

RICHMOND SOFTBALL LEAGUE

Interviewed: May 21, 1976

Tape 68, 2

PRESIDENT & SECRETARY: Bob & Shirley Maddocks,
912 Ash Street,
Richmond, B. C.

(277-9844)

Darlene Clyne - Researcher

- Got into the Richmond Softball League 13 years ago.
- We have 87 teams this year and close to 1,300 girls playing softball.
- In Richmond all teams play out of the school grounds.
- Explains outside tournaments.
- There is an entry fee that costs the Association \$15-\$20 to enter this team.
- They are going for experience and a cup.
- This is only for competitive ball, only one team out of 20 gets a chance to make a competitive team.
- Usually it takes a competitive coach to make a competitive team.
- We have two divisions --- Competitive and Non-Competitive.
- All girls who register on a team get the chance to play.
- We are trying to get two separate leagues: one for the good kids and one for the kids who want to play just for fun.
- Mrs. Maddocks is concerned about coaches desires to win as opposed to teaching the skills.
- In the Squirt Division we have taken the cups and trophies away because we are trying to teach the girls the importance of playing the game, not winning.
- The coaches are encouraged to give every girl an equal opportunity.
- Starting with the ten year olds, we go strictly by the rule book.
- We have different rules for the Squirt Division such as, ten players on field position, everyone bats around the line up every single innin
- Richmond has better facilities than other communities and that is the biggest reason for more teams and it is mainly because of our good Recreation Department and good Municipality.
- We have school diamonds here with all our teams and the boys' league also has 35 teams, we have diamonds that were not even in use.

Bob & Shirley Maddocks

RICHMOND SOFTBALL LEAGUE

- There are other areas like Ladner, Tsawwassen, Coquitlam, that have to limit their teams because they don't have the diamonds.
- We have good playing fields with lots of room.
- Richmond is a good municipality.
- This goes for soccer too.
- Discusses about going to a school to get a team set up.
- The school had only one girl interested in joining a softball team, but by the time I was finished talking to them, there were 26 kids enough for two full teams. These were eight year olds.
- All coaching is by volunteers.
- Some people offer, some people we have to shang-hi.
- We end up with a bunch of kids out of a school and we can't get a coach, so we phone all the parents up and tell them, if they don't come up with a coach, the kids don't play.
- Then we usually get four or five coaches --- it has happened this way.
- We have coached various teams this year --- it's a girls eight year old team.
- The big Tournament is on May 23rd and 24th, and we will be having 1,000 girls playing ball in the next two days.
- The Park at Garden City is about ten areas of ground and it is littered with people, it is fanatically exciting and kids just love it.
- We run seven games at one time, all day for two days.
- 3/4 of an hour game, we cut the innings down because there are so many games.
- Now that we are getting so many teams, we want to screen the coaches a little bit because we do get the odd coaches who aren't the best for girls.
- Especially in some age groups, there are a little more emphasis put on what impact a coach has on a girl through her life.
- Next to her teacher, coaches have the greatest impact on a child.
- Discusses this in great length.
- The Recreation Department now has a coaching clinic sponsor through B. C. Softball.
- Hopefully we will get all coaches going to this, not that you would really learn how to coach but to realize the effect you have on the children you are coaching.

Bob & Shirley Maddocks

RICHMOND SOFTBALL LEAGUE

- This course was held at Douglas College, B. C. Leisure Services put it on, professors from university.
- This was for coaches from all sports.
- We put on our own clinic to instruct umpires, new coaches, different coaching levels.
- The attendance isn't really too bad, but the people who really have to go tend not to go --- they feel "I" have already volunteered, "I" am already doing so much and "I" am certainly not going to give up anymore of my time and go to the meeting.
- These are the people you would like to say they really shouldn't be allowed to coach.
- But what do you do? Do you drop some of your girls because of this?
- What is going to happen is that you will have to drop some of these teams because of coaches who will not improve or be willing to learn.
- All umpires are volunteers, some are trained, some are for the "birds".
- We are doing our best to improve this year, we have an Umpire-in-Chief who is working with umpires.
- He is trying to get more ticketed umpires but just because they're ticketed, doesn't mean they are good umpires; there are lots of fathers who do a good job and they aren't ticketed.
- In the Squirt level they aren't too fussy because they're not calling the rules very tight.
- In the eight and nine year old division, all we call is balls and strikes out at first base.
- Things as complex as an interference plays are just not called, we keep it simple.
- Of course when we come to competitive ball like the ten year olds and they have to go into play offs, they have to know the rules because every rule is called so you got to bring them up by ten year olds into the rules.
- The better teams have to know the rules properly because they are going to get called sometime or another.
- We have a fairly large executives for each of the age groups --- Squirts, Pee Wee, etc. they have their own president.
- He is elected not by that group, but by the body as a whole that he will represent their age group, so as many age group as we have set up for the year, we will have a president from that particular organization.

Bob & Shirley Maddocks

RICHMOND SOFTBALL LEAGUE

- President of the presidents so to speak is Bob Maddocks.
- Then we have Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Registrar, Equipment Manager, Umpire-in-Chief, plus all these other presidents.
- We have 12 or 13 on the Executive Board:

President	Bob Maddocks
Vice-President	Bob Young
Secretary	Shirley Maddocks
Treasurer	Gordon Miller
Registrar	Ilma Shiminsky
Squirt President	Ralph Betman
Pee Wee "	Al Suzuki
Bantum "	Bob Owens
Midget & Juvenile	Lorraine Cooley
Umpire-in-Chief	Bob Sturgenon
Equipment Manager	Sandy Robinson

- Also these league presidents in Squirts and Pee Wee's have a couple of helpers.
- They have broken it down again because of too much work for one person too many phone calls.
- Our phone just never stops ringing.
- I (Bob Maddocks) am also tournament chairman which I have two helpers.
- We run about 30 - 40 phone calls a night---people call on everything from soup to nuts.
- Coaches asking about rules; umpires who may want a decision; people wanting to enter into tournaments; team pictures; parents worrying about their kids who didn't get to play; just everything!
- We have been through softball with our kids and now they are finished but we both stayed with it.
- It's something for both of us to do together and we both enjoy doing it, but it does get tiring, especially when you want to get to bed and the phone keeps ringing.
- There are 50 teams in this up coming tournament and I have 10 on the waiting list already waiting to get into the tournament.
- This is the best tournament in B. C. and everyone knows it, not only because it's the best Midget Tournament but we have every age in the tournament and we are the only with five ages.

Bob & Shirley Maddocks

RICHMOND SOFTBALL LEAGUE

- Because of our facilities, no one else has more than three diamonds in one park.
- We have seven and they are putting an eighth one in for us, and there is room for a ninth.
- We have only six outside teams coming in, but that's pretty good.
- Kamloops got one team, so has Rutland, Kelowna coming in with two, Campbell River is coming in with two.
- Victoria also wanted to come in but had to turn them down because it was full in the Midgets.
- If we get invitation we travel to other towns.
- We have one team going to Kamloops and one to Campbell River.
- One thing about our registration being strict is that the girls have to live in Richmond to be able to play softball.
- Discusses about other sports in Richmond.
- The girls usually have two games a week and the practices depends on the coaches.
- We have belonged to the B. C. Softball League for only five years and before that it was just the Richmond Softball League.
- You have to belong to B. C. Softball League so you can play out-of-town games.
- The Squirt and Pee Wee Divisions play Wednesday evenings and Saturday morning games and the older divisions play Tuesday and Thursday nights.
- All coaches give the girls one practice a week, but it is a short season just May and June.
- Some of the teams in the past two to three years, have become very keen and will take a gym over the winter and keep the kids together, keep them organized, either go into another sports with them like hockey, to keep them as a team unit or they will just have a keep-fit practices in the gym.
- That is another good thing about Richmond, they do let their gyms out.
- Gyms in Richmond are going every night of the week.
- Discusses the problems of the boys' softball getting started.
- Discusses about the tournaments, play offs, trophies and crests.
- The top team goes to the B. C. Play off which plays teams from all over B. C.
- There are 13 Districts in B. C. Softball.

Bob & Shirley Maddocks

RICHMOND SOFTBALL LEAGUE

- The teams get their sponsors on their own.
- We now have 15 - 20 teams in full dress uniforms with their own sponsors.
- When we first started fees were \$2.00.
- We had problems one year, we had a deficit.
- We raised it to \$4.00 and joined B. C. Softball which cost \$1.00 a girl to join that year.
- We had a surplus, and now we are running even.
- But this year we had to go into batting helmets.
- Starting this year each girl has to wear a batting helmet and these cost us \$8.00 each and there are two to a team.
- So we have raised it to \$5.00 for Squirts; \$6.00 for Pee Wee's; \$7.00 for Bantums, Midgets, and Juveniles.
- We are also helping our teams in the travelling which we didn't do before.
- We supply all the equipments.
- Each set of equipment cost about \$8.00 per team.
- Balls were \$40.00 a dozen this year; a set of bases cost \$25.00.
- It cost \$7,000.00 last year to operate this league.
- We do make money on our tournament concessions.
- We gained \$3,000.00 on our two tournaments last year.
- Trophies alone costs us \$1,000.00; crests cost \$500.00.
- Every Competitive teams cost us \$9.00 to register with B.C. Softball.
- We have insurance for the girls which cost us \$400.00 a year.
- It "used" to cost us \$1.00 per girl at one time but what it is basically used for is teeth.
- I have just taken out a extra million dollars car insurance for the drivers (coaches) which is over and above their policies, that's another \$51.00.
- If the kids can't afford the registration fee of \$5.00, we don't force it, they could come in free.