

# Baton Twirling Association of British Columbia

We kicked off our 2008-2009 BC twirling season in August with our annual general meeting. This year we welcomed several new and one returning member into board positions.

In October BTABC sponsored our fall training camp in Richmond. Athletes from six clubs attended the 3 day camp, learning new material, developing freestyle choreography, and taking a stab at twirling 3 batons. This year the coaches also participated in the 3 baton training - learning the steps to teaching this event. BTABC was fortunate to secure the services of Loranne Meek, Leah Holiday and Stephanie Hart for the clinic.

In November we were busy selling tickets for our annual raffle, as well as practicing and planning for the Vancouver Santa Claus parade. In an effort to keep our parade entry fresh, we added a mascot and a small float to our entry. The mascot was able to drum up attention from the crowd, and the float allowed our younger athletes to participate in the parade, with out fear of being too tired to complete the parade route – they loved it!! Shannon - our Technical chair got a great interview that was aired during the TV broadcast - which was played several times in the weeks following the parade. For many of our athletes seeing themselves on TV during when the parade is broadcast is very exciting!!

December brought our annual fall raffle draw and many of our clubs participated in local Santa parades and in Christmas or winter shows.

January meant it was time to start planning for the upcoming competitive season, and before we knew it February and the Be My Valentine event were here. This event saw pre-competitive athletes from across the lower mainland attend - they performed their pre-competitive routines which for many of them it was their first time performing in front of a judge. This is a super fun event where the new athletes and parents are introduced to a competitive venue for the first time. We strive to make this event as much fun as possible and it's always a joy watching athletes receive recognition for their first performance efforts.

A mini clinic, badge testing, lunch and goody bags are also part of what makes this day a special one for our beginner athletes as they get to eat with their friends and share all their treasures. This event also serves as a training ground for new or in training Judges and volunteers.

In March one of our M1 judge's went to Red Deer to participate in the 3 day M2/M3 program there. She has since completed her M2 and the dance twirl section of M3 and did some "official" judging for us at our provincial competition this year.

After Spring Break we all attended the Go Green meet hosted by the Batons West Twirling Club in Richmond. This event was held later than usual and this seemed to increase participation as it was very well attended.

From the Go Green event we charge ahead to Jump into Spring Competition which took place in Abbotsford. One of the highlights of the afternoon was the first ever performance of a group of 3 & 4 year olds - they have a long way to go to learn proper technique, but the cute factor brought long loud round of applause from the audience.

The Sunday following Jump into Spring, we took advantage of having Loranne Meek out to judge for us and had her teach a badge adjudication program with 5 participants.

From Jump into Spring we moved ahead to the preparation for the West Coast Open, Provincial Championships and BC Team Trial Events. This year as part of our provincials we were happy to honor Ms. Stella Martin – Stella celebrated her 40<sup>th</sup> year of coaching this season!! Her contributions to our sport, at the club and provincial levels are immeasurable.

Now here we are at nationals and another year has past - it's time to take a moment to review our goals for last year, appreciate our accomplishments, reflect on the things that we could have done better and come up with an action plan for the new season....when we will start it all again.

In closing I would just like to say good luck to the Canadian athletes and coaches heading to International Cup in Australia this summer. We are very proud of you. Go Canada!!

Denise DeWolff  
Chair  
Baton Twirling Association of BC