

## **ELECTION!!!**

The following is a list of candidates nominated for office in the VBBA

### **PRESIDENT** (One year term)

Scott "Chooch" Westgate (current VBBA secretary), Rochester Grangers (Michigan)

Robert "Slow Trot" Tholkes, Minnesota Quicksteps

### **VICE PRESIDENT** (One year term)

Paul Salomone (current VBBA Vice President), Elizabeth Resolutes (New Jersey)

Helen "The Wild Sicilian" DeGeatano (current VBBA Trustee), Douglas Dutchers (Michigan)

### **SECRETARY** (One year term)

Chris "Sawdust" Burton, Dayton Clodbusters (Ohio)

### **TREASURER** (One year term)

Glenn "Geezer" Drinkwater (current VBBA president), Genesee Country Village Live Oak (New York)

### **HISTORIAN** (One year term)

Craig B. Waff, Essex Base Ball Club (Wisconsin)

Erik Miklich (current VBBA Historian), Mutual Club of New York

### **TRUSTEE** (Three elected for two year terms)

Marcus "Razorback" Dickson, Lah De Dahs of Greenfield Village (Michigan)

Eric "Red" Laudenbacher, Greensboro Patriots (North Carolina)

Bradley "Brooklyn" Shaw, Flemington Neshanock (New Jersey)

Jay "Tomahawk" Demagall, Cleveland Blues (Ohio)

Dennis "Pops" Wiegmann, Huntington Champion Hill Toppers (Indiana)

## **VBBA CONFERENCE IN PORT HURON**

VBBA Conference soon!

The Welkin Base Ball Club of Port Huron, MI hosts the 2010 VBBA Conference March 26, 27, and 28. The activities on Friday include: 4 to 7 PM conference registration Friday evening – opening bids in the silent auction 7:30 – wind and beer tasting at 3 historic Port Huron homes followed by an informal gathering at a local pub.

During Saturday some of the scheduled events are: 7:30 to 10:30 – registration continues

Update your silent auction bids 8 to 9 for breakfast 10 to 1 for programs, list at end 1 to 2 is lunch on your own 2:30 – depart for Vintage All-Star Game 3 to 5 the match commences then all return to the inn 6:30 – cash bar 7 – banquet dinner 8 – keynote speaker, Dr. Wm. Anderson

Convention roll call concludes the evening

For Sunday we have: 8:30 to 9:30 for breakfast 9 to 9:45 Executive VBBA Meeting 10 to noon – business meeting of all members Plus a tour of local historic sites may be available

EDUCATION SESSIONS including:

Marcus Dickson sharing results of a recent survey of vintage ball players.

Jason Kladiva explains points of interpreting history.

Paul Miller will demonstrate techniques for getting publicity.

Peter Morris will talk about his latest book, A Game of Inches.

Douglas Otlewski and Pat McKay will demonstrate historic batting stances.

Robert Tholkes will talk about his research from the New York Sunday Mercury.

And "Are you smarter than a third base tender?"

For more information go to the web site: <http://welkinbbc.com/convention>

When you arrive at the conference look for the electronic billboard welcoming you to the Port Huron. It is at the end of I-69/I-94

See you there! Dave Brooks

## **VBBA BOARD of DIRECTORS**

Glenn Drinkwater, Pres.  
Paul Salamone, Vice Pres.  
Scott Westgate, Secretary  
Rich Arpi, Treasurer  
Eric Miklich, Historian  
Drew Frady, Trustee  
Ed Elmore, Trustee  
Helen DeGeatano, Trustee  
Gary Hetzel, Trustee  
Bill Dieckmann, Trustee  
Brian Sheehy, Trustee

WELCOME TO THE SOUTHERNS -Torchlight Procession - THE CLUBS REPRESENTED

There can be no question but that the recent trip of our "Southerns" through the West, where they gathered all the laurels upon every field, with one exception—and that field has proven a Waterloo to many clubs of greater fame—has given a new impulse to base ball in our city, and inspired all our clubs to strenuously endeavor to attain such excellence as will make them at least equals of any, whether they be professional or amateurs.

This disposition should be encouraged, for it is human nature, and especially the nature of our Southern boys, to wish to be first. Let us ever strive to keep awake in the breasts of our young men a noble emulation and base ball is ennobling, for it give strength to the body and imparts vigor to the mind.

We have had, as a people, too little outdoor exercise: our boys have been kept too much shut up at home or in schools, and attention has been given to the development of the brain at the expense of the muscles. Base ball has become a national game, and it is perhaps the best that can be devised for exercising the entire body, and, at the same time, diverting the mind.

The Southern was the first base ball club to venture away from home, and to engage other clubs upon their own fields, and have

returned home victors in six of seven contests. Their defeat by the Red Stockings was to have been expected, as the latter club has been severely trained, and are what are known as "professionals" - that is to say, they make a business of pleasure.

According to previous announcement, the procession in honor of the return of the Southerns was formed last evening, about 7 1/2 o'clock, at the Clay Statue on Canal street. The various clubs were preceded by bands of music, and all bore the wide-awake torch, presenting, as they marched along the route laid down, a fine display.

Those members of the Southern Base Ball Club in whose honor the demonstration was given, were dressed in their beautiful uniform, and occupied carriages.

Along the route the procession was greeted with enthusiastic cheers, and we were surprised to find so very general an interest taken in the matter.

The following clubs were represented in the procession, which was ably commanded by the Grand Marshall, Geo. W. Young, Treasurer of the Robt. E. Lee Club:

**Lone Star Base Ball Club**, thirty-five members present, organized Sept. 15, 1859. President, W. F. Tracey; Vice President, H. R.

McVey; Corresponding Secretary, W. B. Young; Financial Secretary, J. N. Howard; Messrs. M. Dumphy, Wm. Condon, J. N. Howard, L. F. Keating, A. Bozant, Directors. Practice grounds, the Delachaise.

**R. E. Lee Base Ball Club**, thirty members present, organized Aug. 1, 1864. President, John Kaiser; Vice President, A. B. Johnson; Secretary, G. W. Young; Treasurer, J. Sampolis. Practice ground, the Delachaise.

**Pelican Base Ball Club**, fifty members present, organized Sept. 1, 1865. President, S. B. Gill; Vice President, W. Blanchard; Treasurer, W. Dietrich; Secretary, T Mahan. Practice grounds, corner of Esplanade and White streets.

**Comet Base Ball Club**, twenty-five members present, organized in September, 1860. Reorganized September 5, 1866. President, C. A. Benedict; Vice President, J. Bond; Secretary, W. Roach; Treasurer, J. Powell.

**Hope Base Ball Club**, thirty members present, organized March 1, 1868. President, P. Cannon; Vice President, J. Evans; Treasurer, M. Riodan; Secretary, J. Sbisi. Practice grounds, foot of Clouet street, third district.

Continued from previous page

**Hancock Base Ball Club**, thirty-five members present, organized August 13, 1869. President, T. P. Paul; Vice President, G. Davis; Treasurer, T. M. Barker; Secretary, J. P. Elliot; Corresponding Secretary, T. Hughes. Practice grounds, the Delachaise.

We are indebted to all the clubs for courtesies extended to the Picayune.

After the procession disbanded, the various clubs marched through the streets to inspiring strains, and we return our thanks specially to the Hancocks, South-erns, and the R. E. Lees for serenades.

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About S. Derby Gisclair:  
Mr. Gisclair is a member of SABR, writer and speaker as well as the author of several books about the history of baseball in Louisiana, *Baseball in New Orleans* and *Baseball at Tulane University*. For more information about these books and other New Orleans baseball go to the web site: <http://www.neworleansbaseball.com>

Mr Gisclair has graciously allowed us to reprint this item and the report on a Southern base ball match with the R. E. Lee Club for the Championship of the State.

**LETTERS:**

Note from the editor: Readers, your comments and concerns will make this a better newsletter. Please send me yours.

D. Brooks [dbigdogbrooks@brecnet.com](mailto:dbigdogbrooks@brecnet.com)

Editor’s Note: Don has embarked on a new aspect to his life as a vintage base ball revolver and umpire. He sent this summary of his base ball life.

I grew up in Brooklyn, New York where I played stickball and softball. Our family moved to Columbus, Ohio in 1971 when the Borden Foods Company moved its Headquarters there. I continued to play Church League softball until a memorable day in September 1986. The Ohio Village Muffins were in there infancy having begun in 1981 and were usually playing softball teams at the Village to demonstrate the game. A member of our church who was playing on the Muffins asked me if our team would like to play against them in the Village. We accepted and went on to defeat them 2 to 1 and from that point on I was hooked on Vintage Base Ball. At that time the equipment they were using included narrow bats and the ball was an IncrediBall so to me it was a lot like stickball. Two weeks later they invited us back as they needed an opponent for an article that Sports Illustrated was doing about the team (April 27, 1987 Issue). The following season Nick Herold and I volunteered to play with the Muffins and the rest is history and an incredible journey. I credit the pioneering managers of the Muffins (Nick Herold, John Wells, Doug Smith) and the late Sharon Antle (OHS support) for the tremendous growth of Vintage Base Ball. The twenty two years I spent playing with the Muffins have blessed us with wonderful friends and amazing memories that will never go

away. We have played at places from Minnesota to Mississippi, from New York to San Francisco, opened the first game in Jacobs Field in 1994, recreated the first game at the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in Hoboken, NJ, played on the Field of Dreams, the VMI Parade Grounds, Major League fields, Minor League fields, Little League fields, mountain sides, islands, on mud, sand and in snow. I have played in 15 States and the District of Columbia. It just doesn’t get any better. While I may be retired from the Muffins I have not retired from Vintage Base Ball and will make myself available to play, umpire or interpret whenever the opportunity arises, so feel free to contact me if you need someone. Three Huzzahs for Vintage Base Ball.

Don’s contact info is [bigbat-dea@cs.com](mailto:bigbat-dea@cs.com)

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**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](http://www.vbba.org)**

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

## Old Time Ball Player - Thomas H. "Tom" Barlow , provided by Eric Miklich

Tom Barlow's short profile in the baseball encyclopedias gives no indication that there was anything distinguished about his career. Actually, his legacy to baseball includes at least one historic innovation and a mystery that continues to perplex baseball historians. Barlow was very small but so agile that he proved ideally suited to playing catcher. His work behind the plate impressed Henry Chadwick so much that the legendary sportswriter raved, "a regular, earnest and plucky worker, and one of the most active of catchers, Tommy watching the ball and handling it with the agility of a cat...In this respect Tommy Barlow was the model catcher of the season."

In 1872 Barlow became the regular catcher for the National Association Brooklyn Atlantics. Yet his work when it was his turn to bat was weak until he devised a novel ploy by adopting a miniature bat with which he would poke at the ball and send it a few feet in front of the plate. What made his bunts effective was that balls were still considered fair if they initially struck the ground in fair territory, regardless of where they ended up going. According to teammate Herb Worth: "{Barlow} had a short bat, not over two feet long, which when he hit the ball he imparted a wrist motion which gave the ball, when it came in contact with the bat, a sort of reversed twist and the ball after striking the ground would almost seem to remain where it struck and then dart off at an angle out of reach of the third baseman or the pitcher." While Barlow didn't invent the bunt, his novel bat brought it to prominence. Barlow also may have introduced another historic play—

the hidden-ball trick. Since gloves were still unknown, Barlow would hide the ball under his arm and then sneak it out to retire an unsuspecting base runner. Despite these innovations, his career was as abbreviated as his bat and remains shrouded in mystery. After being the regular catcher for the Atlantics in 1872-73, he joined Hartford in 1874 and moved to SS. He was in and out of the lineup between hospital stays for a mysterious illness and played his final ML game in May of 1875 and then vanished from the baseball scene.

In 1877, Barlow returned to the headlines when he was arrested for stealing a pair of stockings and told reporters a harrowing tale. According to him, he had been catching in a game several years earlier when a pitched ball struck him in the temple and knocked him cold. He was hospitalized and given morphine, and addiction to the drug began a downward cycle so that by the time of his arrest Barlow believed that there was no hope of recovery. "I was once catcher for the Mutuals, also the Atlantics," said Barlow, before adding plaintively, "but no one would think it to look at me now." The man who had helped to give baseball the bunt and the hidden-ball trick was now responsible for another first: the first baseball drug addict.

Barlow's melancholy tale was featured in Ken Burns's baseball documentary and since then legitimate questions have been raised about his version of events. The date of the injury provided by Barlow was not accurate, and no confirmation of it has been found in contemporaneous newspaper accounts. Notwithstanding these discrepancies, it is possible that he truly was dosed heavily with morphine—the drug of choice in his day for almost every serious pain-ridden ailment—at some point, per-

haps during a hospital stay in 1874 while suffering from an unknown illness, and simply romanticized his crippling addiction. What happened to Barlow after his 1877 arrest remains a mystery. He was last known to be alive in 1880 and within a few years was reported to be dead, but no details of his death have been located.

### WOODEN BATS

Fellow vintage ballists, If you are like me, you are familiar with the name "Louisville Slugger." When I played as a boy, that was the bat of choice. The Hillerich Company began making bats as a sideline in 1884 but the name we all know was not used until 1894. Before then it was known as the "Falls City Slugger." J. Frederick Hillerich was opposed to making bats at his woodworking company. He preferred to turn bed spindles, ten pins, and rollers. But his son Bud Hillerich offered to make a bat for a slumping Louisville Eclipse ball player. When the player, Pete Browning went three for three the next day, all of the other Louisville players wanted bats from Bud Hillerich. And so the Falls City Slugger was born and Bud's father realized that this would be another good product for the woodworking shop.

I found more than 25 companies on the Internet that make just wooden bats. How many of these began when a frustrated ball player ask for a new bat? Check the companies on the VBBA web site to learn more about wooden bats. Or Google wooden bats and you will find bat companies in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, California, Minnesota, Texas and New York. Dave Brooks

## Historic Base Ball at Vancouver Barracks

Every year since 2001 the National Park Service at Fort Vancouver National Historic Site has presented “An Evening of 1860s Base Ball” on the parade grounds of Vancouver Barracks. Park staff have researched the history of Army athletics at this historic post and developed these exhibition games for the enjoyment of the public.

The Pacific Northwest and Vancouver Barracks were certainly no strangers to the game of base ball, especially after the Civil War had ended. In the first recorded match in the newly formed state of Oregon, the Pioneer Club of Portland played the Clackamas Club of Oregon City, defeating them with a score of 77-45. Vancouver had its first organized match in May of 1867. The contenders were the Vancouver Occidentals, many of whom were soldiers from the Barracks, and the seemingly undefeatable Portland Pioneers, who again prevailed, 79-62. As you can probably conclude from these scores, base ball in the middle of the 1800’s was a very different game than the modern game we play today.

Duty at garrison posts like Vancouver Barracks was often tedious and games like base ball provided relief from the dull everyday activity of the military. To bring this part of our history to life, the National Park Service presents two games each summer played under the rules of 1860. The competition is between volunteers and staff portraying two historic teams, the 4<sup>th</sup> Artillery Regiment team named the

“Sherman’s” and the local Vancouver town team known as the “Occidentals”. Wearing period uniforms the teams play barehanded and follow the rules as stipulated in the “Rules and Regulations of the Game of Base Ball, adopted by the National Association of Base-Ball Players held in New York, March 14, 1860”.

Many 1860s ‘cranks’ (an early term for fans) rove the crowd explaining the game and the history of the Barracks to the hundreds of modern-day fans that attend. Many of these fans “make an evening of it” by bringing lawn chairs and picnic lunches to enjoy. Period music is provided by a local reenactment group that dresses in the uniforms and plays the music from the 1860’s. The event helps bring the history of Vancouver Barracks to life. The National Park Service is proud to be a lead in telling the stories of the Vancouver National Historic Reserve. Our goal is to grow this program to include more people in uniform and civilian clothing.

### Editor’s Note:

Thanks to Bill DeBerry, Park Ranger and Historic Programs Coordinator at Fort Vancouver National Historic Site in Vancouver, Washington for providing this information about vintage base ball in the Northwest Territories.

Perhaps one of you vintage teams could issue a challenge to the ball players at the Barracks and make the trip west as many teams did in the early days of base ball.

## WINTER BALL

Have you been sitting inside looking out at the snow wishing you were playing base ball? Several teams have put their wishes into action and already played the grand old game. The Rochester Grangers have played on ice this winter and will play again next year to mark the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first game played on ice in 1861. Check out the pictures of the game on their web site. The Cincinnati Vintage Base Ball Club held their annual Super Bowl Sunday match. This marks the seventh year of play. It began as a suggestion from club member Steve Dietzer and has been one of the best attended club events. Alternately known as “Super Ball Sunday” or the “Snow Bowl Game” the game has seen all kinds of weather. There are probably more teams playing some sort of winter game out there. Let me know. The team that has the greatest success with a winter game is the St. Croix team in Minnesota. This year marked the Second Annual Crispin Cider Iceball Adventure Series at Midway Stadium in St. Paul. Current and past Saints players faced the St. Croix Base Ball Club in a five-inning game using vintage rules. Before the game fans tailgated as a band played. Fans were encouraged to make a donation of money and food for the Second Harvest Heartland food bank. Fans were also encouraged to bring winter clothes to be given to those in need. Last year more than \$20,000 was raised to feed the needy.

## PLAYING YOUR POSITION – advice from days of yore.

From The Base-Ball Guide for 1869 (The Revised Rules of the Game, with an Explanatory Appendix to Each Rule, Together with Instructions for Young Players and Hints to Professionals)

Edited by Henry Chadwick

Published by Robert M. De Witt, Publisher, New York, page 42-44. The text is as follows:

THE SHORT-STOP, Which requires, to be well played, the agility of a cat, the cunning of a fox, the keen and quick judgment of a well-trained dog, and the endurance of a mule. The short-stop should be a capital fielder, a good base-player, a sure catch of high or low or line balls; a swift and accurate long and short thrower, a nimble runner, an arm able to withstand the effects of constant labor and fatigue, and one well posted and practiced on all the points of the game. He should play around the entire infield for the purpose of stopping or catching the ball if batted there, and of assisting the pitcher. He should be ready to “back up” the second and third bases, and, when occasion requires it, to take charge of either of those positions. He should be near the pitcher, second baseman, or the third baseman when either of them attempts to take a fly ball, for the purpose, in case of failure to make the catch, to secure the ball and pass it on to the first baseman. When the pitcher leaves his post to “follow” the ball delivered over home base—a player of the opposing party

being on their base—the short-stop should be ready to assist the pitcher if the ball on its return from the catcher should be missed by the pitcher; he should always go to meet the ball when being returned from the centre or left field, and pass it quickly to the in-field, and, in a similar case, in the right field he should “take” the second base while the base-player helps the ball in. A very pretty point in the play at short-field has frequently been made by Mr. Devyr, of the Mutual Club of New York, and one which although apparently very easily done has not been made by many, if any, others. A player is on third base, and the ball is batted sharply toward the short-stop, who picks it up and moves as if to throw it violently to the first baseman; the player running from third base, if the point be well played, will be induced to make a dash for the home base, but, to his chagrin and disgust, he finds the ball at home base before him, whither it had been sent by the short-stop instead of first base, as the runner innocently supposed, or blissfully hoped it would be. Another pretty point, and one formerly very often played, is as follows: Two players are running the bases; one holds first and the other third base. The runner on first base thinks that the catcher will not throw the ball to second base, and thereby give the runner on third base an opportunity to get home; he, therefore, starts for second base; the catcher throws the

ball, and his adversary on third base, thinking the distance from home to second base is enough to warrant him in “going home” without being put out, makes a dash for “home” base, but finds, too late, that the ball had not been thrown to the second baseman; it had been sent only to short-stop, who was a party of the arrangement, and by whom it was immediately returned to catcher for the purpose of putting out the player who was nearer the accomplishment of his run. The points which the short-stop can make are numerous, but the ability to carry them out successfully can only be acquired by practice, and an unflinching application to the duties of this position.

In the previous newsletter, when Mr. Chadwick was making comments about third base, he wrote: ***“When the circumstances of the moment oblige the short stop to play second base...”***

Don Andersen offers this remark: On his comment about the short stop playing second I think that relates to the practice we often see today's Vintage team employ when a left handed striker comes to bat and the second baseman moves to the short stop position on the right side instead of the short stop moving across the field to that slot.

Thanks for your remark, Don. If any other readers have comments they would like to share, please send them to the editor. You can contact me at:

[dbigdogbrooks@brecnet.com](mailto:dbigdogbrooks@brecnet.com)

# **SOUTHERN CLUB WINS THE CHAMPIONSHIP**

Compiled by S. Derby Gisclair from *The Daily Picayune*, June 8, 1869

As predicted, the greatest throng ever assembled to witness a game of base ball in New Orleans was assembled upon the Delachaise Grounds on Sunday evening, for the occasion of the second game of the series between the Southern and R. E. Less clubs for the championship of the State. The reported excellence of both clubs and the unflinching confidence of their respective friends and backers had reached the ears of the ladies, several hundred of whom we saw comfortably seat beneath the ample shade of the Crescent City Cricket Club's tent, and it was their happy influence, certainly, that aroused a great enthusiasm among the contestants, and incited them to those brilliant displays of skill and activity. Round after round of loud and continued applause denoted the many good plays, and their appreciation by a critical audience. Connoisseurs express the opinion that the playing could not have been eclipsed, even by the famous Atlantics of New York.

With the limited space at command—we may not venture to make part payment of the many compliments that were well earned on the occasion—but now that the Southern are champions we have been promised for next Sunday's paper, a complete record of their club, which we know will be interesting.

We may not refrain from mentioning that we missed our young and handsome friend Larry Kearns from his conspicuous position in the left field. We learn that he was held in reserve on this occasion, and found him doing service in the more pleasant field

of waiting upon the ladies; his place was ably filled by the indomitable Didlake. The general playing too of Bertel and Hennessey of the Lees was a noticeable feature in the game as was also the playing of Larkin, Hays, and Bozant of the Southern. Hennessey made several splendid fly catches; he seemed to vie with Bozant in making the play, both of them having the same credit of "flys caught." Bertel in his easy, graceful style did full justice to his position. Larkin was eminently successful in his position as "catcher" of the Southern—he seldom fails to catch a "foul-ball," and on this occasion made sure of all that came within his limits. Keefe and Donovan, pitchers, sent the balls to the strikers with much accuracy, and both played well. Budendorf deserves special mention for the manner in which he executed his play. His coolness and self-possession has been remarked frequently. Fay, in the left field, made some good catches, as did also Chandler, in the right field. There had been some changes made in the Southern nine. The change, slight as it was, in the disposition of the forces besides being commented on as something unusual, created some little apprehension, but the good judgment of Capt. Holtzman was made manifest, after having passed through the ordeal, throughout which he was unable to suppress the agitation that marked his sense of the responsibility he had assumed.

On the 4th of July, the Southern expect to engage in a match with the Lone Stars for a prize flag to be offered by the exempt societies of Nos. 13 and 5, who will, on that day, give a grand picnic on the Fair

Grounds. This game will be one of great interest, and will, we trust, be witnessed by all admirers of the national game.

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EDITOR'S NOTE—The box score for this game can be found on Mr. Gisclair's web site:

<http://www.neworleansbaseball.com>

where you will find many other interesting items about baseball.

## **OUR HISTORY**

As part of an ongoing, long term project to research and document the history of vintage base ball Kyle DeCicco-Carey is collecting information relating to current and defunct vintage clubs. To date 312 current and defunct vintage clubs in 32 states and Canada have been identified. Kyle is looking for clubs to participate in a brief online questionnaire about your club or a defunct club you may have information about:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/NB78MZP>

Requests for a paper questionnaire can be sent to:

[ironsidesbbc@gmail.com](mailto:ironsidesbbc@gmail.com) or

Kyle DeCicco-Carey  
5 Brandt Island Road  
Mattapoisett, MA 02739

A self addressed stamped envelope will be provided for the return of the survey.

In addition, he is collecting vintage base ball ephemera. If anyone has items such as club newsletters, programs, handouts, fliers, promotional items, or other club items that they wish to donate electronic copies can be sent to [ironsidesbbc@gmail.com](mailto:ironsidesbbc@gmail.com). If you are feeling really generous and wish to donate items through the postal service they maybe sent to the above mailing address.

## RULES FORUM

Here is a rules question that was sent to Eric Miklich:

Situation: Host team plays 1860 rules. Striking team has bases loaded and two hands out. Ball is struck to the left field. Runner on the third base crosses the plate. The ball arrives at the third base before the runner from the second base. Umpire calls the runner coming to third out and allows the run to tally for the runner coming home as he crossed the plate before the force out at third. Rule 24 was quoted as the authority to allow the ace to tally. (Rules 18 and 25 seem to contradict the umpire's call)

This is the response from Eric:

1860 Rules; **Beadle's Dime Base -Ball Player**

SEC. 24. If two hands are already out, no player running home at the time a ball is struck, can make an ace if the striker is put out.

SEC. 18. Players must make their bases in the order of striking; and when a fair ball is struck, and not caught flying (or on the first bound), the first base must be vacated, as also the second and third bases, if they are occupied at the same time. Players may be put out on any base, under these circumstances, in the same manner as the striker when running to the first base.

SEC. 25. An innings must be concluded at the time the third hand is put out.

This is a straight forward answer. The run scores before the third hand is made, which concludes the inning.

Club Profile:

## WYANDOTT GHOSTRIDERS/ SYCAMORE GRASSHOPPERS

Submitted by "Reb"

The team was first formed as the Sycamore Grasshoppers, in Sycamore, Ohio in 1994 to play at the inauguration of the new park in town. The Ohio village Muffins were our opponents and took us to task by the final tally of 14-2. But the vintage base ball bug had bit hard. Fred Malone led the group into vintage play by scheduling local festivals, VBBA teams and school classes starting in 1995. A ladies team, the Katydids, also saw action for a couple of years.

The name Grasshoppers was chosen to honor our rural roots in agricultural northwest Ohio. The current name, Ghostriders, came about when our local benefactor, the Mohawk Historical Society, sought unsuccessfully to revive the original Grasshoppers team in 2007. The new name reflects our historical connection to the Wyandott Indians of our Wyandott County. The belief that Ghost rider has some significance in the local Native American lore, however, cannot be conclusively established. Besides, our shirts had a large "G" on the shield!!! Ghostriders fit.

The team has enjoyed the privilege of traveling to Michigan, Indiana, and New York, plus much of Ohio to meet new nines and challenge their fine ballists. Probably the highpoint in our history was winning the Ohio Silver Ball trophy by best-

ing some of the finest base ball nines Ohio has playing the game. The trophy commemorated the 25<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of Ohio Village Muffins vintage base ball.

Our team is a self-supporting family-oriented and very mixed age team with a number of father-son and even father-son-grandson combination in addition to several female players on occasion. We have had players from 6 years, in a tight spot, to 90 years bless our roster over the years. Although we enjoy the earliest rules of vintage base ball most, we also play teams that prefer the "catch" rules, too. We are always looking for new venues to play and, most of all, have FUN and promote vintage base ball. HUZAZH!!!!

## VINTAGE SLANG

Can you define these terms?

**LEFT GARDENER**

**BOODLER**

**MUCKLE**

**BLIND**

**SKUNKER**

Send your answers on the back of a twenty dollar bill to Dave Brooks and become eligible for valuable prizes



## North Baltimore Cyclones first year, submitted by Craig Lammers

The story of the Cyclones properly begins in 1897. That fall an all professional league was formed in Wood County with a goal of developing young talent for the major leagues. Though other league teams brought in established professional players, the original Cyclones largely fielded a team of players on the way up. Bert Blue, Jim Delahanty, Jack Harper and Topsy Hartsel were among the future major leaguers playing for the Cyclones that season. Due to high salaries and gambling losses, the Wood County League suspended operations after 1897.

After more than a century of dormancy the club was re-established in the fall of 2008. After leaving my former club I wanted to continue playing and also create the best and most historically accurate vintage team possible. After sounding out some former teammates, the first members joined the new team. Greg "Alderman" Franke, an experienced infielder, was the first to join the new team. The Schmidt brothers Mike & Gabe and Dominic Weidner were also quick to become a part of the venture.

The challenge now became how to finance and organize a team on a limited budget. Luckily my position at a local general store proved helpful. Several "clerks" and the store butcher expressed interest in joining the club and a lot of workshirts to be used as our first uniforms became available. The acquisition of those shirts also gave the first year team the distinction of being possibly the only vintage team to wear plaid.

The winter and spring was a mixed bag for the team. As a newcomer to running a team, I made some mistakes and also did some things well. Foremost among the mistakes

was a lack of aggressiveness in scheduling. Plans were underway to play another relatively new club several times on the season. Personnel problems on that club caused the expected matches between us to fall through.

With the schedule uncertain, the Cyclones began practice in late March. We held weekly practices usually on Monday afternoon and had a solid core of players show up at these sessions. The regular practices were an excellent way to keep the team active while I attempted to fill out our schedule.

Our three match first season began in Carey, Ohio on May 16. Somewhat undermanned with several players on a trip to New Mexico, The Cyclones gave a strong effort nearly defeating the Carey Cayugas before dropping a 6-5 decision. I had the first hit in club history with a first inning single and shared the pitching duties with veteran Walter "Big Train" Johnson. We led 5-3 after seven before taking the loss.

After the first match it was time to seek opponents for later in the season while still keeping an eye out for new talent. On one particularly fortunate Monday afternoon, I arrived at practice to see a new player on hand. He just happened to be at the field tossing the ball around and we quickly invited him to join us. We had found an excellent center fielder. The weekly practices also had an unexpected drawback. Most of the teams bats were broken during these afternoon get togethers. At one point, the club had one bat, causing a search for talent of the wooden variety as well as human talent. In June, the scheduling search paid off. The Central Rails of

Alliance offered us an opportunity to join them and the Cleveland Forest Citys for an August 23 match. It would be a date with some drawbacks but an opportunity as well.

By the date of our final two matches, a supporter of the club had furnished a banner and our lumber problem was well on the way to being solved. Professionalism was also creeping in as the decision was made to provide players expense money for the long trip. Turn-out for the match was hampered by the return of students to the University and a tractor pull back home. The contest with the Forest Citys was competitive, but mediocre pitching by captain Craig "Coldwater Jim" Lammers and a lack of offense ultimately caused us to come up short. For the second contest with host Alliance we pressed into service a crank who attempted to play third base. Attempted is the word for it. He bobbled every ball hit his way putting starting pitcher Franke in a hole. This match also marked the debut of the Cyclones first female player. Susan "Doc" Purviance split the afternoon behind the bat and in right field. She had one hit in three plate appearances and played well defensively. The hitting star on the afternoon was Jason Hartigan with five safe hits in seven appearances. That afternoon was the end of the 2009 season for the Cyclones and planning immediately began for the team's second season. We play a fairly ambitious schedule this season including established clubs such as the Cincinnati Buckeyes and Spiegel Grove Squires as well as several matches against newer clubs. We play at home three times and will try the novel idea of playing at various sites throughout the area. My goal is to bring the game to interested spectators rather than making them come to us. We're also planning a few other surprises for our 2010 home matches. Our goal for the season is to establish ourselves as the best vintage club in Wood County.

# When Marketing Succeeds: Being Ready for the Public and Press,

from Beth Hansen of the Fair Play Base Ball Club of Talbot County, Maryland

There is nothing sadder to the future of vintage base ball than being at a tournament or game and watching members of the public wandering around lost and confused. Here are people who have come to learn about our sport, and there are no friendly faces to help them out. Do we want to make fans, maybe even players, of them? Then we need to put some effort into welcoming them.

1. Have people assigned to greet the public and to direct them to games. It is essential to have non-players support your team. Spouses, children, and injured players can make your games and tournaments successful, popular events. Do not make the mistake of thinking your players can do this -- they are far too involved in the game on the field. But family members can be engaged in the event by greeting visitors. Even small children can welcome people to the game, tell them where the fields are, and hand out information. This leads us to the second point:

2. Hand out printed information. This is especially critical for members of the press, so see the section on press packages below. All members of the public appreciate being informed about the game. And it gives them something to read while the teams are warming up. You don't have to print up a fancy brochure -- just an 8 1/2" x 11" paper folded in half makes a nice little handout. Tell people about what you are doing:

What vintage base ball is all about-  
What year(s) you are playing  
What the rules are (especially how they are different from modern ball)

A map of the various fields (if applicable)

Which teams are playing and how to contact them

Leave these programs at the refreshment stand or information table during the entire game or

tournament for people who you may have missed as they walked in.

3. Provide "interpretation." This doesn't mean translate into another language -- the National Park Service uses the word interpretation to mean explaining things to the public. Some teams have an announcer who walks around behind the team benches and calls out the game. Some ball parks are lucky enough to have an announcer's stand and megaphone.

But at the very least, let some of your non-players get involved with the game by telling the public what they are seeing. Your family and friends who are sitting on the grass can help with this. If they see some unfamiliar faces, they can introduce themselves as fans of the team. After a play that may be confusing to the public, say a batter being called out when the fielder caught the ball after one bounce, they can turn to some newcomers and explain that catching after one bound is allowed.

Far from being annoyed, visitors are pleased to get such explanations. I've been at away games where I have befriended visitors who then glued themselves to my side to get me to explain what was going on. They were very grateful for anything I could tell them about what was happening on the field. Those visitors had a better chance of becoming fans than the ones who left after only an hour because they were utterly confused by what they saw.

4. Tournament Information Table  
If you are going to host a tournament, you will have not only fans, but players who don't know where to go and what is going on. The very least you can do is provide a place for them to get information.

Again, your players cannot do this. When an out of town team arrives and needs to find out where "field 4" is located, or if the tournament will allow certain equipment, it does not help if the only person who knows the answer is on second base.

You do not have to spend a lot of money -- in fact, not any money. At some tournaments the home team estab-

lishes a "camp" for themselves, and makes sure that someone sitting under that tree always has the schedule, and can answer tournament questions.

## Press Packages

Members of the press are busy people. They have five events to cover today, and they aren't going to take the time to double check their facts -- they'll print whatever they think they heard someone say. Make them happy and help keep the reporting accurate by giving them the information they will need to write their story. Again, the basic rules for the year you are playing, information about your team, and a few quotes about vintage base ball are helpful. Reporters are especially grateful for team photos with names of all players spelled out in order from left to right. They can take it back to the office and match up their photos with the names of the players, and know they have them spelled correctly. Make up a few file folders at the beginning of the season with team information, and keep them with the equipment all year. Have someone on your team assigned to be the press liaison. Makes sure everyone knows who that person is. Then if that liaison takes to the field, assign someone else to the task. Again, it doesn't help for your team to point to the outfield and tell a reporter that the only person who can answer questions is busy right now. The reporter may very well go on to his or her next assignment.

So if you are going to invite the public and press to your games, remember to make plans to care for them once they arrive. Every team needs some people who don't "pick up a bat," or who are willing to put their bat aside for a while to help out the team. Our sport will only grow if we welcome people who come to our games.

Editor's note: Beth Hansen wrote these additional marketing suggestions after reading the item published in the last newsletter. Does anyone have more suggestions?

## **NEW CLUBS**

Vintage base ball has grown because men and women go through the effort of forming clubs and putting teams onto fields across North America. Thanks to all of you who have done this is the past. This coming year more new teams are forming. Please support the new teams in your area.

### TEAMS FORMING IN 2010

#### WWII GIRLS BASEBALL LIVING HISTORY LEAGUE

The women of the WWII Girls Baseball Living History Vintage Baseball League honor the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League (AAGPBL) by educating the public about Girls Baseball Heritage during WWII by playing exhibition baseball games at various Historical Reenactments and Museum appearances through out the Midwest; primarily in Illinois, Wisconsin, and Indiana, where the original Girls of Summer played.

The league portrays Girls Baseball as it was played by the AAGPBL during their first season of play in 1943 when underhand pitching and a 12" softball was the rule. The original league was made up of only four teams which we portray: the Kenosha Comets, Racine Belles, Rockford Peaches, and South Bend Blue Sox. Our vintage baseball league is new and is open to all women who wish to interpret WWII vintage baseball history and have a little fun do-

ing it. We also welcome men who are interested in team manager and umpire opportunities. Please contact us if you are interested in trying out. Help build our league. "Dirt in the Skirt".

Contact Rebecca Tulloch via email:  
becky1861@sbcglobal.net

#### BOHEMIA EUREKAS

The Maryland region's premier 19<sup>th</sup> century base-ball organization, the Elkton Base Ball Club is announcing the formation of its newest team within the club. The Bohemia Eureka's will begin playing vintage base ball in the Spring of 2010. The Eureka's will be based on a historically accurate account of one of the first clubs that played in Cecil County, Maryland in 1866.

#### IPSWICH BREWERS

This team is or will be formed soon. The Ipswich Brewers will be playing in Massachusetts. Brian Sheehy of the Essex Base Ball Organization says that how this team came about is an interesting story. The newsletter will have all the details later this year.

#### WINSTON BLUES

This team is forming now in North Carolina

#### NORTH CENTRAL PENN.

Another team may soon be joining the other vintage teams in Pennsylvania. The name will be revealed when they get their roster filled.

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

## **Upcoming events**

The Diamond State Base Ball Club will be hosting the First State Vintage Base Ball Festival. All matches will be held on the Parade Grounds of historic Fort DuPont State Park in Delaware City, Delaware, during the weekend of May 22 & May 23, 2010. Sixteen to eighteen clubs from the east coast are expected to attend including all of the clubs who now comprise the Mid Atlantic Vintage Base Ball League (MAVBBL). The rules from the 1864 NABBP convention will be played during the entire weekend. Contact John Medkeff, Diamond State BBC president, at [diamondstatebbc@comcast.net](mailto:diamondstatebbc@comcast.net)

The Boll Weevils are hosting a tournament in Huntersville, North Carolina this fall on the weekend of November 6 & 7, 2010. If you would like to join them for one last weekend of base ball, they have a location that can field 6 games at once. Huntersville is just north of Charlotte. Please contact Scott Treon via email, [streon@huntersville.org](mailto:streon@huntersville.org) if you are interested in attending.

A two-day event is sponsored by the Friends of Warren Ballpark, teaming up with the Arizona Territories Vintage Base Ball League. Saturday, April 10 and Sunday, April 11 when the Copper City Classic Vintage Baseball Tournament takes place at Bisbee's century-old Warren Ballpark. All proceeds will go towards renovation of this nationally-significant landmark. Four teams bearing names from the grand old days of baseball in Arizona - including the Bisbee Bees and the Phoenix Senators - will take the field. Any team interested in joining this event can email Herb Clark at [oldabner@yahoo.com](mailto:oldabner@yahoo.com). Housing in Phoenix may be provided.

# **The Base Ball Player's Chronicle**

**The newsletter of the Vintage Base Ball Association**

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