



Hey Blue!

The Voice of BC Umpires



Spring 2005

BC Baseball Umpires Association

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SUPER CLINIC 2005

Saturday February 19 &
Sunday February 20

Mt. Boucherie Secondary School

Kelowna (Westbank), BC

REGISTRATION DEADLINE:

FEBRUARY 7, 2005

(See Page 6 for full details)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - John Berry

It's time to get ready for another great season in 2005!

Your association has spent the winter getting ready for 2005; just as each of us, an umpire has to get his game ready and improved for the start of the season. There's a lot of progress to report.

Our AGM this year saw some change to our Board, which you will see on the listing in this issue. Congratulations to the new Board, and thanks to the members whose terms were completed. I'm sure we will continue to have an active and involved Board, and we welcome your comments and suggestions on how we can better serve our membership.

Our AGM is also a time to honour some of our members. This year, awards were presented as follows:

- Brian Cargnelli – most improved umpire
- Bill Murray – unsung hero award
- Rob Grey – Ian Lamplugh award (presented at Baseball BC / Baseball Canada banquet)
- Andre Jean – builders award
- Richard Christie – Doug Hudlin distinguished service award (presented at Baseball BC / Baseball Canada banquet)

The Association also voted to award life memberships to Bill Murphy of Victoria, Richard Christie of White Rock and Dave Kennedy of Vancouver. These three members have served your Association with distinction, each in a variety of capacities.

In another vein, we are also really pleased to welcome back Dave Kennedy as our once and again current editor of "Hey Blue". You'll see his deft touch in this issue, and I'm sure you will appreciate his ideas to improve our communications. One idea that your board has already approved is a return to a regular, three times a year, publishing schedule.

Our annual Super Clinic will be held in the Okanagan this year, and you'll read about the great program elsewhere in this issue. All the level 3 umpires and above, and those that want to improve their game to that level, should attend this clinic. Our plan is to rotate the location of Super Clinic, so we hope to see an especially good turnout from the Interior.

You will also see our plans to offer more choices for our regular clinics. Clinics are the foundation of umpiring. We learn in many other ways, as well, but the basic step of attending a clinic at the start of a year teaches us about rules and positioning. We learn new things, and clinics refresh what we think we know, as we are about to start our season.

Cont. page 4

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VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As we embark on 2005, we discover that baseball season is again just around the corner despite the large amount of snow we have received this winter.

I would like to take this timely opportunity to thank all of you who attended the AGM back in November. Sadly, we find ourselves again lacking input from our membership, whose opinions I value so much, as less than 30 bothered to attend and vote for our Board of Directors and receive an update on how our organization is serving you all. No matter though. It did not prevent us from accomplishing many good things such as the appointments of Dave Kennedy, Richard Christie, and Bill Murphy as Lifetime Members of our great organization. They are all worthy candidates for their countless hours of dedication and work towards the betterment of BCBUA.

Additionally, we were able to deliver good news to our membership that we will be reviewing the Advanced Clinic availability with the aim of holding such a clinic next year at a suitable location in the Northern area of BC. Further, we will be asking the Sr. Baseball Association for more concrete assurances that our umpires at their Provincials will be well remunerated for their expenses. And we will also be looking at other ways that we can better serve our membership, especially in the areas outside of the Lower Mainland.

Cont-next column

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Vice President's Report-cont.

Finally, we held the election. I was pleased to receive another mandate to serve as your Vice-President. It is a job that I very much enjoy. And although there was much opposition from various people who were against my return, I would like to thank those of you who voted to return me to this seat. And even though the objection of my return was registered by some members through their actions, I do not hold them in contempt. Rather, I welcome the opportunity to work together for the betterment of our association and our members.

In closing, I look forward to working with you all for the next 2 years. If you have questions about our association or how we can serve you better, do not hesitate to contact me via email at sboutang@silk.net

Steve Boutang, Vice President

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Assistant: Vacant

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YOU MAKE THE CALL #1

1. B1's attempted bunt results in a foul ball that only goes as high as the batters shoulders. F2 dives and catches the ball. Is B1 out? How high does a foul ball have to fly in order for the defense to catch it for an out?

Answer on page 12

BE SURE TO ATTEND

**SuperClinic
2005**

**February 19 & 20, 2005
Mt. Boucherie SS
Westbank, (Kelowna)**

YOU MAKE THE CALL #2

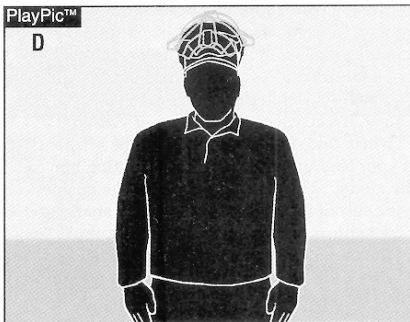
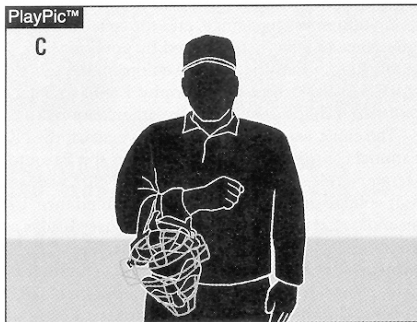
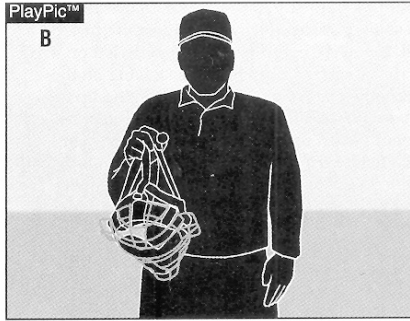
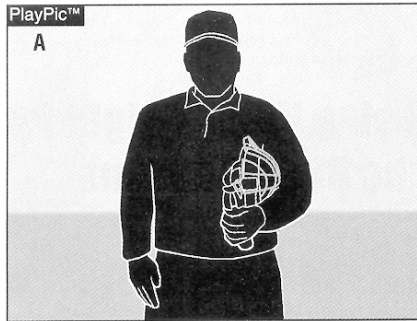
From the windup position, F1 begins to bring his hands up, as if to begin his windup, then steps back off the rubber with his pivot foot. He then throws to third in an attempt to pick off R3. Legal play? or Balk?

Answer on page 12

When You're Not Wearing the Mask

Part of exuding a professional appearance on the field includes what you do with your mask when you're not wearing it.

Between innings, during the pregame meeting at home plate or when recording information on your lineup card, the mask should be held tucked against your side and held in place by your arm, as seen in PlayPic A. It is improper to carry the mask by the harness (PlayPics B and C). Equally unprofessional is placing the mask atop the head as in PlayPic D.



Level 3 Report to the 2004 AGM

The numbers of Level 3 umpires in BC in 2004 were very disappointing. The following numbers are based on the database as of October 31, 2004.

Out of a total membership of 1010 umpires in BC there are 154 umpires that have completed at least 1 of the 3 requirements for Level 3. Out of that 154 we have a total of just 59 umpires that have completed all 3 of the requirements. This number further breaks down into 35 Level 3s, 15 Level 4s and 9 Level 5s.

The requirements for National Level umpires are transferable to Provincial Level 3 requirements. This means that the yearly evaluation, the Level 4 exam and the Advanced Clinic meet the standard we have set.

There were only 85 written exams returned for marking in 2004 and the breakdown was 65 (76.4%) passed, 19 failed and 1 was returned late (and so deemed a fail). For those of you that like to blame trick questions....there were 7 questions that were answered wrong more than 20 times and the trickiest question was answered wrong 37 times, that is 43.5%....not a very good trick.

The only Advanced Clinic we ran in 2004 was the Super Clinic at Douglas College. We had 77 attendees with all but a couple of the National umpires attending. We will, once again, only be offering the Super Clinic in 2005 however this one will be in Kelowna at a time and place to be announced. It is our intent to rotate these Super Clinics around the province so that there is one close to you at least every 3 years.

The third requirement for Level 3 is the on field evaluation. We had a decrease in evaluations in 2004 and we have made some adjustments. The form itself has been streamlined and made easier for both the umpire and the evaluator. We have had a small workshop for evaluators and hope to have more in place for 2005. The last thing about evaluations is that each umpire must get proactive and contact your Area Rep to set up an evaluation. We are adults and should not need to be pursued and pinned down in order to accomplish something to our own benefit! The umpires that really wanted their evaluations done in 2004 went out and got them done. Let's try not to wait until the Fall Classic next year but spread them out.

Finally, we have no female umpires at Level 3 or better but there are several Female tournaments each year that we could be sending a female umpire to. This is an opportunity that we cannot afford to let slip away. We, as a group, need to be more active in recruiting female umpires throughout the province.

W.P. Mac Millan, Level 3 Coordinator

BE SURE TO ATTEND

SuperClinic 2005

February 19 & 20, 2005

**Mt. Boucherie Senior Secondary
Westbank, (Kelowna) BC**

SEE YOU THERE!!

LEVEL 3 REPORT

January 2005 Level 3 Report

Welcome to 2005! I would like to start the year with a nag! Remember.... it is ultimately the responsibility of the umpire to ensure that they have all the requirements of Level 3 current and complete. For those of you with poor memory (like me) those requirements are:

- Be a member in good standing of the BCBUA.
- Pass the Level 3 written exam each year (86% or better).
- Attend an Advanced Clinic at least once each 3 years

Pass a Field Evaluation on both Plate and Bases (86% or better) at least once each 3 years

If you do not have ALL THREE of these requirements you must make arrangements with your Area Rep to ensure that your requirements are current. For the National Umpires, your evaluations and written exam marks (or deferments) will be accepted for L3 also.

For all the EAST OF HOPE (beyond hope??) umpires the Super Clinic will be in the Kelowna Area this year so please take advantage and attend. If any Level 3 umpires or hopefuls need an Advanced Clinic for their requirements this year the Super Clinic will be the ONLY Advanced Clinic in 2005.

Anyone not knowing the status of your requirements please contact your Area Rep for this info.

Please read the Level 3 Report tabled at the AGM elsewhere in this issue and make sure you are up to date.

Bill Mac Millan, Level 3 Coordinator

REPORT - AREA 1 Vancouver Island South

As we enter into another baseball season, Eric Rasmussen & I are preparing for the 2005 umpire clinics. Currently, I am just completed my service on a disciplinary committee matter. As you prepare for the upcoming ball season just a reminder to get your applications in to me for the Provincials tournaments you wish to work. Tournaments will be listed in the next Hey Blue.

The following is information for clinics this year. Please contact the person listed in your area for dates and times:

DATE PLACE
LEVEL CONTACT PERSON

Mar 12 - Duncan (Club House) Level 1
Grant Mellemstrand 743-6055
Mar.13 - Victoria (Lambrick Park) Level 2
Eric Rasmussen 592-7297
Apr 2 - Victoria (Lambrick Park) Level 2
Chet Masse 474-3582
TBA - Ladysmith (Location-TBA) Level 2
Tim Britton Foster 245-5543
TBA - Nanaimo (Location-TBA) Level 1
Maria Agius-Aasen 753-0166
TBA - Nanaimo (Location-TBA) Level 2
Maria Agius-Aasen 753-0166

Chet Masse, Area Director

REPORT - AREA 2 Vancouver Island North

Happy 2005 to All the members of BCBUA, especially those in my area. I would like to thank the members of BCBUA for allowing me to serve another term as Area Rep for Vancouver Island North. I hope that with Ed Berkenstock at my side we will be able to meet the needs of each association as well as the individual members.

We are very fortunate to have some of the members we do, Ed Lafleur from Courtenay was one of the umpires at the Pee Wee National Championship in Summerside, P.E.I. and it was reported that he did an outstanding job. Parksville Baseball hosted the Pee Wee AA Provincials and many local umpires were used as well as some from Courtenay and all the guys did a great job. Although we were down in membership (only 1) we hope that clinics will be well attended and that both Powell River and Port Alberni will return to the BCBUA fold.

Once clinic dates have been scheduled all the local Umpire-in-Chief's will be notified. Until then take care and hope to you see all on the ball field.

Eric Toneff, Area Director

REPORT - AREA 3 Lower Mainland-East

It is that time of year again. Even though I noticed plenty of snow outside my window, baseball is just around the corner. I have started once again to read my rulebook, polish my shoes, and psychologically getting myself ready for another great season. I have had many calls recently concerning clinics which should begin next month or so. Moody/Coquitlam has already signed up for a level 2 clinic to be held on March 13, while Abbotsford has taken out advertisements in their local papers recruiting umpires. Our need for new umpires is important and we would especially love to see more females join our association. If you are interested in becoming an umpire or know of someone who would like to become an umpire you may contact me at or email BCBUA@yahoo.com. Our Super Clinic this year will be held in the Okanagan and if you are interested in pursuing your level 4 you will have to travel to the interior. Anyone interested in going to the clinic may contact Danny Huzar (contact info is listed on page 2 of this issue) and everyone is welcome. I have also fielded inquiries from young umpires asking how they can officiate at the higher levels of baseball. My quick answer is to attend a clinic in your area, know the rules, and work at your game. To become a good umpire, one must always strive to be better. With time and hard work, you will be able to step up to the higher levels of baseball. Thank you and have a great season.

Eddy Lang, Area Director

REPORT - AREA 4 Lower Mainland-West

Once again we start to anticipate the arrival of Baseball. As we start to check our equipment, remember that this is a good time to book into a clinic and start to renew our rule knowledge. I look forward to seeing all of you over the season. Let's have a safe and fun year. Anyone needing evaluations or anything else please give one of us a call. Check the Board of Directors in the front of Hey Blue and keep our numbers handy. Level 3 and 4's remember that the Super Clinic will be held in Westbank this year.

If you need to book a clinic for your league, please give us a call. There are many different types that can be booked now. How about one that is in the evening instead of over the weekend. All the best from Dave, Rob, and Don. See you on the diamond

Dave Kennedy, Area Director

REPORT - AREA 5 Lower Mainland-South

The season is fast approaching! It's time to get out the equipment and make sure it is all clean, in good shape and ready to start the season. Are your slacks pressed and your shirts clean and neat? Review the rule book and get ready for the clinic in your area. This year we are offering a new type of clinic which will be conducted on a number of weeknight evenings, rather than on a Saturday or Sunday. I am very excited about this new clinic and encourage you to attend! Please contact Danny Huzar or myself to arrange for a clinic for your association.

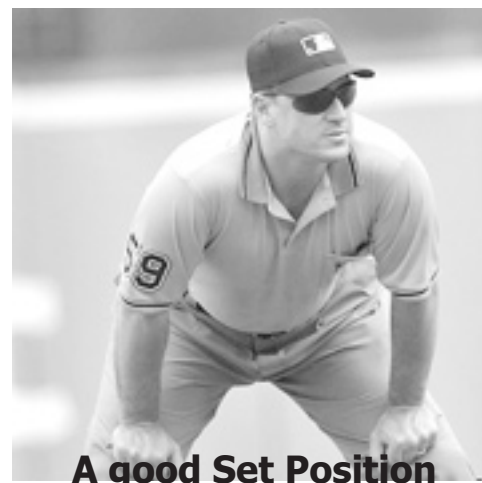
Hopefully the senior umpires in my area will be able to attend the SuperClinic in Kelowna. The Guest instructors both have extensive Professional experience and the level of instruction will be superb!

If you have any questions about clinics, moving up through the levels or any other umpire related queries, please do not hesitate to contact me by e-mail or telephone (see info on page 2).

Jerry Tregaskis, Area Director

President's Report Cont. from page 1

Finally, I want to ask each and every member of this Association to remember to promote the use of qualified, carded umpires – in other words, members of this Association! We need to encourage everyone who wants to umpire baseball to take the craft seriously enough to become qualified, and to maintain their qualification. We need to encourage leagues, associations and umpire allocators to use only carded umpires. This assures the use of umpires who are exposed to many avenues of education, (including this illustrious publication!), and who are covered by insurance, a code of ethics, and a discipline process. It also complies with the policy of responsible senior baseball associations such as Baseball BC. We will soon have a more detailed note available, suitable for sending to umpires, associations and individuals, and explaining the benefits of using qualified, properly carded umpires.



A good Set Position

REPORT - AREA 8 The Kootenays

A new year....A fresh start.

Last year we didn't have a very good turnout for our clinics in the Kootenays. Let's hope 2005 is better. In order for our young players to have quality ball they need quality officials. In order to get quality officials you need to be trained and you cannot be trained without a clinic. Experience is still the best learning tool we have but without the basics that you get at a clinic you just make your same mistakes over and over again.

I realize that I am preaching to the choir (as anyone reading this has already been to a clinic or two) but it is incumbent upon those of us that are already participating to do what we can to get more people involved. To that end I urge all the young (and old) umpires in the Kootenays to get their friends to come out to a clinic.

If any of you are in contact with coaches, invite them out also. There is nothing an umpire likes more than a KNOW-LEGEABLE coach. The locations and dates have not yet been finalized for the clinics but I will confirm all this with the local UICs and they will be in contact. Don't wait for them to call.....make the call first!!

For those of you more senior umpires in the Kootenays we will be holding the Super Clinic in the Kelowna area this year. There is more info elsewhere in this issue of the Hey Blue! The reason we are in Kelowna this year is to get more participation from the East of Hope crew by cutting down the travel time and expense of attending. I will be attending from Trail and will be willing to provide transport from here to the clinic and back to Trail to any that are interested. Register soon and let me know.

Finally, for any interested in Level 3 this clinic is a must and for those of you that have a Level 3 please contact me to see if you need to attend this year.

Good luck and I will see you around the Kootenays.

Bill Mac Millan, Area Director

REPORT - AREA 9 Northern BC

First of all Happy New Year for 2005.

Plans are in the works and the following Level 1 – 2 Umpire Clinics are being held in the North. Quesnel – Sat. April 9, Terrace – Sat. April 16, Prince George – Sun. April 17.

Lets all make a special effort this Year by contacting previous umpires, new umpires, local associations and advertise in the local papers, radio etc.

A trained umpire will do a better job than a unqualified person from the stands.

On Feb. 19-20/05 – I encourage all umpires in the North to apply and take advantage of the Super Clinic in Kelowna. There are three senior umpires planning to go from Quesnel.

If you are wanting to upgrade your umpire skills, I would also like to see you consider applying for provincial tournaments that may be held near your city or throughout the province.

See you all on the ball field.

Adolph Jede, Area Director



Rob Grey receives the Ian Lamplugh award
from left: Howard Chapman, Rob Grey and Sandra Lamplugh (Ian's wife)



Richard Christie receives the Doug Hudlin Distinguished Service award
from left: John Berry, Richard Christie and Howard Chapman

YOU MAKE THE CALL #3

R1 and R2 are both on base with 1 out and are running when B4 hits a pop-up in the direction of F3 who is straddling the foul line. The ball is over fair territory when he catches it. R1 is unable to get back to first because F3's leg in fair territory is blocking the base. Is this obstruction? May F3 touch the bag or R1 for a double play?

Answer on page 12

SuperClinic 2005

Saturday February 19 & Sunday February 20

Mt. Boucherie Secondary School
Kelowna (Westbank), BC

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 7, 2005

This year we are pleased to have two high-profile Guest Instructors:

• **Rick Roder**, graduated from Kansas Newman College in 1986 and attended the Joe Brinkman Umpire School in 1987. His umpiring experience: Pioneer League (1987), Midwest League (1988-1989), Texas League (1990 and 1992), Southern League (1991), Pacific Coast League (1993), International League (1994), and American Association (1995-1996). He assisted Mr. Jaksa in rules instruction at JBUS in 1988 and 1989, and became the primary classroom teacher in 1990, holding that position through the 1995 session. He was released from baseball in 1996. He has worked as a rules consultant and Triple-A Umpire Evaluator for the MLB Commissioner's Office. He has authored and coauthored several books. You may obtain more information about these at <http://rulesofbaseball.com/>. He is a contributor of articles to the World Umpires Association website and Referee Magazine. He resides on an acreage outside Remsen, Iowa, with his wife, Wendy (a music teacher and choir director), and children Will and Molly. He enjoys his work and family, as well as dogs, yard work, singing, bicycling, history, and vintage Chevy pickup trucks. Rick will be primarily focused on the 'Plate' sessions.

• **Ron Shewchuk**, has umpired at all levels of Baseball, and has the following to his credit:

- 6 world championships.
- 10 national championships.
- supervisor of 4 national championships.
- 13 years of professional experience in the Northern League, Prairie League and the Canadian Baseball League.
- Three years as a full time professional umpire.
- Chief instructor for the Prairie Region of Baseball Canada Umpire Caravans.

Ron has the ability to relate to all levels of umpires and believes that mentorship is very important. This is a theme that you will hear him expound upon throughout the clinic. Ron's focus will be at the 'Bases' sessions.

This year, Mark Bodwell will conduct the 'Jeopardy' style rules session with a revised format. We have also updated our technology to make it more conducive to the format of the clinic. We will round out the instruction with several more of our own accomplished umpires:

• Brian Cargnelli • Howard Chapman • Richard Christie • Don Hass

We have made arrangements with the Holiday Inn @ 2569 Dobbin Road for those of you from out of town. The hotel is located in Westbank and is close to the site where the clinic will be held. You may want to bring your swimsuit to relax in the Jacuzzi or swimming pool at the end of the day. The daily room rate will be \$69.00 plus taxes of 15% = \$79.35 total. When making your reservation, simply indicate that you are with BCBUA and that a \$69.00 room rate applies. Also, ask for the appropriate smoking status as well as the number of beds. Please call them directly at 1 (250)768-8879 to book your accommodations. Do not wait until the last minute, as room availability is not guaranteed. We will send you a confirmation letter which will provide you with specific directions.

If you have any further questions, please contact one of our committee members:

Okanagan:	Ralph Jolley	tel:(250)768-1137	fax:(250)768-1137	email:mjolley@telus.net
Lower Mainland:	Jerry Tregaskis	tel:(604)594-6911	fax:(604)594-6991	email:trig@dccnet.com
	Danny Huzar	tel:(604)469-9860	fax:(604)469-1919	email: danhuzar@telus.net

The registration fee is \$165.00. This includes your \$75.00 BCBUA membership fee and lunch, which will be provided on the Saturday. The Sunday session will conclude around lunchtime. The Baseball Canada fee is \$50.00. This is not included in your Registration fee of \$165.00. Level 4 or Level 5 umpires and those wishing to write the Level 4 exam must pay the additional \$50.00 for a total of \$215.00 Please complete the registration card and mail with your cheque or money order made payable to BCBUA



B C Baseball Umpires Association SuperClinic 2005 - Registration

Please use **UPPER CASE** only.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY or TOWN: _____

POSTAL CODE: _____

e-mail: _____

PLEASE UNDERLINE NUMERALS

PHONE: _____

WORK: _____

FAX: _____

CELL: _____

DATE OF BIRTH: MM/DD/YYYY

GENDER: ☐ M ☐ F

Cut out and mail or Fax this form to :

B C Baseball Umpires Association, 9 Creekstone Place, Port Moody, B.C. V3H 4L7

PHONE: 604-469-9860 FAX: 604-469-1919 E-MAIL: bcbua@yahoo.com

New Alternate Clinic Structure

By Danny Huzar

In 2004 Bill Murray informed me that he would be the new Umpire in Chief of Maple Ridge. He asked if BCBUA would consider an alternate method in which we deliver the 2004 clinics to his association. He suggested that many of our methods were incorrect. His intriguing comments sounded sincere, so I pursued his ideas. After receiving approval from our Technical Director, Richard Christie, I embarked on a project with Bill. It produced dramatic results and convinced me that clinics could be delivered in this fashion.

Currently, BCBUA is expanding last years' successful experiment to the associations that would like it. I have been asked to coordinate clinics for the Lower Mainland this year, and would like to work with all associations to deliver clinics which best suit their needs. We will still provide the 1 day version for any association that prefers it.

A little background information will help you understand the quantum leaps that were achieved in a short space of time. In 2003 Maple Ridge had 26 members, after we provided this new system their membership increased to 63. In addition, Mission joined the clinics with an additional 19 members. In the three years prior to that, BCBUA had zero membership from Mission. The bottom line is that BCBUA now had 82 members where we used to have 26. At present, we have entire areas in this province with fewer members.

Great you say. BCBUA ends up with more members, but what real good did it do? That is a fair question. To understand the changes, let's review what BCBUA had previously done. We would structure a Level 1 clinic for a morning or a level 2 clinic for the entire day, typically on a Saturday or Sunday. At times we would combine Level 1 & Level 2 clinics, allowing the Level 1 attendees to leave at approximately noon.

Did the Level 1 attendees require less instruction? No, however, these individuals were younger and their attention spans were strained after the first hour. In fact, the attention spans of the Level 2 attendees were also strained after the first hour, however, it was felt that they could better tolerate the strain. The result was, the Level 1 attendees received less information and the Level 2 attendees were challenged to retain what was taught.

I have since completed research in regards to memory (actually my son is currently in the teaching program at UBC and has all of this information at his fingertips, he researches for me). Out of necessity, we traditionally used lectures and demonstrations to convey information. The amount one would retain in this fashion is minimal. We cannot avoid this methodology entirely but we can improve upon it.

What did we do differently in Maple Ridge? The first change was limiting the weeknight instruction to 90 minutes per week over a six week period. The first two sessions were on Thursdays and the next four were on Fridays. Why? Simply because that is when the facilities were available. The Level 1 attendees were there for the entire instruction.

One of the significant advantages of this weekday structure is that more seem to be able to attend. If you structure a clinic on a Saturday at the time of year when Soccer & Hockey are in playoffs or when other family commitments conflict, then you lose a potential umpire. Weeknight sessions are less intrusive. Since families have school and work commitments during the week, evening attendance is less likely to conflict with other commitments. Since retention is significantly higher, an individual who misses half of the sessions is likely to learn and retain more than attending a conventional clinic. Most of the Maple Ridge attendees came to all of the sessions. It was more fun to attend and teach. I have had good feedback from the 'conventional' clinics that I have taught in the past but never on a scale that I experienced at the Maple Ridge Clinic.

The first 2 sessions consisted of covering all of the rules in a classroom environment for the entire 82 attendees. The next two sessions concentrated on 'base' mechanics, situations and rule enforcement. We tried to get all of the rules that we taught in a classroom environment repeated several times and integrated with the mechanics. These sessions would have been too crowded for the entire group, so we split the group into two. The first session was from 6:00 pm to 7:30pm and the second from 7:30pm to 9:00pm. Each session had 4 instructors so that the student/instructor ratio was 10 to 1. The final 2 sessions were on plate mechanics and was structured similarly as the base sessions. Each participant received plate instruction on a level that may not have otherwise occurred until much later in their careers. After all this was over, the real test began. How would these umpires perform on the field? Would there be massive ejection counts due to the fact that we spent quite some time at each session instructing everyone not to tolerate abuse and to eject anyone who deserves it? Did we create any Frankensteins? After the 2004 season Bill Murray reported back to me. I was pleased to find that we did not create any Frankensteins. Bill also reported an elevated quality of officiating on the field, despite the fact that so many umpires were first year umpires. The fact that Bill has already contacted me asking to repeat the structure is most reassuring.

As a result of this initiative, we now have the knowledge and experience to elevate the level of instruction in this province. I nominated Bill for the BCBUA "Unsung Hero" Award that we present on an annual basis and I am happy to report that he will be receiving it at an appropriate time. I would also like to acknowledge the instructors who gave freely of their time and energy to make this a reality. They are: Eddy Lang, Don Violette and Tom Brock. I will be looking for many Lower Mainland instructors who will be willing to contribute two or three hours a week during our clinic season. If you want to be one of those please call me.

If I haven't yet contacted your Association about this alternate clinic format, please call me and we will try to tailor something that suits your needs. If you are, or are aware of any Associations that may not have been affiliated with BCBUA in the past but may be interested in this format (tailored to your specific needs), please forward the contact info to me and I will follow up. My contact info is on page 2 of this issue.

Please help any way you can. Help organize a clinic, teach at a clinic or simply attend a clinic.

Have a great season!



Andre Jean, winner of the 2004 "Builders Award" working at the Native National Championships in Prince George last summer.

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YOU MAKE THE CALL #4

B1 hits a line drive to right field which rolls to the fence. Because there are gaps, the possibility exists that the ball could go under the fence. F9 throws up his hands and B1 slows down approaching 2nd base. Before the umpire can check the status of the ball, F9 reaches down and picks it up. B1 resumes running at full speed, but is thrown out easily at 3rd base. What's the ruling? Does the ball become dead when F9 throws up his hands? **Answer - page 12**

Baseball Umpires Checklist

- 1. Be competitive:** The players give maximum effort, so should umpires. Never let the game "get away from you". Umpires are hired to make the calls that control the game- so make them!
- 2. Keep your Head on Straight:** Never think that the uniform grants you immunity from taking criticism. It's part of officiating, so plan on it. Successful officials know how much to take.
- 3. Don't Bark:** No one likes to be shouted at, so don't shout at someone else. Be firm with a normal, relaxed voice. This technique will do wonders in helping to reduce tension and pressure. Shouting increases loss of control of one's self and the game.
- 4. Show Confidence:** Cockiness has absolutely no place in Umpiring. You want to exude confidence, not cockiness. Your presence should command respect from the participants, which is aided in appearance, manner and voice.
- 5. Forget the Fans:** As a group, fans usually exhibit three characteristics: ignorance, of the rules, highly emotional partisanship and a delight in antagonizing umpires. Accepting these facts will help you ignore the fans, unless they interrupt the game or prevent you from doing your job.
- 6. Answer Reasonable Questions:** Always treat Coaches and players in a courteous way. If they ask you a reasonable question, in a reasonable manner, answer them in a polite manner. If they get your attention by saying "hey Blue, I want to ask you something," then start by telling you off, interrupt and remind them of the reason for the discussion. Be firm but relaxed.
- 7. Choose your Words Wisely:** Never threaten a coach or player; this will only put them on the defensive. More importantly, you will have placed yourself in a "spot". If you feel the situation is serious enough to warrant the threat, then it is serious enough to penalize without invoking the threat. Obviously, some things you say will be in the form of a threat, but using the proper words can make it subtle.
- 8. Just Relax:** The purpose is to establish a calm environment for the game. Nervous or edgy umpires are easily spotted by everyone involved. Pacing around or displaying a wide range of emotions prior to, or during, the game will serve to make you seem vulnerable to the pressure.



Level 4 & 5 Umpires Only

Howard Chapman advises that we may have 7 openings to work at National Tournaments in 2005, and he invites any interested Level 4 & 5 umpires to contact him to express their interest.

YOU MAKE THE CALL #5

Play: Both R1 and R3 are on base with none out and B4 at the plate. R1 takes a walking lead toward the outfield hoping to draw a throw and get in a rundown, perhaps allowing R3 to score. Is this legal? If so, is the runner establishing his baseline for the play that may develop between first and second? **Answer - page 12**

EDITORIAL -Dave Kennedy

I have returned as editor of Hey Blue, let's have a great season. To those of you that have kept in touch over the last year, thank you. I look forward to a new era with the newsletter Hey Blue! Both Danny Huzar and Jerry Tregaskis have agreed to stay on and keep Hey Blue coming to the members. We have some ideas on new columns that will inform and challenge you the members.

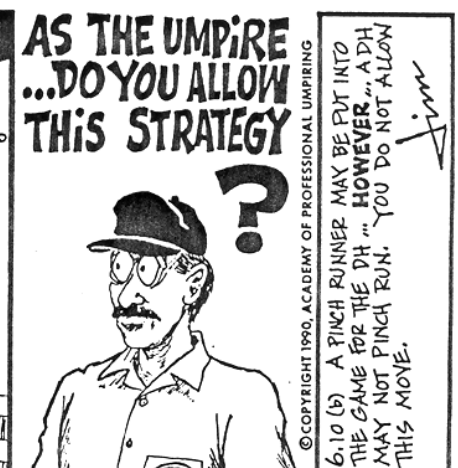
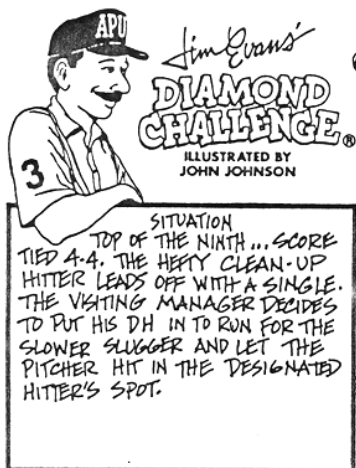
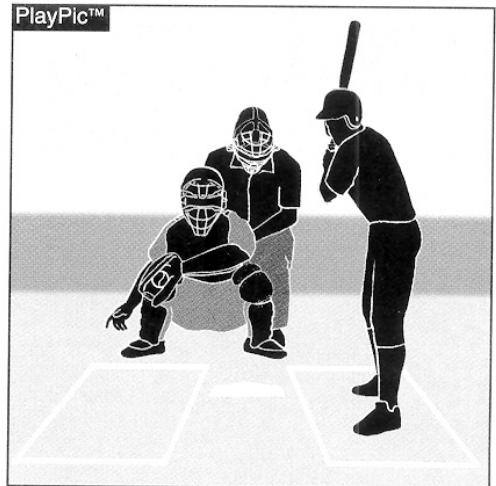
There are numerous opinions on what direction to take on keeping BCBUA active and growing, but everyone believes that Hey Blue is required to keep in touch with you the member. Diversity seems to be a way of life nowadays, and as such there is a wide diversity in the BOD of BCBUA. A difference of opinion can be good for everyone as long as all remember that we are working for the betterment of baseball in British Columbia.

Want to see yourself in a future copy of Hey Blue, then send us a picture of you umpiring or something involving baseball this year. We will make an effort to be sure that it gets included in one copy. There are lots of exciting things planned for this year, contests, challenges on rules, and a new feature regarding one rule per issue.

Wishing you all a great year, let's go have fun at Baseball this year. Be sure to drop me an email (dkenn@shaw.ca), let me know when there will be a tournament in your town this year. Terry and I will make an effort to attend and take pictures for Hey Blue.

Heads Up

Body language is crucial after rendering a ball/strike decision. Sometimes, umpires get frustrated when pitchers can't find the strike zone. Don't show your frustration by dropping your head after another in a string of "ball" calls. It shows disgust with a player's performance. Likewise, don't convey your emotions through your voice. Don't sigh as you make your verbal call or use a sharper tone of voice than normal. You wouldn't want a participant to indicate his frustration with you in such a manner, so don't do it to him.





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YOU MAKE THE CALL ANSWERS

1. B1 is out. The rules do not define how high a foul ball must go and any ball that does not qualify as a "foul tip" is either a fair or a foul ball. **Pro 2.0**

2. It is a balk! **Pro 8.01a**

3. Under Pro rules, a fielder with the ball or the primary fielder who is attempting to play the ball, can never be guilty of obstruction. F3 may touch either the bag or R1 to complete the double play. **Pro 2.0-Obstruction.**

4. By rule B1 is out. The ball does not become dead when B9 signals; only an umpire may declare a ball dead unless it becomes dead by rule. The players should know to keep playing until an umpire calls "time". **Pro 7.05f**

5. Yes it is legal to take a lead in any direction from a base unless it is an effort to screen a fielder from receiving a throw or to get a running start from behind the bag. A baseline is not established until a play is made on the runner. When that happens, the baseline is a straight line between the runner and the base to which he is going. **Pro: 8.5 (pro interpretation)**

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