



# **BC** wheelchair basketball

## **2012-13 Annual Report**

**June 1, 2012-May 31, 2013**



## From the Office:

*It has been a busy but overall successful year for BCWBS and I am proud to be writing this report as the Interim Managing Director. Carrie Linegar is happily enjoying her maternity leave with the new addition of baby Rees! Throughout the year BCWBS continued to focus on participation initiatives, especially regional development.*

*BCWBS's success is a direct result of our volunteer leaders, coaches, dedicated partners and hard-working staff. Thank-you to the BCWBS staff, Board of Directors and volunteer regional representatives who make it all happen!*

*Sian Blyth, Interim Managing Director*

## **Athlete Development / Participation Based Programming:**

**Regional High Performance Coach:** BCWBS is pleased to welcome Simon Cass to the team as the new Regional High Performance & Development Coach.

Simon recently graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Sport and Fitness Leadership from Camosun College and has been coaching the Victoria wheelchair basketball program since October of 2011.

Since getting involved, Simon has acquired a wealth of coaching experience. He's coached BC Breakers, BC Selects and BC Lions in different tournaments and assisted Tim Frick in delivering a wheelchair basketball week on Pender Island for two consecutive years. Coach will be responsible for the planning, implementation, coaching and evaluation of regional level athlete, coach and official development initiatives as described below. The Regional Coach is a key position within the Integrated Performance System in BC.



**The Let's Play** program is intended to help kids with mobility limitations to become physically active early in life by helping to establish the fundamental skills, knowledge and abilities needed to confidently participate in play, sport and physical education with their peers. The program is directed at children in British Columbia 8 years of age and under with mobility related disabilities. Since the program's inception in 2010, children from 20 different BC communities have received sport wheelchair for their individual use and over 2000 kids and youth have been exposed to the program. There are currently 120 Let's Play chairs in circulation between individual kids and schools. Marni Abbott-Peter, Provincial Team Coach and the Let's Play Coordinator and has been busy liaising with our community delivery partners and schools, identified children and parents and hosting 'Let's Play Days'. New this season was the addition of a 'Let's Play' colouring book. Our continued thanks to the Rick Hansen Institute for their funding and support and to the CPC for supporting the Let's Play Program through their Recruitment Program



**School and Participation Program, (SPP):** The BCWBS Schools and Community Participation Program is designed to educate students, teachers, and community groups about the sport of wheelchair basketball and about disability awareness. In 2012-13 BCWBS delivered the SPP to over 22 schools and community groups and over 3,000 participants.

**Wheelchair Loan Program:** BCWBS continues to manage a wheelchair loan program for BCWBS members and clubs and continues to access funds for the purchase of additional sport wheelchairs. Currently there are approximately 125 wheelchairs managed by BCWBS, in addition to the 120 Let's Play program wheelchairs.

**Junior Programming:** Regular junior focused weekly programming was offered again in Chilliwack, Surrey, Langley and Prince George.

**2012 Junior Challenge:** November marked the 13<sup>th</sup> annual Junior Challenge at McRoberts Secondary in Richmond. Junior athletes from all over BC came out to show their skills on the court.

The format for the tournament was a little bit different this year in order to align our programming with the Long Term Athlete Development model. Still having the two divisions of 8 ½ and 10 ft we reduced the number of players on the floor. These exciting 3 on 3 games ensured that every player got to experience new roles on the court, practice their skills with more space on the floor, and get more opportunities for ball handling and shooting.

Special thanks to all of our sponsors and supporters including Province of BC, Shaw, Wheelchair Basketball Canada, and McRoberts Secondary School. We would also like to thank our volunteers, coaches and all of the families for coming out to cheer!



### **2013 Caribou Cup, April, Prince George:**

Over one hundred student-athletes from across northern BC participated in the inaugural School Wheelchair Basketball Championships; the Caribou Cup. The event highlighted months of hard work and dedication by tournament organizer, Nancy Harris. The tournament included female and male students of all abilities from grades 6 to 12 and gave them the opportunity to wear their school colors competing in a totally new event!



### **Steve Nash Youth Basketball Challenge, Langley, March 2013:**

On March 30<sup>th</sup> many young athletes took to the court to demonstrate their skills. The Steve Nash Youth Challenge held at the Langley Events Centre offered a chance for young athletes to show their basketball and leadership skills with a 3 on 3 format. It was also a great experience for some of the Basketball BC athletes to try out Wheelchair Basketball for the first time.

### **Tim Frick City League:**

Another successful Tim Frick Wheelchair Basketball City League season, coached by Arley McNeney wrapped up on March 17<sup>th</sup>. This season offered the 22 participants a new format: one hour of 3-on-3 scrimmage games with referees, then the option to take part in either a 45-minute skill session, or to continue scrimmaging.

Some of this year's skill sessions involved: shooting, passing, one-on-one defense, team defense, and chair skills. In another twist, this year's City League also started each session off with a daily focus, such as 'communication,' 'hustle,' 'leadership' or 'teamwork.' A prize was given to the athlete that best exemplified the daily focus. A big thanks again to Douglas College for supporting this program

**Regional Programming:** BCWBS was pleased to see regional programming in communities across BC including Prince George, Nanaimo, Comox, Powell River, Victoria, Chilliwack, Kelowna, Kamloops, Vernon and throughout the Lower Mainland largely in New Westminister at Douglas College, Langley at Trinity Western and Surrey. Our thanks to the regional club representatives who work so hard to keep these programs thriving for participating in the regional planning sessions!

A focus from the program staff has been to grow our partnerships and develop new ones with the outlying cities in the Lower Mainland and create models where the program is sustainable and run by the city themselves.

**5th Annual Kelowna Jamboree:** The 5th Annual Wheelchair basketball Jam in Kelowna was a big success again. Participants came from Seattle, Spokane, Calgary, Vancouver, Chilliwack, Kamloops, Vernon and Kelowna. Some of the junior members learned veteran tricks from the likes of Richard Peters, Bryan Shore and Marni Abbott-Peter

**Northern Road Show:** This spring, from mid-March to early May, Northern Program Coach Avril Harris and Program Coordinator Nancy Harris continued their tour of cities in northern region. A huge thanks to them both for continuing to take wheelchair basketball to these remote communities!

**Comox Skills Development Camp** – a successful camp was run by Arley and the athletes put their skills to the test when they took on teams from Powell River and Nanaimo at their Hoopfest in February.

**Coming next season: BC Winter Games 2014 in Mission-** BCWBS is excited to announce that we will be competing in the BC Winter Games in Feb 2014 that will be held in Mission. BC Summer and Winter games are two of the largest multi-sport Games in BC and in Canada. As a result our focus over the summer has been on junior development.

## **High Performance Programming & Development:**

A highlight of the season was having Jack Kosterman, Justin Johnson and Aidan Love attend the selection camp in June for the Jr National team for the worlds in September.

BCWBS was proud to have two of these young players, Jack Kosterman and Aidan Love, represent Canada at the U23 Men's Wheelchair Basketball World Championships in Adana, Turkey.

## **Wheelchair Basketball Canada Academy - Athlete Identification Camp, Toronto.**

WBC hosted an identification camp from August 9-14, 2013 for select athletes with the potential to participate in the cutting-edge program, due to formally launch this fall. BCWBS was proud to have the following athletes attend; Alec Kendall (West Kelowna, B.C.), Ben Hagkull (Chilliwack, B.C.), Ben Hamilton (Surrey, B.C.), Justin Johnson, (BC), Riley Martin (Kelowna, B.C.) and Steph Park (Maple Ridge, B.C.). We were also thrilled to have Brad Hagkull attend the Coaching Competition Development Clinic. Athletes attending the identification camp had the opportunity to train and receive elite instruction from the Academy staff.

## **2013-BC CWBL Finals , Coquitlam**

The event began on Friday March 1st where the Division 1 Royals took another win over the Lions to secure their championship title for the season. The Royals went on represent BC at the CWBL Finals in Montreal April 12-14.

The BC junior team, Gold Rush took on the Vintage Cable Cars and although they didn't come out on top, they played one of their best games this season.

Tacoma and Kamloops played in the finals. The finals were as always the most exciting game of the weekend. Both teams fought until the last possible second with the Tacoma Titans taking the 2013 BC-CWBL title.

## **2013 CWBL Open Finals, Montreal Quebec:**

The Douglas College Royals finished fifth at the 2013 CWBL Open Finals

Congratulations to Ross MacDonald who won an All Star!

## **2013 Women's CWBL Finals, Montreal, Quebec**

Congratulations to Edmonton Inferno and BC Breakers Finished 4th

## **2013 Junior West Regional Championships, March 23 – 24<sup>th</sup> Prince George**

The Championship was co-hosted by BC Wheelchair Basketball Society and Wheelchair Basketball Canada. The BC Warriors went undefeated over the weekend to win the 2013 Junior West Regional Championship in Prince George, BC. The Warriors defeated Saskatchewan-A 21-18 in the gold medal contest to put the finishing touches on a perfect 8-0 record at the tournament. Jack Kosterman, of Fort Langley, B.C., was named tournament MVP. Ben Hamilton (BC Warriors), Shelby Harrower (Saskatchewan B), Justin Johnson (BC Warriors), and Zac Maddel (Alberta C) were named tournament all-stars. The 3-on-3 tournament featured the top junior aged athletes in Western Canada from the provinces of Alberta, British Columbia, and Saskatchewan, and was an official test event for the 2015 Canada Winter Games in Prince George.

## **Breakers Women's Festival,**

March 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> saw an exciting weekend in wheelchair basketball action! BCWBS hosted the Festival at Douglas College New Westminster and Trinity Western University in Langley.

BC Breakers competed with the two women's teams from Alberta, Calgary Rollers and Edmonton Inferno. Although unsuccessful in the final score, the Breakers played 4 hard fought games and improved with each passing game.

We had Michael Broughton, Coach of the women's Espoire program as well as Assistant Coach to the Woman's National Team, to help with our new and development players. The weekend brought other guest coaches including Arley McNeney and Simon Cass to work alongside Michael.

We also had the unique opportunity to work with Steve Ramsbottom, owner and trainer from the Performance Institute, as well as with Mary-Jo Fetterly, an adaptive yoga instructor between games and skills sessions.

**BeSquad Program:** Under the leadership of Coach Joe Higgins the 'BeSquad' continued to focus on targeted athlete and coach development.

## Centre for Performance Camp

19 junior athletes gathered in Langley in December for the 3rd annual Centre for Performance camp hosted by Wheelchair Basketball Canada and BCWBS and led by Coach Steve Bialowas.

## 2013 National Wheelchair Basketball Teams Named - this included four BC Athletes:

### **Congratulations!**

Robert "Bo" Hedges (Wonowon, B.C.)

Amanda Yan (Vancouver, B.C.)

Elisha Williams (Prince George, B.C.)

Janet McLachlan (Vancouver, B.C.) \*

### **Officials Development:**

**Officials Program:** BCWBS continued to focus on official's recruitment and education with clinics presented at many of the BWBS events. Thank you to Dean MacKinnon for his continued efforts in educating new officials for our programming.

### **Supporters, Funding & Community Partnerships:**

- **The Province of BC** – BCWBS gratefully acknowledges the support of the Province of BC for Hosting BC grants, Direct Access Gaming, and funding through the Ministry of Community, Sport, and Cultural Development.
- **BC Wheelchair Sports Association** – BCWBS is a member of BCWSA and receives many services including financial grant support, access to the provincial Athlete Assistance Program, the Bridging the Gap Program, and more.
- **Wheelchair Basketball Canada** – with your support of many special projects and programs.
- **Douglas College** – continues to provide incredible support to wheelchair basketball in their Athletic and Centre for Campus Life program with access to practice facilities, hosting of tournaments and camps and so much more.
- **Canadian Sport Centre Pacific** – wheelchair basketball continued as a targeted sport partner of CSC-Pacific through the Integrated Performance System and sport services for our targeted athletes.
- **Rick Hansen Foundation & Rick Hansen Institute** – For the support of the Let's Play Program and BCWBS supported projects through the BC SCI Community Services Network.
- **BC Spinal Cord Injury Community Services Network** - The BC SCI Community Services Network is comprised of BCWBS, BC Wheelchair Sports Association, Spinal Cord Injury BC, Disability Foundation and the Neil Squire Society.
- **Promotion Plus** - for their support of the Breakers Women's Festival
- **Basketball BC** – BCWBS is a liaison member of the Basketball BC Board of Directors. Basketball BC is a great supporter of our sport as we work on joint program initiatives such as the Steve Nash Youth Festival and others.
- **Individual Donors**– BCWBS engages in a donations program to support our programs and activities through Engage Interactive. We are very thankful for the continued support of the many individuals and organizations that have supported BC Wheelchair Basketball this past season through their generous donations.
- **Hoopfest 2013 Supporters:** The Burnaby Fire Fighters defended their title at the 20th Annual Hoopfest Fundraiser which raised \$6000 for BCWBS. There were 8 teams competing in this year's Hoopfest with teams from Burnaby Fire, ICORD, The Rick Hansen Foundation, Surrey Fire, Vancouver Fire, Vancouver Police Department, Saint Georges and Cambie School and the BCWBS Friends and Family. Our thanks to the teams and the many groups who donated prizes for the event. We are undergoing a review of Hoopfest hope to unveil a 'new look' Hoopfest for 2014!
- **Panago Pizza** – is the official pizza of BCWBS providing pizza and prizing for many of our programs and events.
- **COBBS Bread** – who kindly donated 100's of baked goods to fuel our athletes and volunteers this season!
- **Advanced Mobility** –our true equipment partner!
- **Executive Plaza Hotel** – who continue to be a great hosting partner
- **Canadian Paralympic Committee** – for their ongoing support of our work and programs

### **Communications:**

In partnership with BCWSA and the Bridging the Gap we successfully launched a minimal disability recruitment video.

[http://youtu.be/KkKC\\_WrkoJO](http://youtu.be/KkKC_WrkoJO)

The aim being to target individuals who have a disability that allows them to walk, such as amputation, cerebral palsy, spina bifida or arthritis. These participants, however, often do not realize that they are eligible to play wheelchair sports, so we teamed up with BC Wheelchair Sports Association and the Bridging the Gap program to create this fun video.

### Our Congratulations to:

- **Tim Frick** and **Jennifer Krempien** on being named to the Canadian Paralympic Committee's Hall of Fame. Both have made a significant contribution to the wheelchair sports community in our country and our province. This recognition is richly deserved and is the culmination of decades of hard work and dedication.
- **Tim Frick** ( Coach) and **Dean McKinnon** (Official) were inducted into the Basketball BC Hall of Fame **Janet McLachlan (Vancouver, B.C.)** and Patrick Anderson (Fergus, Ont.) were named Wheelchair Basketball Canada's Athletes of the Year. **Justin Johnson (Langley, B.C.)** was awarded the Junior Athlete of the Year.
- **Hall of Fame Inductee: Canadian Men's London 2012 Paralympic Team - BC athletes:**

BC athletes **Richard Peter** (Vancouver, B.C.)

**Robert Hedges** (Wonowon, B.C.)

On August 14th, Team Canada's Bo Hedges received the prestigious Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal from MP Bob Zimmer in Fort St. John, B.C. for his contributions in helping to grow the Paralympic movement in Canada, and for representing Canada at the London 2012 Paralympic Games.



Richard Peter capped off this impressive season by winning both a National Aboriginal Achievement Award and a Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal for his athletic achievements in 2012.

**BCWBS Annual Awards Night:** BCWBS celebrated the achievements of its members at our annual awards night. The banquet took place at the Executive Plaza Hotel and Conference Center in Coquitlam, and was hosted by BCWBS provincial coach Marni Abbott-Peter.

Congratulations to our winners:

- **Official of the Year** : Jim Campbell
- **Coach of the Year:** Joe Higgins
- **Outstanding Community Support** – Pacific Institute for Sport Excellence
- **Volunteer of the Year** - Mitch Kosterman
- **Junior Athlete of the Year** – Erin Higgins
- **Female Athlete of the Year** – Wendy Jansen, Kelowna BC
- **Male athlete of the Year** – Richard Peter
- **MJ True Sport Award** – Bryan Shore



**Rest in Peace - BCWBS Friend and Teammate Ken Hall. "Kenny we will miss your joyful spirit, smile, and infectious laugh..."**

It was with great sadness that we said our goodbyes to Ken Hall who passed away on January 23<sup>rd</sup> 2013. On behalf of the BC Wheelchair Basketball community we extend our condolences to the family and friends of "Kenny" as he was affectionately known. Kenny was a long time member of BCWBS and a key part of the BC Men's Team who were crowned national champions numerous times. He represented Team Canada at the Paralympic Games in 1996 and 2000, when the Canadian men won the first Paralympic gold medal in team history. Kenny was also a three-time bronze medalist with Team Canada at the world championships in 1994, 1998 and 2002. A fund has been started in his memory with donations gratefully received.

### 2012 - 2013 BCWBS Board of Directors:

President: Lindsay Chan

Vice President: Robert Hedges

Treasurer: Chris Samis

Secretary: Fannie Smith

Director: Kyna Fletcher

Director: Bryan Shore

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