentorship Award – Rhonda Pauls – Abbotsford

Don Hass Award – Most Inspirational National umpire – Sean Sullivan – Delta

The following men were voted to receive Life Membership in the BCBUA:

Don Hass – Richmond

Don began his umpiring career in 1974 as a member of Richmond Minor Baseball. He joined the Vancouver and District Baseball Association in 1976 and BCBUA in 1980. In his 40 year career Don has attained the highest level of on-field accolades. He worked his first National championship in 1983, and his last in 2006, ending with a total of 10 championships. He subsequently supervised at the Bantam Women's Nationals in Richmond. During his on-field career he represented Canada 4 times at International competitions including 1 World Youth, 2 World Juniors, and 1 World Cup.

Off the field Don has contributed many years to the BCBUA's Board of Directors. He has served as Secretary, Member at Large, 2nd Director, Area Rep several times, and Supplies Chairman. He is currently the Assistant Provincial Supervisor.

Don has become one of the most respected umpires in the Provincial and National community. We congratulate him with Life Membership in our association.

Brian Cargnelli – Merritt

Brian started umpiring in the Dunbar Little League when he was only 10 years old working 6-8 year old ball and was awarded the championship game that same year on the plate. Over the next 36 years he worked all levels of baseball in Canada including over 80 Provincial Championships, 20 Western Canadian Championships, 8 Little League Canadian Championships, 2 Little League International Championships, 12 Baseball Canada Championships and supervised at 1 BBC National Championship. He represented Canada at all three World Friendship Games (1989 Richmond BC, 1990 Hawaii, 1991 Osaka Japan) and at the US Open in 1994 and 1996. He joined the BCBUA in 1981 and became a Baseball Canada National Umpire in 1984. He has been the Area Rep of the Interior of BC (1988-1994), Area Director Thompson-Okanagan (2003-2007), Education Chair (1989-1995, 1999-2004), member of the Education Committee (1984-2013) and Vice-President of the association from 1997-2001. He has worked with and mentored most if not all of our national members and most of our outstanding up and coming umpires from the past 30 years. Along with Steve Boutang he is the author of the newest educational manuals that our association is rolling out this spring. We congratulate him with Life Membership in our association.

Ian Lamplugh – Victoria

Ian moved to Canada from England when he was 4 and became a youth umpire in Victoria in the 80's, quickly rising through the ranks of BCBUA. He attended a few Provincial Championships before winning the Ken Van Hatten Umpire Scholarship and heading to Professional Umpire School and subsequently Professional Baseball Umpire Corporation for placement into Professional baseball as an umpire.

Following stints in various minor leagues, he worked his first game in the Majors in 1999 as a call up member of the National League staff.

He worked over 200 games in the Big Leagues before being released. He then worked for a few years as the Umpire in Chief in the Chinese Professional Baseball League before heading back to Canada for good. The past few years Ian has worked in Victoria for the Golden Baseball League and has appeared at the World Baseball Challenge in Prince George, but he is mostly retired from on field work.

Ian was inducted to the BCBUA Hall of Fame as our inaugural member in 2010.

We congratulate Ian on being a recipient of Life Membership in the BCBUA.

STOP YELLING AT ME!



BC Minor Baseball Association has taken a significant step towards ridding the sport of umpire abuse. At their AGM in November the Association voted in favour of a new Con-

duct rule, which will remove most umpire abuse by coaches and players. In simple terms, a coach at any level of BCMBA is NOT PERMITTED to leave his position at the coaching lines or the dugout to come onto the field to yell at or disapprove of a judgement call that an umpire has made. If an umpire feels safe to do so, they can go to a neutral area away from the dugout to discuss a rule or a call, but the umpire can leave that area at any time if a coach is deemed to be

harassing an umpire.

This initiative should help all young umpires feel more confident on the field and not be afraid of what might happen if they make a mistake or if a close call goes against an angry coach.

We thank BC Minor baseball and Baseball BC for supporting such an initiative.

More information will be provided about how to deal with this situation at your local level 1 and 2 clinics.

LEVEL 3 EXAMS ONLINE

The level 3 exam will also be available online this spring. There will not be a level 3 clinic in the Lower Mainland this year, and as a reminder, all umpires who are at level 3 must register on the BCBUA website and submit a passing level 3 exam to remain current in this portion of your qualifications.

Preference is always given to qualified and capable level 3 applicants for Provincial Assignments each year.

LEVEL SYSTEM CHANGES

There were a few minor changes made to the BCBUA level system at the AGM weekend. Starting in 2014, once an umpire attains their qualifications for level 2 or their level 3 they will remain at that level - even if they fail their exam each year - so long as they maintain continuous membership in the association year over year.

However, an umpire who is not current (membership and passing level 2 exam each year) will not be allowed to move up to level 3. In order to move up to level 4 an umpire must be current in their level 3 membership, exam, field evaluation, and advanced clinic.

If an umpire fails to register in any given year, they will be expected to start the level process from scratch again.

MENTORSHIP AVAILABLE!

BCBUA will continue in 2014 with our Mentorship program under the guidance of Vice President Rhonda Pauls.

In short, BCBUA offers training to experienced adult and teen umpires who would like to make a few extra dollars to help first and second year umpires who are just starting out as umpires.

The mentor umpire will receive an additional \$5 on top of their normal game fee as an honorarium for their participation and assistance.

The mentor will help the new umpire feel more comfortable and help them out with the rules and game issues while learning the basics about umpiring.

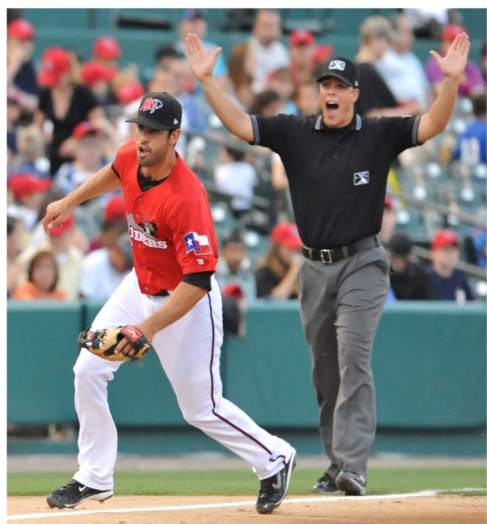
This is a great program that your associations should take advantage of. Contact Rhonda at ladyblue.uic@gmail.com for more details!

BCBUA 1974-2014

The 2014 calendar year marks the 40th season of operation for the BCBUA. Founded in September 1974 as an umbrella organization under BC Amateur Baseball Association, the founding members (5 of whom are still alive) elected President Doug Hudlin, of Victoria, who served from the 1975 season until 1978. We have a proud history and tradition. Check it out on our website under the "About us" tab.

SCHEURWATER RETAINED

Stu Scheurwater, of Regina Saskatchewan, has been retained as an umpire in the AAA Pacific Coast League for 2014. Stu has also received his 2nd invite to Major League Spring Training and is currently working the Arizona Winter League. The 29 year old former Baseball Canada umpire is entering his 3rd year at the AAA level.



MUCHLINSKI WAITING FOR THE CALL

Everyone who attended the Superclinic in 2013 will remember Mike Muchlinski of Seattle who was one of our guest instructors. Mike was



a real professional, an outstanding instructor and motivator, but mostly just an all-around great person. If you pay attention to MLB box scores, you would have seen Mike's name listed on the umpire crews over 100 times again in 2013, which brings his lifetime total to nearly 600 Big League games. In fact, there is a funny video of Mike taking a small miss-step during a nationally televised Yankees vs Mariners game this past summer in Seattle.

We wish you well Mike and hope that you receive that well-deserved phone call this year.

DID YOU KNOW??



Did you know that the NPB (Nippon Professional Baseball League in Japan) has started its own Professional Umpire Training Program? The first such class graduated on December 23. PBUC Director Justin Klemm was the lead instructor. The top graduates will be offered seats at one of the 5 week Professional Umpire Schools in the United States in January.

REST IN PEACE MLB UMPIRE WALLY BELL

Longtime umpire Wally Bell has died at the age of 48 in his hometown of Youngstown, Ohio, Major League Baseball announced.

"I am deeply saddened and shocked at the loss of Umpire Wally Bell," MLB executive vice president of baseball operations Joe Torre said in a statement.

"Umpiring was his life, and he touched so many people within the game of baseball. Aside from being an accomplished, All-Star-caliber umpire, Wally was a loving dad to his two teenage children. I extend my deepest condolences to them, his girlfriend Renee, the rest of his family and his admirers across Major League Baseball."

Initial reports indicate Bell died of a massive heart attack in a Youngstown hospital.

"All of us at Major League Baseball are in mourning tonight regarding the sudden passing of Wally Bell," commissioner Bud Selig said in a statement. "I al-

ways enjoyed seeing Wally, who was a terrific umpire and such an impressive young man. On behalf of our 30 Clubs, I extend my deepest condolences to

Wally's family, fellow Umpires and his many friends throughout the game."

Bell had open heart surgery in 1999 and did charity work with the American Heart Association in the ensuing years. According to his biography, his proudest moment was returning to the field after his heart procedure.

Bell began working Little League games at age 17 and was in the majors in 1992 at age 27. He worked one World Series (2006),

three LCS (2000, 2001, 2005) and six LDS (1998, 1999, 2003, 2004, 2006, 2013).

"Wally was a great umpire, a great partner and a great friend," said Joe West, president of the World Umpires Association. "The umpiring community is deeply saddened by this tragic loss. He will be sorely missed by many."

From "CBS News Online"



STUMP THE UMP ANSWER

Here is the question from the last issue of Hey Blue!

In a recent Toronto Blue Jays game Brett Lawrie and Jose Reyes were both called out at 3rd base. Lawrie was standing at 3rd when he was called out and Reyes was just off the bag. Your question this month is how could both of these people been called out on this play. In fact the answer is a basic rule in Baseball, but like a lot of other rules the announcers (both past major league players and one of them has major league managerial experience) got the call wrong. The 3rd base umpire however got the call right. See if you can figure it out.

Okay, so the rule is the lead runner has all rights to the base he legally has acquired until they are put out or reaches the next base. So in this case Reyes was the legal owner of 3rd base. When Lawrie was tagged first he had no right to 3rd base so even though he was standing on the base, it was not a safe sanctuary for the Blue Jays player. Obviously Reyes was out as he was tagged with the ball while he was off the base. But the order was also important as if Reyes was tagged first he would have been out and Lawrie would have had legal possession of the base and not have been called out.

Personal: Brian Carnelli

Age: 51

Residence: Merritt

Hometown: Vancouver

Occupation: High School Teacher (Music, Photography, Video Production)

Year you joined BCBUA: 1981

Top of the 1st – What is your favourite food?

Well that is an interesting question as people that know me know I love all food. If its edible I love it. But if I had to choose one, it would be the Moussaka at Mino's in Kamloops

Bottom of the 2nd – What's the best part of Merritt BC?

Actually for me it's the people. I've spent 28 years in this town teaching and I can honestly say without the great people of this community I would have left years ago. But I can also say that Merritt's location at the center of the Coquihalla highway has also allowed me to travel easily throughout the interior of the province so Merritt's location is also a major part.

Top of the 3rd – What is your favourite TV Show?

Big Bang Theory — Bazinga

Top of the 4th— Who is your favourite Actor/Actress?

Actor: Kevin Costner

Actress: Sandra Bullock

Bottom of the 5th- What's your favourite car?

Currently it's a Bugatti Veyron, but thank heaven its worth almost 2 million bucks and is so small there is no way I could ever fit in it.

Top of the 6th – If you could spend an hour with anyone in history, who would it be?

Noah, I want to figure out how he got all those animals onto the ark. And then maybe he could figure out a way I could get into a Bugatti Veyron. Seriously John Lennon would be great to sit down and talk with.

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

Well, if I was working a game it would be water. But

now that I am officially retired for on field stuff I think a nice cold Diet Coke would hit the spot. Not a Diet Pepsi though as my wife has told me I don't like that anymore.

Top of the 8th – What has been your most memorable baseball event you umpired in?

I can't really narrow it down to one event: For sure one has to be the World Friendship games, another the US Open in Wichita Kansas. I also have fantastic memories of working the Senior Men's National championships in my Home Park of Kamloops 2005 where I got the biggest cheer of all during the opening ceremonies. I don't think anyone including me expected an umpire to get a standing ovation. Pretty cool.

Bottom of the 9th – Who was your hero growing up?

Baseball-wise it was a fellow name Don Currie of Dunbar Little League. He was a coach and quite an exceptional umpire as well. He taught me so much about the game and about the role of the official that I have tried to pass along. As a Kid though, Spiderman was my real hero.

Let's go Extra Innings with BCBUA Life Member Brian Carnelli...

Top of the 10th – National League or American League rules?

American league, I love the DH rule.

Bottom of the 11th – What's your favourite park in BC to watch a baseball game?

Any park where I can sit and see good teams playing and young people learning the art of officiating. A bit of a cop out maybe, but totally true.

Bottom of the 12th – Do you think you'll umpire again?

I'd love to say yes, but my health is to the point where I have decided to step away from the umpiring world. Let me say this, I love the game of Baseball and umpiring specifically. I will never leave the game totally and will always be available to help those that are interested. But my time is now over and I am stepping away from the game. I know the association is in good hands and will continue to grow into the future. And hell I don't have to pay for my membership anymore so might as well sit back on the sidelines and complain about the officiating. I just have to remind myself that I've never missed a call in the stands.