



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Cheryl McKeeman

To: All BC Racquetball Members **Date:** March 2, 2011
Subject: March 2011 News

Congratulations to Tanner Mattson, BC's new top-ranked male player.

Former National Champion Lori Jane Powell was in BC for 10 days, during which time she met with many members, players, coaches and parents, as well as people in other sports, to help inform her about the state of racquetball in BC. Our goal is to increase membership over the next two years, and Lori was here to help us develop strategies to accomplish that goal. Lori is also helping us to develop an implementation plan for the Long Term Athlete Development model that Racquetball Canada has adopted, and that funding agencies are requiring all sports to embrace. The BCRA is going to be very busy with some of these projects during the coming years, and your help will be most welcome.

Four clinics were held last week: a beginner/intermediate skills clinic at South Arm, a women's doubles clinic at REVS, an advanced skills clinic at South Arm, and a Junior Training camp at REVS. Unfortunately the beginner clinic at Newlands was cancelled due to snow. Do the players at your racquetball club want some tips? If so, please contact us so that we can provide a skilled and certified coach.

TIP: When serving, be sure to take a moment to pick a target spot on the front wall.

Our next tournament is the BC Provincials: March 31 – April 3 at Newlands. Register at <http://www.r2sports.com/tourney/home.asp?TID=7976> or call Cheryl at 604-737-1786

IMPORTANT NOTE – the Provincials souvenir will be SHORTS so please make sure you request the size of shorts that you want – you can enter it as a comment when registering online, or send us an email.

Please note that the AGM will be held on April 2 at 6 pm.

Do you want to update your knowledge of the rules? There will be a rules clinic at Newlands before the Provincials – let us know if you want to attend. Or just send along your questions and we'll answer them in the next newsletter. Or if you have several people at your club who want a rules refresher, give us a call.

For our racquetball youth: BC Junior Provincials – March 26th-27th at REVS – please contact Sebastien for details.

Also coming up: Abbotsford Open: April 15-17 at Valley Racquets.
<http://www.r2sports.com/tourney/home.asp?TID=7970>

And Junior Nationals at REVS – April 24-30 !!!

Some other projects :

Stephen Culhane is developing a league involving our Lower Mainland colleges and university; if you have any contacts or ideas for Stephen, please contact him.

Stephen is also working on keeping the website updated and current.

Debbie Goodhope is working on introducing racquetball to students at a couple of local schools. She also has some good ideas about extending racquetball to some other communities.

We're also happy to report that, in Kelowna, Richard Gauthier's after-school racquetball program for Aboriginal students is very successful; we're hoping to meet some of his players at the junior provincials and maybe even at the junior nationals.

We have posted our Vision, Mission and Values statements on our website www.racquetballbc.ca in addition to several policies including Fair Play, Criminal Records Checking, and a Code of Ethics for the Board. Please take a moment to have a look – some of these policies are new and will be voted on at our AGM in April.



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Courses for coaches are available in Vancouver – check out the course modules for the Competition-Development level at <http://www.coachesbc.ca/compdevcourses> . The BCRA may be able to help you with the course costs – contact a board member for info.

Local Tournament Committee Chair Neil Aldous sends along this report from the 25th annual Victoria tournament – from my (Cheryl's) perspective, it was a well-run and very fun tourney indeed, with credit to Neil and the 13-member organizing committee. Neil did a great job on Sunday as he held on to the microphone and made well-considered comments that gave us all some good insights into the history of racquetball in Victoria, and into the camaraderie among the Victoria racquetball family. Please note that weekend photos are available online at <http://rbvictoria.shutterfly.com>; the password is ymca

Wow! What a 25th Anniversary! Our 25th Annual Racquetball Tournament went off as planned and turned out to be better than we expected. Bill Burdge once again won the early bird draw for his prompt entry. Having 56 people entered we acquired the use of the two courts at the University of Victoria so that we would have five courts. This allowed us to wind down play in a timely fashion on Sunday so as to have our Sunday lunch and awards ceremony. All the players recieved two great souvenir gifts for entering as well as two meals and three beer tickets. Play started on Friday night at 4:30 P.M. and the last matches were scheduled for 12:30 P.M. Sunday.

On Saturday night we once again, due to popular demand, had our Casino/Karaoke night and apparently there is a new career in the making for Anne Burdge (she sang like a songbird). The juniors got to go see "Harry Potter" at the IMAX.

The play during the weekend was very good with Rick Gartel bettering Steve Majocha this year for the Open title and then the two of them pairing to win the "A" Doubles. Trent Schonert came up short in the "B" Singles final losing to Barry Galenzowski but did finally beat his nemesis, Diana Hambley, in the semis after losing to her five straight times. WAY TO GO TRENT!! Eileen Dowell won the Women's "A" Singles event.

On Sunday the awards were handed out after lunch along with some great door prizes (no one leaves Victoria without one). Our newly named Veterans Award, named after our most dear friend Pat Denby who recently passed away, was given to the old 40+ year "Y" vet Rod Stevens. The Sportsmanship Trophy was won by the most deserving recipient, Cheryl McKeeman. A special lifetime achievement award was given to Jack McBride to his service to our sport of racquetball, not only in Victoria but also Provincially and Nationally.

All in all I think that everyone had a great time. Our committee would like to thank all the players for coming. We would also like to send our regards to the Callander and Thompson families. I guess it is now time to think about the next 25 years!

*Neil Aldous
Committee Chairman*

TIP: Energy drinks such as Red Bull, Rockstar, Amp and Monster contain high amounts of caffeine and carbohydrates – some experts recommend that youths be cautious when consuming these products. Sport drinks such as Gatorade and PowerAde are not in the same category.

<http://athleticbusiness.com/articles/article.aspx?articleid=3627&zoneid=33>

Please take a moment to print this newsletter and post it at your club

www.racquetballbc.ca

bcracquetball@hotmail.com