



2015 AGM Chair Report

It has been many years since there has been an excitement about twirling in British Columbia. The International Cup & Grand Prix being held in Abbotsford has brought some life back into our Province. We would like to thank CBTF for their support of this event being held in Abbotsford BC. This event was very exciting, well run and BC was proud to have twirlers from all over the world right here in our own Province! BC twirlers, parents, and supporters had the opportunity to see twirling at a level that BC has not been exposed to. Several members of our BC board were part of the planning committee in the areas of facilities, fundraising, practice gym coordination and host country liaison. We thank these members for taking an active role in the planning and competition as it demonstrates that BC is a committed member of CBTF. We have had some inquiries regarding coaching and baton purchases and are actively pursuing any leads in terms of membership growth.

BTABC continues to be very mindful of our spending and support of activities that are not considered crucial. Low membership numbers ultimately affect government funding. In the last several years we have not held a fall clinic. Depending on our funding, we are hoping to provide some level of support to active clubs in terms of a clinic as well as travel.

Once again, Batons West Twirling Club participated in a Christmas Candle light parade in Mission BC. This is a well attended community event and well run parade. Batons West has indicated that they will continue to participate in the event.

In January 2015, we hosted a Master Judging course which was facilitated by Kathy Forsthye from Seattle. As a result of this course, BC has 3 fully certified Masters Judges. Two of these judges were existing M5's, who are now considered updated.

In March 2015, a group of 10 twirlers from Batons West travelled to Olympia Washington for a competition. This has become an annual trip and BTABC is supportive of this activity as it provides our twirlers with the exposure and experience they need.

In mid April 2015 we hosted our annual Jump into Spring Competition combined with our BC Provincial Winner Championships. In the past, these competitions have been held separately, however with our decline in numbers two competitions is not financially feasible. BC relies on the participation of a group from Olympia Washington in order to have a successful competition. This is the 3rd year that BC has offered "non-sanctioned" USTA events. Offering these events allows for our US friends to fully participate as well as provide our BC athletes with much needed role models. In the future, BC would welcome other provinces to attend this competition.

Unfortunately, BC did not send a contingent to the Canadian Championship or Maple Leaf Open in Ontario. BC is very hopeful that we will have a group of athletes travelling to Edmonton in July 2016!

With the support of CBTF, BTABC was able to contract Ashley Richardson as a Sports Promotion Coordinator for a 4 month period. The intent was to book 8-10 week recreational programs in various community centers, as well as 1 hour demonstrations at summer day camps. Ashley was successful in setting up a recreational program in Terrace BC. This program is being taught by Lindsey Rempel. Lindsey will be starting her 3rd session this fall. This is very exciting for our Province, as well as for Lindsey who lives in a fairly remote BC community. In addition to the Terrace program, a recreational program in Mission BC was set up. The Mission program is a great feeder for the club in Abbotsford. The Mission program will continue for two additional sessions, one in September 2015 and one in January 2016.

The development and retention of coaches that are willing to start clubs is an area of most significant need for our province. Demonstrations at summer camps and community events are wonderful general exposure, however interested twirlers need clubs to go to. Jennifer DeWolff has a recreational program set up for September 2015 with the City of New Westminster. Jennifer has attended numerous community events this summer to promote her new club. BTABC is very supportive of her efforts and are excited to see her succeed!

A need for a Level 1 Coaches Course has been identified. BTABC plans to work on hosting a course during the 2015-2016 season.

Shannon Webster
Baton Twirling Association Of BC
Vice-Chairperson