



British Columbia Disc Sports Society

Box 29114
1996 W. Broadway
Vancouver, BC
V6J 1Z0

Annual Report 2008

British Columbia Disc Sports Society
BC's Provincial Sporting Organization for Disc Sports

Phone: 604.878.7387 :: Toll-free: 1.888.878.7387 :: Email: discbc@bcdss.bc.ca :: Website: www.bcdss.bc.ca

Table of Contents

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Preamble | 3 |
| Year in Review..... | 3 |
| Main Board..... | 3 |
| Disc Golf Branch | 3 |
| Ultimate Branch | 4 |
| Juniors..... | 5 |
| Power of Sport Tour..... | 5 |
| Sponsors | 5 |
| Looking Forward | 5 |

Preamble

The British Columbia Disc Sports Society's Annual General Meeting takes place approximately 6 months after our Fiscal Year end of April, as such, officially we should be reporting on the period from May 2007-April 2008. Given the time lag, this Annual Report will instead cover the period from May 2007-October 2008, in order to increase the relevance, and the timeliness of the reporting.

Year in Review

Main Board

The Main Board of the BCDSS is probably the least well understood of the boards, its responsibility is to oversee the general operations of the BCDSS, set the overall priorities, strategies and goals. This is accomplished through applications for grants, relationships with governments, charities, non-governmental organizations as well as development of policies and administration of shared resources and services.

Through the Main Board we were able to continue and develop our relationship with SportBC, providing us with access to meeting facilities, professional development and networking opportunities. We have successfully acquired Direct Access Grants for four consecutive years.

With those successes noted, the Main Board is the weakest of the boards in the BCDSS, and this sadly continued through 2007-08. Given that most people get involved with the BCDSS through their love of a specific disc sport, and not a huge desire to be administrators this comes as no big surprise. Those passions are much easier to channel through the Branches.

Notables:

- Continued success with Direct Access Grants
- Increased interest in other Disc Sports
- Increased participation in SportBC events

Regrettables:

- No new SPIN newsletters produced
- Failure to expand board participation

Disc Golf Branch

Under the leadership of Inge, the membership from the Disc Golf branch has risen dramatically. This is due largely to an increased focus on growth through Disc Golf Clubs, which has seen a refocusing of existing clubs towards membership drives, and has encouraged new clubs to form.

The BCDSS support of course maintenance was increased through funds secured through the Direct Access Grant, allowing for \$5,000 to be used to improve courses who hosted Duck Golf events. Substantial improvements were made to Jericho, Langley and Pender.

Provincials 2007 was held at the brand new course in Logan Lake, featuring 79 players and paying out \$5,400+ in cash and prizes. It was a tremendous success. The 2008 Provincials took place last month with 83 participants and \$3,600+ in cash and prizes.

The Duck Golf Series continued to be successful, expanding to a 12 tournament series. With 259 different people participating in the series, representing nearly \$20,000 in payouts and fees!

A successful new initiative lead by Tina Mears, Outreach Coordinator, put discs in the hands of ~40 women, at a women's only clinic held in the lower mainland. The event was followed up by a general access clinic which was also well received and attended. It is expected that these types of initiatives will grow in the coming years, and that soon we'll have a blueprint on how to best introduce new players to Disc Golf.

The BCDSS continues to be an Affiliate Club of the Professional Disc Golf Association (PDGA) providing BCDSS members with a \$5 discount to PDGA membership and the ability to take the officials test without charge (\$10 value).

Unfortunately due to personal circumstances Inge needed to step down as Chair of the Disc Golf Branch. At that time, David Cowley was appointed as Acting Chair, and a further three Members at Large were appointed in order to fill out the board: Dan Laitsch, Craig McConnell and Leanne Fulton. It is hoped that the new board members, and those who join at this year's AGM will be able to continue the momentum that was developed under Inge's tenure.

Ultimate Branch

The Ultimate Branch of the BCDSS largely maintained the status quo this year, which is not necessarily a bad thing. It is unfortunate that some of the new ideas: community centre programs, bids for the BC Ultimate Championships and a definitive tournament calendar did not happen this year due to a lack of resources.

However, we were able to continue to provide the winners of the BC Ultimate Championships with a \$1,000 travel subsidy in order to attend nationals, this was further expanded to allocate two additional awards of \$1,000 to the additional two juniors teams attending Nationals.

Despite some challenges with the field changes that are taking place at UBC, Flowerbowl was once again run successfully, continuing with the gendered format, and hosting 38 teams. It has been clearly identified that the BCDSS needs to secure a dedicated TD or planning committee for the event as early as possible in future years.

We have seen continued success and demand for Ultimate Discs through our Disc Purchase program, making discs available to schools, leagues and individuals. Helping to ensure that everyone has access to the only essential piece of equipment in Ultimate.

Also of note, due to continued strong financial performance the BCDSS was able to assist the BC Players attending World's this year. Although the fiscal support was small (\$50/BC based player) it was warmly welcomed by the players, as we all know that Ultimate is not yet a sport of lucrative endorsements and sponsorship, even our best players are mostly out of pocket to play the sport we love.

Juniors

The Juniors program continued to be one of the most active areas within the BCDSS. In truth there are three main components of the Juniors program: The Junior Ultimate Championships, school based clinics and the BC Junior Team.

For the first time the BC Junior Ultimate Championships was held in Surrey, and featured 26 Sr. High School teams and 9 Jr. High School teams. The size of the event required that it be held at two venues in order to accommodate all teams. We will likely see the event capped in the near future, limiting the number of teams able to participate, and requiring qualifying events – one of the burdens of success. The tournament was once again able to attract sponsorship, most notably from Telus.

We saw continued strong demand for school based clinics, and notably saw an increase in the demand for such clinics outside of the Lower Mainland. These are both signs that the future remains bright.

Unfortunately this year, the BC Junior team finished second at Nationals, with the other BC Juniors finishing 4th and 7th respectively.

Power of Sport Tour

The Power of Sport Tour visited Kelowna this year, and was well received. In addition to the normal school based clinics, and activities we also were able to put on some Higher Level Ultimate clinics for the fastest growing Ultimate community in the province. These clinics were led by Jeff Cruickshank and Kirk Savage.

The Power of Sport Tour is one of the invaluable opportunities that membership in SportBC provides the BCDSS. The ability to travel to communities throughout the province, and to expose youth to disc sports, and further to bring a level of instructor which is not normally available to players in those communities is invaluable to the strength, quality and growth of Ultimate and Disc Sports throughout the province.

Sponsors

We'd like to recognize some of our event sponsors from the past year:

- Telus
- Gaia
- Sport Med
- Red Bull Energy Drink
- the beat 94.5 – Hit Music
- Bridgeport Carpets
- The Tournament Inn
- Spin City
- Snap Disc Sports
- Booster Juice
- Malahat Disc Golf
- Logan Lake Lodge
- Lost Egg Tournament
- Chatters Salon
- Lotuswear
- Discraft
- Millennium
- DGA
- Disc Sports Promotions
- The City of Vancouver

Looking Forward

Looking forward is always hard, especially when dealing with a volunteer run organization. It is fairly easy to determine areas of improvement, as well as new beneficial initiatives. The challenge however is recruiting the resources, funds and people necessary for those

programs to not only initiate but also to flourish. As such the biggest priorities of the BCDSS going forward have to be to recruit an increased volunteer base (whether they be volunteers in the strict sense, board members, or program owners), and secondly the BCDSS needs to get itself in a position to transition from an entirely volunteer based organization into one with employees (even if the starting point is a single person part time).

With the World Ultimate and Guts Championships behind us, it is important that we maintain the momentum of their volunteer base, and further that we embrace and nourish the newfound interest in GUTS. Unfortunately the majority of our volunteer base was involved in WUGC in one capacity or another, and this in some cases led to burnout, and in others simply limited their ability to lead BCDSS projects. Now that there are no major international Disc Sport events scheduled in the foreseeable future, we need to revitalize our base, and ensure that they have an opportunity to rest and relax, so that we are able to continue to benefit from their continued contributions for years to come.

We need to take a deeper look into the overall strategy and direction of the BCDSS and our programs, and ensure that those programs are moving us towards our strategic goals. We need to ensure that the BCDSS is operating as a governing body where appropriate, and that the scope of our initiatives is provincial. We need to be wary of operating as though we were simply a "large league or club", and take up the mantle of a Provincial Sporting Organization and ensure benefits for all our members, Leagues and Clubs.

We need to continue to represent the interests of the BC Disc Sports community both Nationally with CUPA, and Internationally with the UPA, PDGA and WFDF. Providing strong leadership, and meaningful resources to communities, leagues and clubs throughout the province, to ensure sustained growth and development across all disc disciplines.

We need to collaborate more closely with Leagues and Clubs throughout the province to ensure that they have the resources and support they need, while not overextending ourselves. There are countless opportunities where the BCDSS could operate as a facilitator rather than a primary deliverer of programs, and it will be through partnerships and collaboration that we're able to derive the most value for our membership.

I hope that this abbreviated vision for the future, is something that you can buy into, and further I hope it is one that you want to be a part of. We're always happy to accept help whenever it is offered.