



**PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR 2011 SEASON**  
**Presented at the Annual General Meeting**  
**November 1, 2011 at Brockton Pavilion, Stanley Park, Vancouver, BC**

Fellow members I have much pleasure in presenting the Annual Report as the President of the BC Mainland Cricket League (BCMCL).

**2011 SEASON:**

The league has completed a most successful year with 29 clubs fielding a combined total of 70 teams in eight (8) divisions with over 1500 registered players competing during the past season. The divisions consisted of seven (7) teams in the Elite and Premier Divisions, ten (10) teams in Divisions 1 - 5 and six teams in Division 6.

A new club was approved for the 2011 season – Okanagan Royals while another 4 new teams were rejected due to insufficient number of grounds.

Over 700 games were played this season – ranging from league games, Twenty20 Cricket and 6-a-side Cricket. We also see the introduction of organised Women's Cricket in the BCMCL.

Since the inception of the league, the regular season commences play on the last week-end in April and this year was no exception. The regular league season started on Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup> and ran for 19 week-ends. Playoffs were held in September and all playoff games were played at Minoru Park, Hugo Ray and Upper/Lower Brockton. Due to a wet spring, many games were lost. At the start of the season, we also experienced problems with cricket balls supplied by a new supplier – Dukes. Recognising that this was serious issue the league acted quickly and made the decision to revert back to Kookaburra balls – the same balls used in previous seasons.

The BCMCL held a pre-season Twenty20 Cricket Tournament that ran for 5 week-ends. Also, a mid-week T20 Tournament was ably organised and run by Harjit Sandhu and Raffi Mohammed. Kapil Malik and his team organised a post-season Twenty20 Tournament. As you can see, cricket was played from late March to early October – over 6 months of cricket – the longest cricket season anywhere in Canada!

I would like to congratulate the teams that won either the Division and Shield Final, or both. Congratulations to the players who were presented trophies at the Awards Night for their outstanding performances on the field.

Congratulations are also in order to the players from the BCMCL who played for the BC Provincial Team, Canada Under 15's, Canada Under 19's and the National Men's Team.

**SPONSORSHIP:**

The league acknowledges the sponsorship provided by Sai Print and Vijay Mehta. We have entered into a 3 year sponsorship agreement with Sai Print for the pre-season Twenty20 Cricket Tournament and Sai Print will continue to be the lead sponsor for the next 2 years.

**JUNIOR CRICKET:**

Jack Kyle, Anil Khanna, Ingrid Kendrick (West Vancouver CC), Kitty and Kevin Bridgens (Windies/Super Strikers) and Palem Chattier ran various junior programs across Metro Vancouver. Many thanks for their hard work and dedication



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to junior cricket. There are two junior leagues – Vancouver and District Saturday Morning and the Surrey Junior Cricket Leagues. The BCMCL does not directly fund these leagues but does support various coaching and junior programs. These programs benefit both junior leagues.

### **WOMEN'S CRICKET:**

One of league's stated goals in 2011 was to introduce organised women's cricket. This past season, 3 teams played about 10 games at Hugo Ray Park, Chilliwack, Lower Brockton and Cowichan. I would like to thank Scott Anderson (Chilliwack), Ingrid Kendrick (West Vancouver) and Anil Khanna (Surrey) for organising and managing the teams.

I am much delighted by the level of interest, enthusiasm and considerable skill shown in women's cricket and we are starting to see some real achievement. I hope to see some of our women playing for the Canadian national Women's Team very soon!

This is one area that has potential to grow and I would like to see several more women's teams participating next season.

### **GROUNDS AND FACILITIES:**

Once again, the BCMCL would like to thank the municipalities for providing grounds and facilities for cricket. The City of Burnaby built a new ground at the Burnaby Lakes Sports Complex and allowed the league to use the "old pitch" at no cost when the permit for Clearbrook Park was cancelled by the City of Abbotsford.

The league must continue to build relationships with the municipalities so we can improve the infrastructure – getting the grass to an acceptable height, better training facilities (nets) and turf pitches. We also need to support the Brockton Pavilion (and also the clubhouses – West Vancouver and Meraloma). If we do use these clubhouses, we will eventually lose them to other user groups!

This past season we had reduced access to various grounds. For the league to grow, we need new grounds and greater access to the existing cricket fields. I am pleased to report that a new cricket field should be ready for April 2012 at Newton Athletic Park in Surrey. The second field at the same location should be ready the following year. This past season, the league had to a difficult task of scheduling games. Due to various reasons, we did not have access to:

Connaught - 6 week-ends  
Stanley Park - 2 week-ends  
Brown Road (Langley) – 8 week-ends  
CFV Exhibition – total of 12 playing days  
Clearbrook Park – 2 months

### **UMPIRE/SCORERS:**

The league is grateful for the umpires/scorers who gave up their time to benefit our game. Special thanks to our umpiring co-ordinate Angus Melder and Gael Howard for scheduling the scorers. Also, thank you to the clubs who provided umpires for the lower division games. Club umpires are vital to the success of our league and we need to improve the calibre of club umpiring.

### **FINANCES:**



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I would like to thank our Treasurer Harry Grewal for his work over the past season to ensure the BCMCL finances continue to remain in a healthy state as shown in the financial statement presented. This year the league changed the registration payment schedule and it has proved to be very successful as it has allowed the league to pay bills in a timely manner and allowed the clubs to prepare their budgets prior to the start of the season.

### **DISCIPLINE:**

At last year's AGM, Inamul Desai stated in his annual report:

#### ***Discipline:***

***We feel that there is still lack of discipline by players and teams even after the league was strict about the code of conduct throughout the year. In order to run the league successfully we must be very strict on certain areas including umpiring, financials and disciplinary matters. These are vital areas of the league which must have high standards and there is always room for the improvements in these areas.***

This season, the Protest and Discipline Committee dealt with over 40 reports. In my opinion this is unacceptable and the league will need to address the issue of player discipline – or the lack of player discipline.

### **LOOKING AHEAD TO 2012:**

Some of the key challenges and recommendations:

- Improving infrastructure – cutting of outfield, installation of new mats where required and improving condition of practice nets
- Bring new ground online for 2012 season (including turf pitch in Surrey)
- Need to increase junior cricket participation – numbers are low
- Grow women's cricket
- Improve standard club umpiring
- Increase funding – sponsorships, government grants, donations
- Invite teams to play in Seattle on a voluntary basis – ease pressure on schedule
- Player and team discipline – needs to improve
- Clubs to have access to qualified coaches
- Introduction of photo ID
- Colored clothing for lower divisions
- Improve admin by clubs – entering of stats/faxing stat sheets/assessment forms /player registration – especially juniors

### **COMMITTEE:**

I would like to this opportunity to thank all committee members for their attendance, contribution and support over the past year.

In particular, I would like to thank:

- Mohan – for his tremendous dedication to cricket
- Inamul for chairing the P and D Committee – not an easy task
- Harry – for changing the financial systems of the BCMCL
- Harjit – who put a considerable amount of time into organizing and managing various tournaments/special events



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A special thanks to all sub-committee members and volunteers who were not part of BCMCL management committee but provided support and assistance whenever needed. I also want to thank all clubs, the VCUSA, officials, players, volunteers and sponsors for the support shown this past season and I wish good luck to all players, officials and clubs for the ensuing season.

Thank you.

Alex Turko  
BCMCL  
November 1, 2011  
Vancouver, BC