

SPECIAL REPORT ON 2010 VBBA CONFERENCE IN PORT HURON

(From the editor: Ladies and gentlemen, many of you did not have a chance to attend the 2010 VBBA conference. This newsletter is devoted to letting you know some of the things that happened. Inside you will see results of the election in the form of an interview of the successful candidates and some of the other activities during the conference. What follows on this page is a synopsis of my notes of the general business meeting held on Sunday, March 28. This is not the official minutes of the meeting, but just my recollections.)

The meeting was chaired by Vice President Paul Salomone, Elizabeth Resolutes, in the absence of President Glenn Drinkwater, Genesee Country Village Live Oak who was absent due to illness. Mr. Salomone opened the meeting with several comments from the board meeting:

In regards to future conferences, the Cleveland Blues circulated a proposal to host the conference in 2011 or 2012. Their proposal was well received. Earlier board discussions have been focused on finding an East Coast host for 2011 and this is still being considered. Mr. Salomone promised to have an answer from the board soon so that the next hosts can begin their planning and preparation.

Mr. Salomone reported that Bruce Leith invites everyone to look at what they are doing in the Midatlantic base ball league.

The board felt that the newsletter editor was doing a good

job.

Mr. Salomone read a synopsis of the candidate replies about the needs of the VBBA during interviews,

Treasurer Rich Arpi, Minnesota Quicksteps, reported on the financial condition of the organization. The specific numbers appear in another section of the newsletter. Mr. Arpi's report noted that bank balance increased several thousand to more than \$15 thousand dollars and that expenses were very low. Mr. Arpi also reported the number of members as 55 full member clubs, 10 associate member clubs and 18 individual members.

General questions and discussion from the floor then ensued. Some of the issues were:

Mr. Robert Tholkes, Minnesota Quicksteps, made a motion seconded by Eric Sjogren, St. Croix BBC that an appreciation gift be purchased and presented to President Glenn Drinkwater. Motion passed.

Discussion ensued on a suggestion that the VBBA grant \$1000 to the host club of future conferences to defer expenses. More discussion followed about support and the responsibility of the VBBA for a conference and annual meeting.

Motion was proposed to have the constitution amended so that the amount of dues was not specified. The current constitution specifies the amount of dues for

each class of membership. The motion did not pass.

Discussion followed about who would hold the annual meeting if no club volunteered to hold a conference.

Secretary Scott Westgate came to the podium to report the results of the election. Mr. Westgate first reported on the purpose of the organization. Following those comments Mr. Westgate identified the newly elected officers and trustees and the trustees with time remaining on their term. The results of the election are reported in another section of this newsletter. Mr. Westgate had further comments. After this report Mr. Westgate answered a question about what problems were encountered in the vote count.

Mr. Salomone made a motion to adjourn the business meeting of the VBBA, seconded by many and the motion passed.

Dave Brooks

VBBA BOARD of DIRECTORS

Scott Westgate, President
Paul Salomone, Vice Pres.
Chris Burton, Secretary
Glenn Drinkwater, Treas.
Eric Miklich, Historian
Gary Hetzel, Trustee
Bill Dieckmann, Trustee
Brian Sheehy, Trustee
Jay Demagall, Trustee
Marcus Dickson, Trustee
Dennis Wiegmann, Trustee

INTERVIEWS WITH OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES AT THE 2010 VBBA CONFERENCE

Editor's note: While I was at the Port Huron conference, I interviewed the candidates for office with the intent of publishing their comments here in the newsletter for you to read. Many of you do not know all of the officers and trustees of the VBBA and this interview may help you learn more about each of the people representing you in the VBBA.

My apologies to the officers and trustees if I fail to convey their meaning or intent. My handwriting is not always legible, even to me, and the notes may not be as complete as intended. Please let me know of any omissions or errors.

These are the questions asked of each person. After this list, the response of each officer/trustee will be transcribed.

Name

Position

How long involved in vintage base ball?

What was first experience with vintage base ball?

What is your favorite vintage experience?

What it is about VB that you like the best?

What do you think the VBBA needs now?

What direction would you like to see the VBBA move?

What role would you like to have in the future of the VBBA?

What committees does the board need to fulfill the mission of the VBBA?

What needs to happen to make the VBBA a vibrant and growing organization?

PRESIDENT (One year term) -

Scott "Chooch" Westgate, Rochester Grangers (Michigan)

How long in vintage ball? Since 2001

... first experience...? Playing a match versus the local politicians during a city heritage festival. I was surprised at the rather large turnout, the good sportsmanship, the camaraderie between competitors, the skills of the ballists

... favorite vintage experience?

The Akron Cup Tournament mixes the greatness of the game of base ball, highly skilled ballists, and the atmosphere, and the setting of a truly 1860's gala event.

What ... you like the best? The high degree of sportsmanship between highly competitive and skilled ballists.

What ... VBBA needs now? The VBBA needs an up-to-date and more vibrant, user-friendly website. The VBBA could use a 501c3 ordination as an added incentive for otherwise non-eligible ball clubs to join. The VBBA needs to determine what it can do for members so that more non-members will readily join in the promotion, perpetuation, and performance of the re-creation of base ball as it was played in its formative years.

What direction ... VBBA move?

South or Southwest

What role would you like ...? I'd like to lead it to accomplish the needs stated above.

What committees ...? There has been a sentiment for an election committee, but I'm not in that boat. We already have communications, rules, and nomination committees, so I think we're set.

What ... make the VBBA a vibrant and growing organization? A greater awareness of our organi-

zation, it needs to be publicized more. An accurate, up-to-date, and user-friendly interactive website for greater informative interaction. Pinpointing of membership benefits (perks). An "as accurate as can be ascertained" rules book for the various vintage eras.

VICE PRESIDENT (One year term) - Paul Salomone, Elizabeth Resolutes (New Jersey)

How long in vintage ball? Paul has been involved for 11 years. He founded the Elizabeth Resolutes.

... first experience...? Paul saw an article in the Smithsonian Magazine and then a documentary on PBS.

These led to some research and he found the VBBA. From there he got in contact with John Husman. Paul said John was very gracious and spent much time talking with him. At the end of their conversation Paul remembers that John said "Anything for base ball."

... favorite vintage experience?

Anything around the rules sets for 1873, 1891 or 1870, any game played with the Atlantics is memorable and games against the pioneers of overhand vintage ball, the Providence Grays.

What ... you like the best? Trying to emulate how the game was played in the 19th century. Trying to think like a 19th century ball player. Trying to rebuild his knowledge of the game as played then.

What ... VBBA needs now? The VBBA needs to matter more to the rank and file. It needs to more a part of players life on the field. VBBA should be a real viable base ball organization.

What direction ... VBBA move?

VBBA needs a higher national profile. It needs to be more present I the baseball community. It seems

BOARD MEMBER INTERVIEWS CONTINUED

to be almost underground and should be in every baseball fan's vocabulary.

What role would you like ... ?

Continue as board member and lead the Resolutes. Be representative as someone who lives the mission statement.

What committees ... ? All need to step up. Rules committee, historians be more active. The board itself be more active in promoting the organization. Encounters with non-member clubs should be encouragement not admonishment. Emphasize the common bond and respect for others' philosophy and historical perspective, even if diametrically opposed. There is some common language.

What ... make the VBBA a vibrant and growing organization? New blood. Involve young ball players like high school, college and young businessmen.

SECRETARY (One year term) - Chris "Sawdust" Burton, Dayton Clodbusters (Ohio)

How long in vintage ball? 5 years ... first experience... ? I observed a Memorial Day weekend match of the Clodbusters of Carriage Hill. I met the club at a Cracker Barrel and drove up to Canal Fulton for their next match.

... favorite vintage experience?

Earning my nickname in Huntington, IN. I fell over a hidden pile of sawdust while chasing a foul fly. Also, being asked to join a wedding photo ... by the bride!

What ... you like the best? The best part of vintage base ball is the "oh, wow" moment when I explain or my club demonstrates what vintage base ball is. I've distracted many wedding parties.

What ... VBBA needs now? The VBBA needs to evaluate what

benefits it provides for members and associate members. Membership is not expensive but there should be clear and direct benefits for member clubs.

What direction ... VBBA move? I'd like to see the VBBA better address interpretation. Member clubs and convention attendees should provide educational and interpretative opportunities that set them apart from non-members.

What role would you like ... ?

Whatever role is needed and/or asked of me.

What committees ... ? Convention committee to assist future sites in planning. The committee should be composed of members of past host clubs.

What ... make the VBBA a vibrant and growing organization? All major areas, regions; time periods; etc., of vintage base ball need to be included.

Those clubs can educate the vintage base ball core on different rule sets and encourage travel and discussion.

TREASURER (One year term) - Glenn "Geezer" Drinkwater, Genesee Country Village Live Oak (New York)

Not available

HISTORIAN (One year term) - Erik Miklich, Mutual Club of New York

Not available

TRUSTEE (Two year term) - Jay "Tomahawk" Demagall, Cleveland Blues (Ohio)

How long in vintage ball? 2 years

... first experience... ? Saw a Black Stocking versus Clodbuster game, then checked out the VBBA and decided to start a

team with players who are athletes & good sports.

... favorite vintage experience? All of it has been a great experience so far.

What ... you like the best? That it combines three things: community involvement; base ball history; playing the game.

What ... VBBA needs now? I'm new and don't know but may need something to get teams involved and non-members to join.

What direction ... VBBA move? Started like the National Association of Base Ball Professional and now need to be positive for the game.

What role would you like ... ?

Anyway I can help. I created a facebook page for VBBA.

What committees ... ? Public relations and communications. Club goal is to educate community about base ball.

What ... make the VBBA a vibrant and growing organization? Keep the talented people involved.

TRUSTEE (Two year term) - Marcus "Razorback" Dickson, Lah-De-Dahs of Greenfield Village (Michigan)

How long in vintage ball? Seven years.

... first experience... ? I went to Greenfield Village and saw the Lah-De-Dahs playing. I saw guys who looked like me, rather than a bunch of 19 year old semi-pros. I thought "I can play that game."

... favorite vintage experience? Coming up to bat in the World Tournament of Historic Base Ball in Greenfield Village and hearing Ernie Harwell say "Captain Razorback here reminds me of Ty Cobb."

What ... you like the best? The mix of history with the game I

BOARD MEMBER INTERVIEWS CONTINUED

love to play. It is the best of both worlds.

What ... VBBA needs now? Benefit from more educational dissemination. Need to be more of a resource depository.

What direction ... VBBA move?

So many of the guys who play vintage base ball do not know about VBBA -- maybe one or two guys on most clubs even really know that the VBBA exists. The VBBA needs a greater connection with members.

What role would you like ...? To be a conduit to my club from the conference and from members to the VBBA. Share info.

What committees ...? There are a lot of initiatives in progress. Right now, let's nail down what we've started and be effective on the projects we've decided are important. Let's finish what we start, and then consider the next exciting goal.

What ... make the VBBA a vibrant and growing organization? Regional gatherings. Regional base ball festivals with a VBBA "stamp". Visible roles from the VBBA board. Right now most clubs rely on a few who are really knowledgeable. If we can get players excited about the history of the game, then we can get more players involved in learning about the 19th century game, and playing it the way it was actually played.

TRUSTEE (Two year term) - Dennis "Pops" Wiegmann, Huntington Champion Hill Toppers (Indiana)

How long in vintage ball? Since 2005

... first experience...? Was in a discussion in Huntington about forming a team. Did not play then, but had the itch and could not stay away.

... favorite vintage experience? Playing in the Queen City Base Ball Festival in Cincinnati and playing teams like the Mudville Nine (of Casey at the Bat fame) and the 1869 Red Stockings. It was great camaraderie and a great family weekend. Great plays were cheered on all sides.

What ... you like the best? The camaraderie and attitude. Win or lose, did you enjoy the game? Were you respectful to each other and respectful to the game? I love that our team has a positive reputation

What ... VBBA needs now?

What direction ... VBBA move?

Reach out to members. Answer the question "What do we get from the VBBA?" Provide something to get teams to join, like help with web page or funding resources.

What role would you like ...? Survey vintage base ball clubs and find out what we need to do. Member clubs go out and meet more teams.

What committees ...? Membership committee

What ... make the VBBA a vibrant and growing organization? Let people know what we do for them.

Candidates for office not elected also were interviewed and here are some selected responses from them:

Bob Tholkes of the Quicksteps, candidate for President, would like to see the VBBA to be more of a member service organization. He feels that to be a more vibrant and growing organization, the VBBA needs an active board, mission congruence and an active web site.

Helen DeGeatano of the Douglas Dutchers, candidate for Vice President, feels that the VBBA needs leadership that is present, visible and approachable. She wants the VBBA to expand more, use the contacts to expand membership. The communications and publicity committee should

be expanded. To be more vibrant and growing, the VBBA should get ideas from members on how to make the VBBA more valuable to them. Need to have mini-conferences. Have an umpire school.

Craig Waff of the Essex Base Ball Club, candidate for Historian, feels that the VBBA should have more participants at the conferences and longer conferences to be a more vibrant and growing organization.

VBBA MEMBERS ELECT OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

At the business meeting of the Vintage Base Ball Association on March 28, 2010 the votes of the member clubs were tallied. The results of the election are as follows:

PRESIDENT (One year term) - Scott "Chooch" Westgate, Rochester Grangers (Michigan)

VICE PRESIDENT (One year term) - Paul Salomone, Elizabeth Resolutes (New Jersey)

SECRETARY (One year term) - Chris "Sawdust" Burton, Dayton Clodbusters (Ohio)

TREASURER (One year term) - Glenn "Geezer" Drinkwater, Genesee Country Village Live Oak (New York)

HISTORIAN (One year term) - Erik Miklich, Mutual Club of New York

TRUSTEE (Two year term): Marcus "Razorback" Dickson, Lah De Dahs of Greenfield Village (Michigan)
Jay "Tomahawk" Demagall, Cleveland Blues (Ohio)
Dennis "Pops" Wiegmann, Huntington Champion Hill Toppers (Indiana)

Club Profile—St. Louis Brown Stockings, submitted by Bill Battle

Brown Stockings Join GSLBBHS
The newest team of the Greater St. Louis Base Ball Historical Society takes a storied nickname. The St. Louis Brown Stockings, the third member club of GSLBBHS, will begin play at Emmenegger Park in Kirkwood. The new team has been assembled by Tony “Lightning” Wicker, previously a member of the St. Louis Perfectos and the University City Lions. “When I first started playing with the St. Louis Perfectos, I fell in love with the game, sportsmanship, and promotion of how the game was played in the 1860s,” Wicker said. “I knew then, that I wanted to start a team closer to home sometime in the future after I learned more about how to start a team and be able to run a team. I used the help of several members of the Perfectos to help get ideas on starting a team.” Wicker’s nine will play in Kirkwood, Mo., a western suburb of St. Louis. With the addition of the Brown Stockings, the St. Louis area now boasts six teams, three of which are in the GSLBBHS (St. Louis Perfectos, Lafayette Square Cyclone BBC and Brown Stockings) and three others (St. Louis Unions, University City Lions and St. Charles Capitals). The Brown Stockings lost both games of a doubleheader to the St. Louis Unions April 3. Still, Wicker sees the first matches as being positive. “After we had our first matches yesterday, everything was worth it,” said Wicker. “We looked good, had fun, helped promote the game, were very respectful of one another, showed tremendous sportsmanship as that was the

gentleman thing that was going on back then. We had a lot of comments of how the uniforms looked and how we played. With the help of my three other members and the Greater St. Louis Base Ball Historical Society, we are proud to be members of the GSLBBHS and that we are putting a very worthy product on the field to help promote vintage base ball.”

For the latest information on the Brown Stockings, please see www.tiptopworks.com/brownstockings/ or www.tiptopworks.com/gslbbhs/. Historically, the Brown Stockings were a St. Louis nine who entered the National Association in 1875. The team made the move to the National League as a founding member in 1876. George Washington Bradley pitched the first no-hitter in the National League as a member of the Brown Stockings. The team played two seasons before going out of business in 1877 during the aftermath of a game-fixing scandal.

The name remained popular even after the team’s demise. In 1882, Chris von der Ahe entered a team called the Brown Stockings into the American Association. This team later had its name shortened to the Browns and it entered the National League by that name in 1892. The Browns became the St. Louis Perfectos in 1899 and the Cardinals the following season. The National League Cardinals have been one of the most successful teams in the league’s history.

In 1902, the Milwaukee Brewers of the new American League moved to St. Louis and took the name Browns. The team played

AL baseball until moving to Baltimore to become the Orioles after the 1953 season.

“We looked at names for our team,” said Wicker. “Playing vintage base ball the way the game was played, I wanted to find a name of historical significance to help promote the game. With a lot of help from the Internet and my girlfriend, I was able to find that the first professional base ball team in St. Louis was the Brown Stockings in 1875. It wasn’t until much later, that I was able to understand the timeline of the Brown Stockings. Not only were the Brown Stockings the first base ball team in St. Louis, but they were the beginning of the St. Louis Cardinals organization. And they were started in time even before the Perfectos, so now we have two teams in the Greater St. Louis Base Ball Historical Society that both represent the birth of the St. Louis Cardinals organization.”

JOIN THE VBBA

Individuals - join for just \$10 per year!

Clubs - Full membership for only \$50 per year; Associates for \$35 per year.

**See web site for details:
www.vbba.org**

**Note to new clubs:
Your membership in the VBBA is important. Join now!**

ACTIVITIES AT THE PORT HURON CONFERENCE

Do you know all the things that go on at a VBBA conference? Did you wonder what you may have done if you were there? Here's my diary of what went on from my personal perspective.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON AND EVENING

Friday afternoon my traveling companions and I arrived to register at the Thomas Edison Inn, the center of activity for the conference. The first thing to catch my attention was the items available for silent auction. I immediately put my name on three items and would be back several times to check on the bids. After that, I completed registration and talked with the volunteers from the Welkin club at the registration desk. During this time, more people were arriving and were getting registered. Some of these were old friends and we exchanged pleasantries. Others were new to me and I introduced myself and talked to them about vintage ball, the newsletter, etc. and time passed quickly by.

Time to eat! Friends met at the restaurant in the Inn and enjoyed the good food and beverages provided. As the evening progressed, we began to assemble for the trolley ride for the tours of two Victorian home in Historic Port Huron (Thanks to Jim & Michelle Fisher for opening their home to a large, enthusiastic crowd). The side-by-side homes had many interesting aspects and a long intertwined history. After touring the homes, the visitors sampled some local wine and beer. The trolley's next stop was the Vin-

tage Tavern, where all enjoyed friendly conversation, libations and trading shirts. The evening ended for many with the return of the Trolley to the Thomas Edison Inn. Others may have continued to enjoy the evening, but no names will be revealed at this time.

SATURDAY MORNING

Saturday morning dawned bright and sunny with ice floes coming out of Lake Huron at a steady pace. The St. Clair River, just a few feet from the Inn, engaged the interest and curiosity of both visitors and locals as the bright, white ice formations followed the current downriver. Breakfast was available and many enjoyed the choices on the breakfast buffet. The meal was in the same room as the ever-growing display of silent auction items. I made the rounds of these and found several more items of interest. And I talked with more old and new friends before the educational programs began.

At the Port Huron conference, there were simultaneous, hour-long education sessions from 10 o'clock to 1 o'clock. Each person could choose one of three at the top of each hour. During the first hour, I learned about the New York Mercury Sunday paper from Mr. Robert Tholkes. During the second hour, I learned about Historical Interpretation from Jason Kladiva. The last session hour, I learned from Paul Miller about free and low cost publicity options.

Before I tell you the details of the sessions I attended, here's some information on the other programs. Doug "Moonlight" Ot-

lewski & Patrick "Barnraiser" McKay made a presentation on historic batting stances. During the next hour Marcus "Razorback" Dickson presented the results of his survey of vintage ballplayers. During the last hour Peter Morris talked about his book "A Game of Inches" and signed copies for those interested. Also during the last hour the Welkins asked the audience questions to see who was "Smarter Than a Third Basetender."

Bob Tholkes from the Quicksteps club is well known in the base ball community as a researcher of the game. As a long time member of SABR and the VBBA, Bob has spent much time in the details of base ball. In this program, Bob shared some of the information he found in copies of the Sunday Mercury, a weekly published in New York. Bob had access to copies for the years 1859 and 1860. The Mercury accepted letters with questions about base ball and published the answers in print. William Caldwell was the editor at this time and he had a slightly different viewpoint than Henry Chadwick. As a reporter, Mr. Caldwell attended many matches and would report on the most important matches. He wrote a short game summary of most of the games. Mr. Caldwell was a renowned figure in base ball at the time. Years earlier, he formed the Morrisannia BBC. He was also on the rules committee for the NABBP in 1859-60. Many of the letters answered in the Mercury were from the centers of base ball for the time – New York, Boston and Philadelphia, but Mr. Caldwell answered letters from St. Louis, San Francisco, New Orleans, Milwaukee

CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES, cont'd

and other far-flung locales. The Mercury published game summaries and box scores, and then filled the remaining space with letters. If you want to know more about the Sunday Mercury, contact Bob Tholkes.

Jason Kladiva is another well-known vintage base ball personality with many years of experience. His program on historic interpretation covered many, many points and provided a lot of information we can use at our vintage games. Jason mentioned many reference books that are very informative for historic interpreters. He reminded us that doing this was like interpreting another language, and it is intended for the visitor to your event and designed to bring understanding to the visitor. An interpreter must educate the visitor and needs to know the subject to do this well. The interpreter needs to know the audience and why they are there and not lie to the audience or underestimate or insult the audience. The interpreter must entertain as well as educate the audience, but remember it is not a circus sideshow. Getting participation by spectators makes the fun of the game contagious. Jason also mentioned many suppliers of period items like shoes, eyeglasses, hats and general merchandise. If you want more information about suppliers or reference materials contact Jason.

Paul Miller's program on "Free & Low Cost Publicity for Your Ball Club" was the final program for me. Paul Miller has been in radio for 20 years and has worked in marketing and public relations outside of radio for several years as well. Paul talked about many aspects of what a club can do to promote vintage base ball. Some of the opportunities Paul suggested were Facebook, Twitter, a community website, partnerships with schools, museums, charities,

visitors bureau, chamber of commerce, TV, radio, festival and event appearances, billboards, posters, service groups, caps & shirts, and even church bulletins.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON & EVENING

By 1 o'clock, I was ready for lunch and returned with my friends to the hotel restaurant. This was a shortened lunch as most needed to dress for the "All Star" Match at Pine Grove Park. More than 40 were dressed for on the field appearances and several ladies appeared in period costume as well. Dozens of spectators from the community stopped to enjoy an early appearance of base ball on the diamond in Pine Grove Park. One person I spoke with was the local college baseball coach who said he would never get on the field without a glove. Boys and girls played peeper outside of the grounds while the match ensued. Uniforms of many, many clubs kept the field colorful as those attending played to a 9 to 9 tie. For the names of those in the game, see a separate list on these pages.

Back at the Thomas Edison Inn, I again checked the Silent Auction items to update my bids. As the evening progressed, the crowd began to assemble for the banquet and the appearance of the keynote speaker, Dr. William Anderson. Many were dressed in their period finery and added to the festive appeal of the evening. Mr. Fisher of the host Welkin club was on hand to begin the festivities with announcements, awards and introduction of William Anderson. The meal served by the staff of the Thomas Edison Inn was well received by the hungry crowd.

Several at my table went back for seconds of the fine fare.

Mr. Fisher presented awards to the Canal Jumpers of Ohio as the newest team in attendance, to Mr. Foster of Colorado as the person traveling the greatest distance, and to the Rochester Grangers for most persons attending.

Mr. Fisher's introduction of Dr. William Anderson included mention of some of his nine books and nineteen published articles. The keynote speaker began to entertain the assembled banquet guests with many entertaining anecdotes about the Detroit Tigers and their history.

SUNDAY MORNING

Clouds obscured the rising sun on Sunday, but the river was still full of ice floes. In the meeting room, I attended to the silent auction bid sheets to finalize my bids. Then I joined the others for another pleasing breakfast. The Officers and Trustees of the VBBA met separately for their board meeting. When they concluded board business, the general meeting of the membership began which included a financial report and the results of the election for 2010. The summary of that meeting appears earlier in this newsletter. The list of officers and the financial report also appear separately.

My traveling companions and I then began our drive back home and discussed many aspects of the past few days. We all felt the trip very worthwhile and looked forward to the 2011 conference wherever it may be.

DAVE BROOKS

FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2009

Treasurer Rich Arpi made a report to the membership of the financial activity for 2009. During the business meeting of the Vintage Base Ball Association, Mr. Arpi reviewed the income, expenses and balances on hand for 2009. The details are as follows:

Balance on 1-1-09	\$12,863.94
Income:	
2009 dues	
36 full clubs @ \$50	\$1,800.00
8 Associate clubs @ \$35	\$ 280.00
6 individuals @ \$10	\$ 60.00
2010 dues	
11 full clubs @ \$50	\$ 550.00
1 associate club @ \$35	\$ 35.00
Total Income	\$ 2,725.00
Expenses:	
Website annual charges	\$ 191.40
Newsletter	\$ 189.53
Postage & mail fees	\$ 55.40
Membership card materials	\$ 43.09
Total Expenses	\$ 479.42
Balance on 1-1-2010	
\$15,109.52	

Mr. Arpi also reported that the balance at the end of March, 2010 is over 17 thousand dollars.

WEB SITE

Jason Kladiva has been appointed by the board to manage the VBBA website. Look for changes to come soon.

Dave Brooks

ALL STAR MATCH PLAYED AT 2010 CONFERENCE

As part of the festivities at the VBBA conference this year – and many other years – there was a vintage game. This year more than 40 were involved in a spirited game that ended with a score of 9 to 9. Here is a list of the participants in the match including nickname and club: Umpire Ed Elmore, Pigtail, Atlantic BBC; Tallykeeper Jim Kimmach, Professor, Ohio Village Muffins; Dignitary Bob Plott, Peachpie, Wyandotte Ghostriders; Players: Larry Phillips, Knuckles, Cincinnati Red Stockings; John Ingison, Moose, Wyandotte Stars; Brian Holdren, Peanut, Wyandotte Stars; Brian Martin, Bullet, Wyandotte Stars; Greg Powell, Rudy, Wyandotte Stars; Marcus Dickson, Razorback, Greenfield Village Lah-de-dahs; Paul Salomone, Quickstep, Elizabeth Resolutes; Bill Dieckmann, Pic, Cincinnati Red Stockings; Mark D. Clayton, Crazy legs, House of David Echoes; Dan Lyon, Sweettooth, Cincinnati Buckeyes; Paul Zeledon, Scooter, Chicago Salmon; Rick Fuchs, Sparky, Great Black Swamp Frogs; Chuck Mahan, Ducky, Saginaw Old Golds; Jim Fisher, Chops, Welkin; Michael Copado, Preacher, Welkin; Gary Rowe, Dodger, Huntington Champion Hill Toppers; Dennis Wiegmann, Pops, Huntington Champion Hill Toppers; Brian Carpenter, Fish, Huntington Champion Hill Toppers; Jay Redner, Toots, Huntington Champion Hill Toppers; Mark Whitesell, Drifter, Huntington Champion Hill Toppers; Ron Meyer, Chains, Welkin; Matt Farquhar, Uncle, Welkin; Ste-

ven Pope, Swifty, Canal Jumpers; Reed Spencer, Worm Burner, Canal Jumpers; Douglas Ernst, Freight Train, Quicksteps; Rich Arpi, Aces, Quicksteps; Erik Sjogren, Sugar, St. Croix BBC; Jim Brandon, Skeeter, Milwaukee Grays; Chris Burton, Sawdust, Dayton Clodbusters; Jerry Wynne, Lefty, Rochester Grangers; John Fritz, Cricket, Dayton Clodbusters; Edward O'Neil, Smithy, Early Riser BBC; R J Chadha, Snurek, Early riser BBC; Jason Kladiva, Gypsy, Chicago White Stockings; Jay Demagall, Tomahawk, Cleveland Blues BBC; Keegan McCallum, Volcano, Early Risers BBC; Alex Banker, Alley Cat; Welkin; Bob Wynne, Anvil, Rochester Grangers; James Papinem, Pappy, Welkin; and finally a young man who's name I did not catch, but only heard his nickname as he ran to the first base – Big Dog. Now I think Big Dog is a fine nickname, as that is mine, so he is listed here only as Big Dog, because I missed the chance to ask his name. If anyone can tell me what his name is, it will be greatly appreciated .

Dave Brooks

Omission

The editor sincerely apologizes for giving incomplete information about an item that appeared in the last newsletter. The biographical sketch on Tom Barlow should have acknowledged Mr. David Nemeč's upcoming book titled Baseball Bios: The Early Years: 1871-1900. Mr. Nemeč's book is being released in 2011.

Dave Brooks

NEW CLUBS

This report is from the Coltsville group:

The Coltsville Vintage Base Ball League is now forming. We're recruiting players, managers and umpires to participate in 1860s-era games starting in May 2010 at the Hartford Base Ball Grounds at Colt Meadows in Hartford, Connecticut.

The area of Coltsville is in the process of becoming a National Park. Our base ball league will play a prominent role in turning the area into a visitor destination. With four teams initially set to play ball during the summer of 2010, the league will play all its games at Colt Meadows on Saturday mornings.

The teams that are being formed are all well documented teams that actually played in Hartford in the 19th century:

The Charter Oaks Of Hartford
The Charter Oaks are a gentlemanly, intelligent body of men, true lovers of the national game, who make our indulgence a matter of amusement instead of a gambling profit. We once maintained the championship of Connecticut and ought to do so still. Our club is considered Hartford's original base ball team. We are a formidable amalgamation of honorable men.

The Alerts of Hartford
During the 1860's we were a private fire department serving Hartford. Our camaraderie

is as strong off the field as on it. We played games in the park for amusement and we played the game "as played by the New York clubs." The Alerts are lovers of the manly game who know how to win a match game. There are no muffins in our ranks!

The Nutmegs

We pride ourselves in both our athletic talent and our spirit in promoting the national game as we have been doing for over 150 years. Noted for accepting challenges from any team without exception, we are gentlemen rich in character, determination and grit. As ambassadors of the sport and of the city of Hartford, our boys carry on a long tradition of playing fairly and squarely.

Billy Barnie's Blue Boys
Hartford's true sons of the national game, we were named for the color of the Connecticut flag and by our illustrious leader, Mr. Billy Barnie, former member of Hartford's Dark Blues and manager of many major league base ball teams. Our heritage includes Billy Nash, Chief Sockalexis, Phenomenal Smith and Connie Mack. Rumor has it that we were secretly backed by Mark Twain!

All ages and skill levels are welcomed. Informational sessions will be held in February (dates and locations TBA).

Please let me know of other clubs starting this coming year and how they are doing.
Dave Brooks

RULES FORUM

In the previous newsletter there was a question about when a run was tallied. While at the conference in March, I received this communication in regards to the answer provided to the newsletter about the rules in question. The letter is as follows:

Dear Editor,

I read with amusement the bit in the last Newsletter regarding the scenario and the rules interpretation of the 1860 rules for a run scoring. It sounds reasonable, and quite cutesy, but this is exactly what happens when someone looks at the rules for one particular year and attempts to interpret them in that limited scope. It is absolutely necessary to re-search the rules from the beginning of our written rules in 1845 through at least the rules of 1900 to get a full understanding of what the rules were, what they meant then, how they were changed, what was changed, why they were changed, why clarifications were needed, and most importantly, the whys and hows of how they were re-written through the years.

If one were to research the rules properly, then it would be clear that the run in question does not count.

Respectfully submitted,
Ed "Pigtail" Elmore

Any other comments, readers?

Dave Brooks, editor

The Base Ball Player's Chronicle

The newsletter of the Vintage Base Ball Association

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Baseball Artifacts of the 19th century

By Richard "Pastime" D'Ambrisi

One of the highest awards for the 1860s base ball club was the silver ball trophy. It was usually fabricated by a local jeweler at the expense of a generous sponsor although a club's dues could also finance the purchase. This prestigious award was presented to the winning club either at the end of a best of series of matches or one final grand match to determine the best nine. Here we have a silver ball from late in the season of 1865 that is engraved with the particulars of this important match.

