

CANADIAN BATON TWIRLING FEDERATION
TECHNICAL CHAIRPERSON'S ANNUAL REPORT
CBTF Annual General Meeting
July, 2010

At the conclusion of the 2009 Canadians in Edmonton, of which I was the Competition Director, my focus turned to preparing for the Fall Technical Committee Meeting that was held in Toronto on October 2-4, 2009. After the Canadians, I attended (and took notes for) the final Competition Commission Meeting.

It was great to "go home" to Alberta and work with the wonderful people of Alberta. Thank you to Bonnie, Shari & their dedicated team! This year, it has been a special treat to work with LeeAnn Wilson and the enthusiastic volunteers in Ontario this year. The volunteer spirit is alive and flourishing across Canada!

In the summer of 2009, I did the following tasks:

- Prepared information for Brenda Cooper who represented Canada at the WBTF Summer Technical Meeting in Australia.
- Finished up work related to the 2009 Canadians
- Welcomed new national reps to the Technical Committee.
- Added on to the CBTF Motion Handbook and sent it to Jeff for inclusion on the CBTF website.
- Dealt with several email issues
- Helped with Summer Board Meeting minutes

Once fall arrived I continued the preparation for the Fall Tech Meeting. I assisted with preparation for the Fall Board Meeting and Manuals Commission Meeting. I also did the following tasks:

- Helped Tina Larson and Wendy Cruickshank with their work on the M2/3 course.
- Provided new Coaches Rep, Kim Genton, with the notes & materials regarding the Level 3 course & manual.
- Contributed to group information for the M3 course manual.
- Did the needed revisions to the CBTF Group Manual and various group score sheets and masters that needed updating.
- Attended the Fall Technical Meeting, Manuals Commission Meeting and the CBTF Board of Directors Meeting and conference calls.
- Took notes for Manuals Commission Mtg and submitted to Joanne Moser (Commission Chair). Distributed to Commission members.
- Selected as the Competition Director for the 2010 Canadians (Toronto) by the BOD.
- Coordinated the new Judges Selection Process for World Judge selection.
- Sent out Canadians' judges' application forms.
- Confirmed the judges who would represent Canada at the 2009 International Cup (Australia) – Lucinda McMaster and Brenda Cooper
- Revised the CBTF Judges Contract with Jeff
- Reviewed the minutes for all fall meetings before they were sent out.
- Helped provinces determine their dates for Provincials so there were no conflicts.

During the winter & spring of 08-09, I did the following tasks:

- Helped in the publication of Talking Technically.
- Coordinated the selection of the Canadian Judges for 2010.
- Made further upgrades to the Daily Rate for Judges at Canadians.
- Created the Canadians 2010 Brochure
- Created the Canadians 2010 schedule & judging panels
- Continued to monitor the progress of the M2/3 course & manual.
- Addressed revisions and changes to some FBM motions pertaining to Canadians.
- Clarified revised Group and WBTF Pairs/Team Declaration Process to technical and board members for distribution
- Issued Technical Directive regarding
- Updated CBTF Expense Policy, USTA/WBTF Judges Policy and Risk Management Policy
- Prepared for and represented Canada at the February WBTF Winter Technical Committee Meeting in Bergen, Norway with Ron Kopas.
- Forwarded minutes of the WBTF Summer and Winter Technical and Judges Meeting minutes along with the related attachments with explanations.

Also during the year, I acted as Competition Director for the 2010 Canadians. I worked with LeeAnn Wilson & various committee members to organize and run the competition. There were many new rules and procedures put into place for these Championships namely:

- Changed the age divisions of Level B events to the CBTF Age Definition
- Reinserted Level A freestyles and pairs as an event using WBTF Age Definition
- Combined compulsory and freestyle scores for A & B WBTF Events
- Changed the number of athletes to qualify for final rounds

Throughout the year I participated in board and technical conference calls and contributed to several Executive and Board decisions, directives and E-Votes.

Last year I reported that I was concerned about the low number of judges in Canada. I am pleased to say that, with tremendous work on the part of Tina Larson, Wendy Cruickshank and Ron Kopas, we now have the M2/M3 manual and course up and running! I can't thank these people enough for their commitment to this massive project. Several courses have already been run and there are new M2 & M3 judges available. I encourage competition directors to hire these new judges – they are eager to judge and gain experience. Materials and drafts regarding the Level 3 Coaches course portion have been passed on to Kim Genton who has a small committee willing to complete that course and then the huge undertaking to get all of our courses updated will be complete. However, Denise Johnston and Tina Larson have been reviewing the Level 1 course based on comments and observations received so there could be yet another revision in the works.

I would also like to extend my personal gratitude to the following persons for their many contributions to our sport – what would we do without these dedicated members!!

Ron Kopas
Dana Peteleski
Tina Larson

Lucinda McMaster

Manuals Commission: Joanne Moser, Ron Kopas, Kim Genton, Kim Johnson, Jeff Johnson

Competition Commission: Elan Paluck, Ron Kopas, Kyla Wilson, Michelle Bretherick, Sandi Watt, Brenda Bennett, Maureen Johnson and Jeff Johnson

Kim Johnson, Rachel Bower and Brenda Arsenault-LeBlanc – exceptional management of manuals, media and music

I wish to extend my deep gratitude to my Technical Committee who devote so much of their time and efforts to CBTF. As coaches, judges, adjudicators & volunteers, these dedicated people are truly the “glue” that keeps CBTF going. – it is awe-inspiring to see all that you put into what you do for baton.

Last but not least ... Jeff Johnson – I can't thank you enough for being who you are. Your calm reasoning, your expertise with all things “computer-ish” and your professionalism have often come to my rescue when I was feeling a bit overwhelmed.

And so, after 18 years on the CBTF Board, first as Secretary for 4 years and then as Technical for 14, I step down from the “job”. Be assured that my primary focus and purpose have always stayed the same – the Athletes are the #1 Priority in this sport – and I have done my best to stay on course to help accomplish the many developments we can be proud of today as CBTF.

It has been a “job” for almost every day of these past 18 years has been spent working for the kids, the technical community, the board and CBTF but one that I did with passion, determination and my love for our sport.

I'm not sure where next year will find me. I will stay on as Past Technical Chair and it is my intention to work on several technical projects that have been neglected because of lack of time on my part. I look forward to assisting the new Technical Chair and I am certainly looking forward to cleaning up my over-crowded office of the boxes, manuals & paper I've accumulated! I am willing to run or help with Canadians, work on technical projects and will continue coaching my beloved students in Invermere BC. I am, by no means, retiring from baton or CBTF – just focusing on a new direction.

It has been my honor and pleasure to have worked with all of you and with all the past board & technical members. As always, I am committed 100% to doing everything and anything I can to help CBTF achieve its vision and goals for the future. Thank you ...

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Gratton
CBTF Technical Chair