



The Scoreboard



May 2007

Message from the President;

Wow halfway through the season already! Time flies when you're having fun with your friends and playing Fastball. After an earlier wet spring we've sure done well with the sunny weather, though it sure could be a bit warmer. Soon you'll need your sunscreen and plenty of water as the rest of the season comes on.

We are pleased to see our numbers holding at last years levels. It means your having fun and wanting to keep playing. Our registrar, Praveen works very hard from December to April. Still not too late in some divisions to add a friend – check with your coach. In keeping the RBFA the best boys Fastball Association in BC we are continually trying to improve. The Mite and Jr Mite coaches have had clinics and follow-up. (thanks Jesse and Mairi). The older teams' coaches and player's have had a Team BC clinic (thanks to the guys, Drew and Tyler). The Linus Software Stealers and Greysocks men's league players have thrilled 70 players and their coaches and families with a clinic and a double header. It's terrific for the boys that went, to get to see where they can aspire to, it's also great that the 'stars' get to connect with and mentor the youngsters – thanks Marshall!

Many of you should have noticed by now the batting cage is finally forming. Hope is to be up and running by the May Mayhem tournament (Mites & Squirts). Thanks to Joe for keeping the pressure on the bureaucracy. The fields sure look good too. Al's obviously been busy working them to perfection.

After a lot of years we have new faces in the concession. Hope everyone has a big 'Hello' for Chelsea, Sarah, Alex & Jesse. Many thanks to Tarina and Stefany for finding and training their fine new replacements. If you need anything or have suggestions for new items on the menu email me at president@rbfa.ca



It sure makes me proud to see all of the boys dressed so sharply in the new uniforms. The equipment all looks pretty good too. Doug has done a good job in his solo year and if you need anything please feel free to leave him a note. Speaking of sharp our 'Men in Blue' are looking so good they are being scouted for the Provincials. Wayne's done a fine job with the blue team.

Make sure you get your ball throw money in! It's an important fundraiser (beats selling nuts door to door). Thanks to Berny for organizing and following up. Berny will also be coordinating the coach's game/family day this year on June 9th – DON'T MISS THE CHANCE TO SEE YOUR COACH IN ACTION! For Mum and Dad don't miss the chance to mingle with the other parents on your team during the Pub Night the same evening (June 9th at the Buck N' Ear pub)

Behind the scenes Mairi is working on the Gaming funding request for next season. This year the money will go to concession upgrades and more new equipment – nothing but the best for our boys!

So keep playing hard, learning as much as you can, be safe and remember the number one rule – have fun.

Bill Merrell



Visit the RBFA Web Site www.rbfa.ca



UPCOMING EVENTS AND REMINDERS

DOOR PRIZES NEEDED for Pub Night

Pub Night is Sat. June 9/07 at Buck 'n Ear Pub in Steveston \$12.50 for burger and beer – tickets available from Berny and at Concession ALL proceeds to RBFA

Family Day is Sat. June 9/07 at Palmer Field Coaches vs. Executive ball game at 12:00 noon
Lunch special for all kids

May Mayhem Tournament at Palmer Field
May 25-27, 2007
Mite, Squirt levels
Berny Schulz
Coordinator
604-271-9603
bernys@portal.ca





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Mid Season Umpire's Report;

I am very pleased to announce that this year's group of umpires are all experienced and they have all completed their level 1 designation. The dedication of the returning first year group is especially inspiring.

We have an opportunity to supply inhouse umpires for this year's upcoming Squirt Provincials Play-downs to be held July 13-13 2007, that RBFA will be hosting. To this end we will be working with all the umpires at all levels to bring them up to this challenging standard.

I am looking forward to seeing all of our players and parents on the diamonds this year and trust you have a good ball season.

Thank you and good luck,
Wayne Harper,
UIC, RBFA



The Batting Cage

After 15 months of contact talks and negotiations with the City of Richmond and the Richmond School Board the RBFA has its approval to proceed with the batting cage. As everyone can see we have not wasted a minute in getting the construction underway. The frame of the batting cage is up and most of the exterior wire mesh is on. The next stage is to rake the surface until it is level followed by installing the interlocking rubber mats. The custom netting is scheduled to be installed in a few weeks. The completion date of the project is June 1. Thank you for the charitable donations and patience. The kids will have this practice facility for many years to come.

The Squirt Provincials

The RBFA has done it again by setting a new standard. For the first time in many years, all three levels of Squirt will be played in one park at the same time. Softball BC has awarded this honour to us because of our excellent fields, outstanding facilities and our organizational team. The tournament will run from July 13 to the 15. We look forward to two teams competing and keeping up the sportsmanship and success that the RBFA has become known for. It takes a lot of people to run a successful tournament. We really need your help as part of the field crew, score keepers, announcers/music DJ... or if you are just interested in learning how to run a tournament please contact one of the executive members (604-274-6000) to discuss what you can do. Come on out and see the best teams from around the province take on our boys. Good luck Squirts.



Team BC centralizes in Richmond

The Team BC for boy's Fastball for the Western Summer Games in Edmonton has been using Richmond as the headquarters since August of last year. The boys participating are from as far away as Fort St. John. Team BC put on a skills camp for the RBFA on the Easter long weekend and this past weekend they held a tournament at Palmer that included our own RBFA Midget Mariners Rep team.

The quality of ball (taking in consideration all the rain we had) was very good. Those that attended were treated to a lot fast pitching and hard hitting. Team BC will be back again for the July long weekend and will be playing our Midgets again for a couple of games on July 1st for Salmon Festival in Steveston Park (11:00 & 2:00). So if you're at the Salmon Festival stop by and cheer on your Mariners and watch some good ball!!!



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