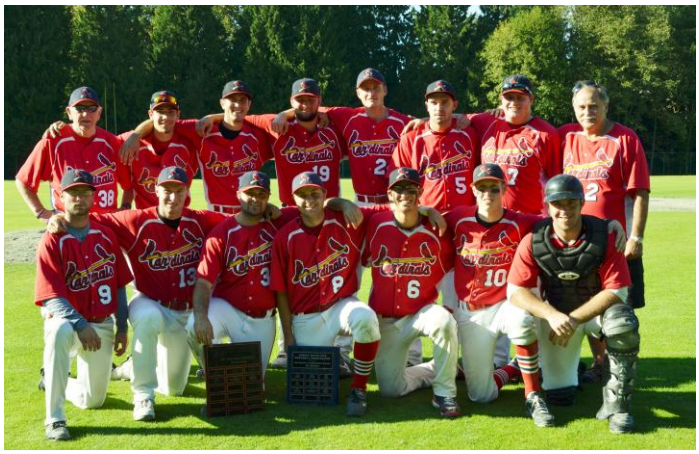
LMBA NEWS 'N NOTES

VOLUME FIVE – SEASON WRAP UP EDITION

LMBA 2012 Playoff Champions

LMBA 18+ 2012 Champions – Coquitlam Cardinals

Jumping out to a 5 run lead in the top of the first inning against the ***Newton Royals***, the ***Coquitlam Cardinals*** used strong pitching and steady defense to emerge with an 8 – 3 victory in the 18+ Division to championship tilt. Both teams had reached the final following after three straight divisional wins including upsets against higher seeded teams. For the Cardinals, the win gave them their second LMBA championship in three years following their initial win in 2010.



LMBA 45+ 2012 Champions – White Rock Legends



The 45+ Division championship game featured the third place ***White Rock Legends*** versus the regular season leaders, ***Delta Stars***. Jumping out to a quick 4 – 0 lead in the first inning, the Legends were led by 5 strong innings on the mound by ***Brian Unruh*** who kept the Stars in check. The game tightened up following the initial outburst but the Legends prevailed by a margin of 8 – 3. Unruh also went 3 for 3 at the plate and was voted the game's MVP award. With their win, the Legends claimed their third championship in the past five years.

LMBA 30+ 2012 Champions – Burnaby Blue Jays



The LMBA's 30+ Division championship tilt featured the first year ***Burnaby Blue Jays*** facing the defending 2011 champions, ***Vancouver A's***. In a close, hard fought final, the Blue Jays emerged with a 7 – 5 victory earning their first divisional championship. Outstanding pitching performances were turned in by the Jays ***Cory Stuart*** and the A's ***Cale Dougans***.

LMBA TEAMS AND PLAYERS SHOW WELL IN ARIZONA

With each passing year, more and more LMBA teams and players are making the journey to Arizona to participate in tournaments organized by the two main adult baseball organizations in the United States***. The Men's Senior Baseball League (MSBL)*** and the ***National Adult Baseball Association (NABA***) hold large tournaments in the Phoenix area and utilize the numerous stadiums and training facilities used by major league baseball teams during spring training.



Congratulations to ***Gary Pennington*** (left) and ***Dick Fitzgerald*** (right), part of the 70+ MSBL champions, ***San Diego Padres***. Gary has been on the receiving end of so many rings, he may need to be thinking of ***ear-rings***. The ***Maple Ridge Jerks*** showed well in a very competitive 18+ NABA tournament. The Maple Ridge squad opened with two straight wins but missed the playoffs following a three game skid – as always with the J's, however, a good time was had by all. ***Kevin Gordon*** and several ***Pirates*** made the playoffs in the 50+ NABA Division following a 3 win, 2 loss round robin pool record but were beaten by the first place pool finisher in the playoffs. A number of ***Howe Sound Hounds*** and ***Richmond Legends*** were part of a very successful 35+ MSBL team, the ***NCBL Canadians***. The heavy hitting squad finished pool play with a 4 wins – 2 losses record but were defeated by eventual tournament winner ***Team Las Vegas*** in the playoffs.

Canadian Cancer Society Acknowledges LMBA Efforts



For the third year in a row, the ***Lower Mainland Baseball Association, Ballpark Sports,*** and the ***Canadian Cancer Society*** worked together to raise funds for cancer research. The annual ***Going to Bat*** campaign featured the use of special pink bats donated by ***Merv Sandrel*** and ***Tim Everson*** of Ballpark Sports. The bats were used by all 32 teams in their regular league games which were highlighted by a special ***Buck-a-Hit Weekend*** where the LMBA donated a buck for each base hit – the bats were busy as 322 base hits were pounded out in a heavy hitting weekend. The rest of the promotion saw players, families, and friends donate a grand total of $ 4 866, bringing the league's three year total to over $17 000. Thanks to Ballpark Sports for their generosity, the Canadian Cancer Society for their organizational support, and to LMBA players, families, and friends for their dedication to a very worthy cause.
Left to Right – Dan Taylor, Nicola Romaniuk (Canadian Cancer Society), Merv Sandrel and Tim Everson

LMBA Special Recognition Awards

At the LMBA's recent AGM, three individuals were presented with ***Special Recognition Awards*** for their contributions to our organization. ***Adam De Bray*** has been recognized for his many contributions on the field as a member of the ***Richmond Legends*** and for his very generous assistance supplied to our league and member teams through his ***Ballcharts*** service. For those teams not connected to our website, please contact Adam for a first class communications team site. ***Ray Edger*** was recognized for his efforts in organizing and coordinating the LMBA's 45+ Division. Our senior division will be entering its tenth year of play in 2013 and its success is entirely due to Ray's vision and continued involvement. Prior to becoming part of the LMBA, Ray was the founder and driving force behind the Delta Masters League and organizer of the highly successful Lower Mainland Tournaments featuring teams from the LMBA, Delta Masters, and POCO leagues. ***Merv Sandrel*** (Ballpark Sports) was recognized for his on-field efforts (White Rock Eagles) and his support for our annual ***Going to Bat*** events. Merv has also been involved with other groups organizing events for the Canadian Cancer Society and he is planning some additional ideas for our event next year. The three winners joined our first award recipient, ***Shawn Hancheroff*** of MVP Athletic Supplies.

Special Thank You

The LMBA Executive wishes to extend a special thank-you to ***Robin Westie*** for his efforts as ***LMBA Treasurer*** for the past two years. We hope to see you back as part of a Chilliwack 30+ team in the near future and best of luck to you and your family.

LMBA BOARD OF DIRECTORS LOOKING FORWARD TO 2013

For the past nineteen years, the LMBA has been fortunate to have had a strong and dedicated executive. Some of our current members have been part of the executive for many years and collectively, they are looking forward to our twentieth anniversary season next year. At our recent AGM, the members elected the following board of directors.

Commissioner – Dan Taylor

Deputy Commissioner – Warren Oikawa

Treasurer – Tim Everson ***Secretary – Marke Andrews***

Registrar – Mark Staples ***Director, Website – George Smith*** ***Director – Umpire-in-Chief – Al Lexier***

Director, 45+ Division Coordinator – Ray Edger ***Director, 18+ Division Coordinator – Craig Di Rocco***

As per usual, all directors were elected unanimously but we are still looking for a 30+ Director. Please let us know if you would be interested in filling this position.

IT'S ABOUT TIME – LOGO NEEDED

As part of our twentieth year anniversary in 2013, a number of special events are being planned. A contest is being organized to kick off 2013 by having a logo designed that can be used on our website and in all communications. MVP Athletic Supplies is sponsoring the contest by putting up a $200.00 gift certificate for the winning designer.

CONTEST RULES

SIMPLE is best – elaborate designs are hard to copy in cresting format.

This is NOT a 20 Year Anniversary crest – It should have "Established (Est.) 1994"

Logo also needs to have included "Lower Mainland Baseball Association"

Winning Design becomes property of Lower Mainland Baseball Association

Designer will be recognized at 2013 LMBA AGM and in LMBA Archives

Submit Designs to Dan Taylor – lmba@shaw.ca

Contest Closes – January 31st, 2013 – Winner announced at February 2013 League Meeting

Above design submitted by Patrick Whitford (Ridge Meadows Twins)

Thank You for Your Efforts

The LMBA is the largest adult baseball league in Canada and it functions well as a result of outstanding efforts on the part of many individuals. Don't forget to thank the members of the LMBA Executive – each member has an important job and their efforts should be greatly appreciated. A special thanks to our 32 team managers for their roles in keeping our teams organized and competitive. Each year we continue to add new umpires and their efforts and input are an important part of our organization. Thanks to ***John Berry*** and the support staff at ***Baseball B.C***. for their input and support. While all of our teams share parks with minor baseball groups, ***Larry Waddell*** (Ladner), and ***John Berry*** (Burnaby) enable many LMBA teams to maximize park use with other user groups. Two highly successful tournaments were hosted by LMBA teams in 2012 enabling us to make some positive connections with other leagues. Thanks to ***Drew Brisbin*** (Ridge Meadows Twins) and ***Ryan Klenman*** (Richmond A's) for their leadership in organizing these events. Finally, thank you to our 535 players for their sportsmanship and cooperation in making the LMBA a great baseball experience.

Twenty Years and Counting . . .

2013 will mark the LMBA's twentieth year of playing baseball and a number of special events are being planned to mark this anniversary. Some events have been confirmed while others are in the planning stages – we are looking forward to your support and participation.

- LMBA LOGO Contest – please see the details on Page 4. Deadline is January 31, 2013 and the winner receives a gift certificate for $200.00 at MVP Athletic Supplies

- Saturday, April 20, 2013 – LMBA Poker Night at Sullivan Community Hall (152nd St and 64th Ave). Dave Johnson (Surrey Sentinels) of My Pro Poker Services has offered to organize a fund-raising poker night with all funds dedicated to our anniversary activities. Teams will be contacted early in 2013 and we are looking for team managers to canvas their players for commitment. Please see the My Pro Poker in our Advertisers section.

- May, 2013 – Going to Bat For Cancer Research fundraiser. The Canadian Cancer Society and Ballpark Sports have some new ideas they will be including. We are looking for the fourth annual event to be the biggest and best yet. Al Lexier (LMBA Umpire-in-Chief) is hoping to involve our officials.

- May 16 – 20 – Third Annual Tri Cities Invitational Tournament hosted jointly by the Maple Ridge Jerks and the Ridge Meadows Twins.

- June 27 – July 1 – Second Annual Richmond Classic Tournament hosted by the Richmond A's.

- August – The LMBA is currently working with Surrey Parks and Recreation and White Rock South Surrey Minor Baseball to use the two fields at South Surrey Athletic Park for an anniversary weekend. All 32 teams would be scheduled to play at this location. Besides an open concession, we are planning a 'beer and burger' opportunity for our players and fans. The weekends will be planned well in advance but teams will need to be flexible with scheduling. Our ten year anniversary was very successful but we have many more teams this time.

- Advertiser's Index

- BALL PARK SPORTS for the kids... of all ages! Thanks to Merv Sandrel (Ball Park Sports) for his generous support of our Going to Bat promotion. For a complete range of baseball products and services, drop into Ball Park Sports or check them out online at www.ballparksports.ca

- **MVP Athletic Supplies has been a supporter of the LMBA since its inception in 1994. Thanks to Shawn Hancheroff and his able staff for their consistent service and level of support for our organization. Contact information (604) 525-8833 or** www.mvpathleticsupplies.com

- **THE PEMBERTON STATION PUB IS THE HOME OF THE HOWE SOUND HOUNDS AND PROVIDED SUPPORT FOR OUR SEATTLE VISITORS LAST JUNE. FEATURING 32 SCREENS, THE PEMBY IS LOCATED AT 130 PEMBERTON AVENUE IN NORTH VANCOUVER.** WWW.PEMBYPUB.COM

- **Inside Performance is North Vancouver's newest fitness and training center with a strong baseball training and performance program. Inside Performance is located just off the Ironworkers Memorial Bridge in North Vancouver at # 2 – 1500 Railway Avenue and our site can be visited online at** www.insideperformance.ca

-  Pro Image is the official supplier for BC Baseball Umpires. Operated by Jerry Tregaskis, Pro Image offers a full line of umpire supplies and equipment. Jerry's products can be viewed at www.pro-image.ca

- Sport Starz is a baseball training and performance facility. Operated by Keith Faure (White Rock Eagles) and member of BC Capitals, two times Canadian 50+ champions. Sport Starz offers a full range of baseball training activities which can be viewed at www.thesportstarz.com

- Custom ash and maple bats from as low as $45. 14 different models in 14 different colors. Visit us on facebook or at Short.Woodwork@gmail.com

- Nestled between No.1 Rd & No. 2 Rd on Westminster Hwy , The Suburban Well provides a NEW place to **drink and dine** for patrons in West Richmond and beyond. Thanks to the ***Well*** for their sponsorship support during the inaugural **Canada Day Classic** hosted by the **Richmond A's.**

- ***STEVE ERICKSON*** ***DELTA CABLE TV.***

- ***THANKS TO STEVE ERICKSON AND DELTA CABLE TV FOR THEIR SUPPORT – GOING TO BAT CAMPAIGN.***

-  ***My Pro Poker*** is a fundraising service providing opportunities for sports, service, and community groups. ***Dave Johnson*** and ***Jay Hudyn*** (Surrey Sentinels) have offered their services for our poker night at the Sullivan Community Hall on Saturday, April 20, 2013. For further information and to see the extensive list of user groups, please visit their site at www.mypropoker.com and if you have any questions, please call ***Dave Johnson*** (604) 575-7727



Winners Circle Trophies has been providing quality products and outstanding service to the LMBA for close to ten years. Located in Surrey, they have been the source for our award trophies as well as player trophies and team championship plaques. Please visit their website at www.mywct.com