

BCA Chairman's Report – AGM January 2008

A Year of Learning

What a year and what a learning experience for me in my first year as Board Chair. It has been challenging for the Board, Staff and the Clubs with so much to do and never enough time or money. However, as in past years, all parties have been up to the challenge and we have made progress on many fronts. The growth of RJT, additional funding secured from Government and other agencies, the expansion in number of clubs and significant progress in working through the Strategic Plan process along with many other tasks and activities have all contributed to an outstanding year.

Something new this year at the AGM is a presentation put together by Greg White and Brian McC Calder that provides a "big picture" look at the organization's significant accomplishments over the past year. I think you will be impressed and proud of your organization's accomplishments.

Going into next year the continued development and completion of the strategic plan and organizational objectives will be a major focus of the Boards work. A strategic plan is an organization's roadmap and driving force for continued improvement and growth. Your participation in developing and implementing the plan's objectives and supporting activities at the various levels of the organization is extremely important.

We have had excellent participation in the strategic plan survey and interviews conducted to-date. We look forward to your participation and input at this year's Strategic Planning presentation. It will be led by Rose Mercier. With Rose Mercier as project lead, the committee is made up of Stephanie McCann, Bruce Deacon, Greg White, Brian McC Calder and Larry Harper. We are committed to completing the plan by late spring of this year. It is my belief that with the guidance provided by the report and the input from the membership, we will further improve our delivery of programs and activities for our athlete and participant members.

I have taken the liberty to provide a listing of the many activities that have been undertaken on behalf of the membership that have needed board and staff time. These include 2007 AGM motions and other actions of note like: held 4 regular board meetings, 1 special board meeting and 5 executive meetings; worked on improving our financial management reporting, 4 meetings and correspondence for strategic plan development; website and on-line calendar redevelopment, BCA visibility at events materials; staffing and organizational structural review; office relocation, PST reporting compliance; various committee recommendations and issues; sanctioning/insurance administrative details, RJT proprietary equipment; criminal record check policy; nominations and appointments to Athletics Canada, working with AC on AC Direct data base; BCA endowment fund investigation, appointed Mary Hinze as BCA Female

Harassment Advisor, set up a Discipline Panel for a complaint investigation, arranged and provided assistance for 15 provincial members and staff to attend AC Technical Congress, set up policy and implemented In Province Travel Fund rebate program; Child Tax Credit information posted on Web site; and created a new membership category – Friends and Alumni of BC Athletics. Thanks to Ann Kirk – Recording Secretary we have an ongoing action list that assists in ensuring all actions coming through the board are recorded and referenced until appropriate resolutions are achieved.

At the last AGM when I became chair, I stated that we had elected one of the strongest boards to help the association meet the many challenges we face in making the sport stronger for our members. They are meeting the challenge and have provided me, staff and the association with wonderful dedicated support and fresh ideas to develop the sport. I look forward to continuing to work with the board member's who are continuing, thank those who will be leaving us and look forward to working with the new appointees.

A big **thank you** must go to staff that have worked hard and succeeded in staying on top of the various daily demands of a busy organization while we continue to look for more people to fill important staff positions. It is appreciated.

We welcome and look forward to Maurice Wilson's input as our new Road Running/Cross Country Manager and as an active member of the management team. We will miss the direct efforts of Jerry Tighe and Ron Bunting and thank them for their past contributions. Ron is continuing on in a special project capacity and Jerry I know has been providing Maurice with support during the transition.

Larry Harper

Board Chair