

RICHMOND BOXING CLUB

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Tape 68, 3

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- Started boxing in 1960 as a "glover."
- 1960-64 was gloving and time-keeping.
- At that time decided I wanted to start my own gym so started travelling with every team that left the Province (B. C.) as a Equipment Manager and wherever possible I worked the corner with which ever coach happened to be with the team.
- I "picked his brains" and learned everything I could.
- 1965 had an offer from a boxing coach to assist looking after junior, thought that will be a good training ground, s I took it.
- This was with the Vancouver Fire Fighters who at that time were training at Richmond R. C. A. Forum for a couple of months.
- During that time run into a fellow named Berd Brown, said he had a club they were sponsoring; he asked me if I would like to coach it and take the club over.
- So I jumped on it and we opened up the gym in September 1965 as the Richmond Boxing Club.
- The boys start boxing at the age of eight right on up; the oldest we have is a fellow who is 35.
- There are kids, teen-agers, young adults, who are down there training, not necessarily in competition.
- Have 20 - 25 kids boxing in competition every year.
- When we first started out, we had a sponsor, United Commercial Travellers.
- At that time, I worked pretty closely with the Municipality of Richmond in the Recreation Department.
- They would send a flyer out in the beginning of the season to the different schools, saying any young kids that would like to learn boxing, registration is on "such and such a day".
- We would have 50, 60, 70 kids rolling into the gym wanting to learn how to box.

- We would sign them all up, we charge a registration fee then.
- Some of the kids wouldn't want to train, etc. so by the end of the month we would have about 30 left.
- Explains the entire boxing training program.
- When started the club, we had another coach by the name of Joe Sureron who used to box at the Bridgeport Athletic Club, who was with me for two years.
- My uncle, Tommy Yule, also helped me out.
- Had one of my uncles, ex-boxer by the name of Johnny Gets.
- Also had another assistance, Joe Williams.
- It was about that time we dropped our sponsors.
- All the money we were making were going to the sponsors, not much was going back into the club.
- Since then we have operated without a sponsor.
- The boys pay a registration fee today, but the club can't support itself on the registration fee.
- The current cost involved registering a boy with the B. C. Amateur Boxing Association and in turn the Canadian Amateur Boxing Association the insurance is involved.
- We supply all the equipment such as mouth piece, head gear, boxing gloves and hand wraps.
- Everything a boy needs, all he has to do is turn in the gym with something to train in---T-shirt, running shoes, shorts or a sweat suit.
- We charge \$10.00 a year for the family.
- We don't make any money out of this.
- This operation cost me a lot of money out of my own pocket.
- Discusses how the boys are trained in the gym.
- The Canadian Amateur Boxing Association requires that every boxer in Canada must be registered with the Association before he is allowed to box in Canada.
- Along with this registration he is also covered by an insurance.
- Boxing gets the cheapest rate of insurance of every single sports in Canada.
- We are promoting the mandatory in Canada such as head gear, mouth-piece and athletic cup, all over the world.

- Last winter, I was the National Coach for a pre-Olympic Tournament in Montreal.
- I looked after two Canadian teams that were boxing with 25 countries.
- Discusses the boxing tournaments and competitions in great length.
- At one time, we were the strongest club in the Province, on one had a better boxing club than ourselves.
- We have slipped a little but now we are on our way back.
- We have had a number of kids who have done very well.
- We have some National Champions.
- We have a kid in the gym who has beaten a National English Champion.
- In 1973, B. C. decided to send a team of junior boxers on a tour to England just to see how our kids would compare to them.
- In England, each school has their own boxing team.
- There were 20 boys who went on the tour.
- One or two were supposedly experienced enough to wholed their own in England and the rest were over there on a learning expedition.
- The kids on this team came from all over B. C.; Prince George, Nelson, Cranbrook, Cloverdale, Vancouver Island, Richmond, Vancouver, and North Vancouver.
- As it turned out, we won 20 out of 27 bouts, we thrashed the English!
- We had two outstanding boys, one from Vancouver and one from Richmond Eddy McCaffery.
- Eddy McCaffery has been a Canadian Junior Olympic Champion, he has had approximately a hundred bouts and only lost 12 or 14.
- Joe McCaffery, Eddy's brother, is also very good.
- Eddy McCaffery has terrific reflexes, he's strong, very quick, just a all-around good athlete.
- Had a lot of boy in the gym asked me about turning pro, but I tried to talk them all out of it; there is a lot more easier ways of making a dollar these days than earning it from boxing.
- These boys travel in the Province and out of the Province.
- On one given weekend, I've had two boxers in California, two in Seattle, four in Alberta, and one in Vancouver Island.
- The club pays for all these travelling.
- Explains who the club makes money by tournaments, concessions, etc.

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- The equipment is very expensive.
- Skipping ropes we make ourselves because it's cheaper than buying them.
- A good ball bearing skipping rope rounds around \$12 - \$15.
- Bag gloves for hitting the heavy or light bags are anywhere from \$12 - \$15, depending on the quality, you can wear these out in one year.
- Boxing gloves you need 12 ounce, 14 ounce, 16 ounce, the cheapest you can get them is \$60.00.
- Our gym has 12 or 14 sets of boxing gloves that are in operation all the time.
- Medicine Balls are \$30.00 each.
- Hooks and jab pads are worth \$25.00 a set.
- Head gear --- \$28.00 a pair (club has 8 or 9 sets).
- Heavy bags --- \$150.00 each.
- It costs approximately \$2,300.00 a year for equipment.
- If we have extra money left over at the end of the year, we buy jackets for the kids.
- The club is open basically two to three days a week, depending on whether or not there is a tournament.
- The boys train at least twice a week.
- At all competitions there is a Doctor-in-Attendance.
- At the Boxing Card the doctor comes down and medically inspects every single boxer before they enter the ring.
- At any tournaments the boys must pass the weight-in and medical inspection and the doctor signs the medical forms.
- They have even gone into checking the length of the hair to make sure the hair can't come around and get into the eyes.
- We're very safety conscious here in Canada.
- Explains the procedures of boxing and safety in the ring.
- We have had a real fine relationship with the Municipality of Richmond.
- Any time I have needed anything like put on a Boxing Card, they have donated the facilities; we haven't even had to pay for the rental of it.
- The building we are using for our club has been donated to us.
- When Eddy and I went to England the Municipality donated \$150.00 for us to go.

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- I just can't say enough about our Recreation Department.
- We feel that we have helped a lot of these kids grow up.
- Some of the kids came here at eight or nine years old and box with you for a number of years, you grow up with them, you help them through scraps.
- I have kids who have actually moved into my house and lived with us.
- I got kids out of jail, and some of these kids I feel if I didn't spend the effort and time with them, they would have ended up to time in the "big house".
- It's very rewarding working with these boys.