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ANDY CLARK AND THE BRIGHTON BASEBALL CLUB for hosting the event.

BRIGHTON AND HOVE COUNCIL EVENTS DEPARTMENT for their considerable support of the event, financially and in kind.

JENNY FROMER, JOHN BOYD, TIM STRIDE, TOM GILLESPIE and JOHN LEE from BASEBALLSOFTBALLUK for organising this event.

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL and PLAY BALL! WITH FRUBES for providing the Roadshow.

THE ABUA-G8 and BRIAN HOLLAND for providing officials for the event.

BRITISH BASEBALL FEDERATION EXECUTIVE BOARD.

TED GERARD THESINGH for being the Technical Director of the event.

FIVE for their coverage of the event.



**BRITISH BASEBALL'S  
FINAL  
4**

**2003**

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PROCEEDS TO BRITISH BASEBALL



# WELCOME

## TO THE BIGGEST – AND HOPEFULLY BEST! – BRITISH BASEBALL'S 2003 FINAL 4 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP.

Once again, the heart of this year's Final 4 is the four-team competition between the top clubs in the Rawlings National League to determine British Baseball's national champion for 2003.

For 2003, we are using a 'page play-off' system, which gives the teams that came 1st and 2nd in regular season play two shots at making the final. By the end of Saturday one team will have made it straight through and another will be eliminated. On Sunday morning the second finalist will be determined, and the Final will be the climax of the weekend on Sunday afternoon.

This year's Final 4 will again include the Premier Division Final 4, pitting the top two teams from the Premier Division South against the top two teams from the Northern Conference.

The event will also feature the Kenko Tournament, a five team international youth tournament sponsored by Nagase-Kenka Corporation. The tournament will include teams from Japan, Scotland, Ireland, Armenia and England over both days.

This is the third year of the Rawlings National League, which was created to increase standards of play at the top of the British baseball structure by concentrating the best players in the country in a small number of teams. In 2003 the RNL comprised of six teams as the Menwith Hill Patriots joined the five clubs that were in place at the end of 2002. This made for a better structured league and improved competition as the final placings came down to the last day of regular season play.

2003 has been an important year for baseball in the UK. At the start of the year, BaseballSoftballUK took the decision to add the full-time position of Director of League Operations to its staff. The primary remit of this position is to support baseball in this country at every level. As a result we are convinced that a better support service has been provided to baseball than ever before, and that this will continue to be the case.

For now though, let's hope the decision to move the Final 4 from the bank holiday weekend results in good weather, and that the 2003 season culminates with an exciting championship contest.

We hope you enjoy the weekend and the chance to see some of the best baseball this country has to offer.

Bob Fromer, CEO, BaseballSoftballUK

## NATIONAL CHAMPIONS OF BRITISH BASEBALL

1890	Preston North End
1892	Middlesborough
1893	Thespian London
1894	Thespian London
1895	Derby
1896	Wallsend-On-Tyne
1897	Derby
1898	Derby
1899	Nottingham Forest
1906	Tottenham Hotspur
1907	Clapton Orient
1908	Tottenham Hotspur
1909	Clapton Orient
1910	Brentford
1911	Leyton
1934	Hatfield Liverpool
1935	New London
1936	White City London
1937	Hull
1938	Rochdale Greys
1939	Halifax
1948	Liverpool Robins
1949	Hornsey Red Sox
1950	Burtonwood Bees
1951	Burtonwood Bees
1959	Thames Board Mills
1960	Thames Board Mills
1961	Liverpool Tigers
1962	Liverpool Tigers
1963	East Hull Aces
1964	Hull Aces
1965	Hull Aces
1966	Stretford Saints
1967	Liverpool Yankees
1968	Hull Aces
1969	Watford-Sun Rockets
1970	Hull Royals
1971	Liverpool Tigers
1972	Hull Aces
1973	Burtonwood Yanks
1974	Nottingham Lions
1975	Liverpool Tigers
1976	Liverpool Trojans
1977	Golders Green Sox
1978	Liverpool Trojans
1979	Golders Green Sox
1980	Liverpool Trojans
1981	London Warriors
1982	London Warriors
1983	Cobham Yankees
1984	Croydon Blue Jays
1985	Hull Mets
1986	Cobham Yankees
1987	Cobham Yankees
1988	Cobham Yankees
1989	London Warriors
1990	Enfield Spartans
1991	Enfield Spartans
1992	Leeds City Royals
1993	Humberside Mets
1994	Humberside Mets
1995	Humberside Mets
1996	Menwith Hill Patriots
1997	London Warriors
1998	Menwith Hill Patriots
1999	Brighton Buccaneers
2000	London Warriors
2001	Brighton Buccaneers
2002	Brighton Buccaneers

## FINAL STANDINGS

### RAWLINGS NATIONAL LEAGUE

STANDINGS	W	L	F	A	W%	GB
Windsor Bears	17	8	181	136	.680	-
Brighton Buccaneers	15	10	122	94	.600	2
Bracknell Blazers	15	10	165	139	.600	2
Croydon Pirates*	11	14	169	158	.440	6
London Warriors	11	14	123	123	.440	6
Menwith Hill Patriots	6	19	109	219	.240	11

### PREMIER DIVISION (SOUTH)

STANDINGS	W	L	F	A	W%	GB
Cambridge Monarchs	18	3	251	94	.857	-
Sidewinders	15	6	197	138	.714	3
Richmond Flames	13	8	232	155	.619	5
Brighton Buccaneers 2	10	11	199	230	.476	8
Oxford Kings	9	12	205	227	.429	9
Milton Keynes Bucks	7	14	163	239	.333	11
Essex Arrows	6	15	134	227	.286	12
Croydon Pirates 2	6	15	184	255	.286	12

### NORTHERN CONFERENCE

STANDINGS	W	L	F	A	W%	GB
GROUP 1						
Edinburgh Diamond Devils	17	4	387	155	.810	-
Glasgow Stars	14	7	311	160	.667	3
Manchester Express	11	10	243	210	.524	6
Bolton Brewers	2	18	121	459	.100	14.5

#### Group 2

Liverpool Trojans	19	2	363	88	.905	-
Halton Jaguars	10	11	210	217	.476	9
Manchester A's	5	16	165	331	.238	14
Shropshire Pumas	0	20	95	460	.000	18.5

#### GROUP 3

Hull Baseball Club	19	2	373	129	.905	-
Shropshire Panthers	15	6	280	184	.714	4
Barnsley Strikers	7	14	194	297	.333	12
Sheffield Bladerunners	5	15	249	313	.250	13.5

### DIVISION 1 (SOUTH) REGULAR SEASON

STANDINGS	W	L	F	A	W%	GB
Milton Keynes Rebels	11	0	214	62	1.000	-
Richmond Knights	9	2	215	115	.818	2
Windsor Royals	8	3	168	85	.727	3
Herts Falcons	8	3	225	96	.727	3
Bournemouth Sharks	8	3	195	129	.727	3
Guildford Mavericks	6	5	153	180	.545	5
Croydon Pirates 3	5	6	169	130	.455	6
Southampton Mustangs	3	8	114	211	.273	8
Richmond Dragons	3	8	155	224	.273	8
Milton Keynes Bucks 2	2	9	105	180	.182	9
Essex Arrows 2	2	9	108	285	.182	9
Bournville Razorbacks	1	10	72	196	.091	10

\*Croydon qualified over London who forfeited more games



# THE WEEKEND'S EVENTS

## PREMIER DIVISION TEAMS

### KEY PLAYERS

#### ERIC BAXTER

KEY STAT: RUNS 30

Adept all-rounder, Eric pitches and plays infield and can be called on to play any position if need be. His keen eye has kept his On Base Percentage high, he has .423 Batting Average and is 4-0 in pitching wins-losses.

#### JEREMY ALMAZAN

KEY STAT: BATTING AVERAGE .553

Jeremy's batting speaks for itself. He scored 24 runs, knocked in 19 and had only 2 strike-outs this season, and getting on base for him was a walk in the park. His glove is also extremely consistent and Jeremy has been known to pitch out of some sticky situations.

#### MATT LYNCH

KEY STAT: ERA 0.88

The ace of the pitching staff tops the Premier Division South on 6-0 this year with 50 strike-outs to his name. He totally dominated the opposition, only allowing 10 runs in 32 innings. Added to this is a .571 Batting Average, 12 runs, 11 RBIs and he sits 3rd in the division with a .679 On Base Percentage.

## CAMBRIDGE MONARCHS

GROUND: RAF FELTWELL

### TEAM UPDATE

There has been organised baseball in Cambridge since the 1980s. Much of the current club is made up of US servicemen stationed in the Cambridge area, though a number of British players have featured on the roster. The majority of the squad have been playing baseball in some form their entire lives and enjoy teaching newcomers the techniques and technicalities of the sport. This year the Monarchs put in an impressive display at the London Tournament, second only to the Under-25 British National team over the two days.

### ROUTE TO THE FINAL 4

The Monarchs dominated the regular season with winning records against all their rivals and it is plain to see that within the team are some great all-rounders. At the heart of their success is strong pitching - which has allowed their opponents few runs - and right royal batting. Cambridge's scoring average of 12 runs per game is beaten only by the northern teams (where scoring reaches crazy levels) and their low count of runs given up is rivalled only by Liverpool Trojans and RNL's Brighton Bucs. Solid as a team, the Final 4 fans should look forward to some almighty match-ups against the big-hitting north.

### KEY PLAYERS

#### MARTIN GODSALL

KEY STAT: ERA 1.82

This ex-Great Britain international has been integral to the Trojans' success through his strong pitching which has seen him chalk up a 10-1 wins-losses record.

#### ALAN WILLIAMS

KEY STAT: BATTING AVERAGE .500

Along with a huge slugging rate of .886, Alan's hitting record has sat plum next to his experienced catching in the match-winning partnership with Godsall.

#### IAN SMITH

KEY STAT: BATTING AVERAGE .561

The second-base man has provided the defensive backbone alongside shortstop John Spodafora and displayed powerful hitting with a .788 slugging average. Both Ian and his elder brother Paul are currently training with the Great Britain under-25s squad.

## LIVERPOOL TROJANS

FORMED: 1946 GROUND: BOOTLE STADIUM

### TEAM UPDATE

The Liverpool Trojans Baseball Club is one of the oldest original surviving teams in the UK and one of its founder members, Norman Wells, is still active in the Trojan organisation as club president and official scorer. His son and grandson have both played for the Trojans! As part of their illustrious history the Trojans can lay claim to a British record of winning a division for nine consecutive seasons (during the late 70s and 80s). This year the club had a great run in the Northern Conference, just missing out on the title due to their head-to-head record with resultant champions Hull. Bootle Stadium boasts one of the best facilities in the country with plans to extend fencing and create permanent dugout areas.

### ROUTE TO THE FINAL 4

The Trojans come into the Final 4 with a mean defensive record - only RNL side Brighton Bucs have given up less runs per game. In seven games the opposition failed to score against them and they ended the regular season with fourteen consecutive wins. Liverpool want to make amends after losing to Cambridge Monarchs this time last year in a controversial game. An umpiring decision went against the Trojans in the bottom of the 9th when they were poised with the tying run on third base and the go-ahead run on second. It seems they are still ruminating on this issue but with their potent form will it make them deadly or drive them crazy???

### KENKO TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

	DIAMOND TWO	DIAMOND THREE
SATURDAY		
9:30am	Japan v Scotland	
noon	Armenia v England	Ireland v Japan
2:30pm	Scotland v Armenia	England v Ireland
SUNDAY		
9:30am	Scotland v Ireland	Armenia v Japan
noon	England v Scotland	Ireland v Armenia
2:30 pm	Japan v England	

## 2003 KENKO TOURNAMENT



## KEY PLAYERS

### GAVIN MARSHALL

KEY STAT: ERA 0.91

Spent eight years playing baseball in the US including a spell in the professional Frontier League. Arguably the best pitcher in the country, Hull has used him sparingly this year to develop other pitching. During his stint in USA he did not hit - this year he showed he can hit by posting a .620 batting average.

### NICK WHITTAKER

KEY STAT: BATTING AVERAGE .591

A key offensive player, leading the home run chase with seven, his general play in the field has improved as the season has progressed. He is an ex-GB player who has the confidence and ability to regain an international place.

### DARREN CROSS

KEY STAT: BATTING AVERAGE .539

Also an ex-GB player, Cross plays first base and has been a model of consistency this year. Unflappable, Darren is the leader of the team and makes sure everyone is mentally tuned in for the duration of the game. Darren leads by example and expects everyone to play with the same intensity he does.

# HULL BASEBALL CLUB

FORMED: 2002 GROUND: EASTMOUNT RECREATION CENTRE

## TEAM UPDATE

For many years Hull was recognised as one of the strongest areas for baseball in the country but a decline in the mid-nineties resulted in no baseball teams competing at senior level in 2002. From this low point a small group of ex-players probed interest in the sport and the response was overwhelming. Thus, a new Hull Baseball Club was born with an ambition to become the best team in the country inside three years. Already on Hull's roster is Gavin Marshall who, it is believed, was the first true British player in professional baseball. Though this season is barely over, this energised, forward-looking club is planning indoor practices over winter and recruiting to hopefully run two teams in 2004. Recently granted funding from the 'Awards for All' Lottery fund Hull is laying the foundations for a youth program.

## ROUTE TO THE FINAL 4

Due to injuries Hull will not be at full strength for this weekend but they have built a strong squad and will go into every game to win. Their strengths lie in a good deep pitching roster and a number of power hitters whilst weaknesses are a lack of speed on the base paths and defensive inconsistency. After a stalling start to the season they reeled off an impressive nineteen consecutive victories to emerge as by far one of the strongest northern teams but must now prove themselves on a national stage. They overcame Scottish giants Edinburgh in the play-offs to reach the Final 4.

### SATURDAY MAIN DIAMOND

- 9.30am Bracknell Blazers Pre-game
- 9.40am Croydon Pirates Pre-game
- 9.50am Game Presentations
- 10.00am RNL Game 1 (4th v 3rd)  
Croydon Pirates @ Bracknell Blazers
- 12.30pm Windsor Bears Pre-game
- 12.40pm Brighton Buccaneers Pre-game
- 12.50pm Game Presentations
- 1.00pm RNL Game 2 (2nd v 1st)  
Brighton Buccaneers @ Windsor Bears  
Pre-games dependant on finish of Semi-final 2
- 4.30pm **PREMIER DIVISION Semi-final 1 Main Diamond**  
Liverpool Trojans @ Cambridge Monarchs  
**PREMIER DIVISION Semi-final 2 2ND Diamond**  
Richmond Flames @ Hull Baseball Club

Timings for both days may be brought forward or put back depending on preceeding games

### SUNDAY MAIN DIAMOND

- 9.00am Home Pre-game
- 9.10am Visiting Pre-game
- 9.20am Game Presentations
- 9.30am RNL WG1 @ LG2
- 11.45am Home Pre-game
- 11.50am Visiting Pre-game
- 11.55am Game Presentations
- 12.00pm **PREMIER DIVISION Final (7 inning)**
- 2.40pm Home Pre-game
- 2.50pm Visiting Pre-game
- 3.00pm Game Presentations
- 3.30pm RNL WG3 @ WG2 (FINAL)

Apart from RNL Final, pre-game drills will only be allowed if time permits.

The 2003 Kenko tournament is being held in conjunction with the Final 4 in Brighton the weekend of August 30-31. Kenko, the sporting goods manufacturer from Japan, is again supporting this tournament, as well as sending a team to participate. At the time of going to press the participants also include teams from Armenia, Scotland, Ireland, and England. The teams will play in a round-robin format throughout the weekend so they play all of the others involved. Each game will be 7 innings, with no new inning starting after one hour, 50 minutes. There will be a limit of 5 runs scored by each team per inning. The champion will be named on Sunday afternoon following the completion of play. All participants will receive a medal commemorating their participation.

## KEY PLAYERS

### STEVE "JOEY" JARNET

KEY STAT: RUNS 28

'Mr Richmond' has played for the club since it's inception. He is an inspiration, a competitor, and a great ball player. He leads the team in career stats in just about every category of pitching and hitting. This season he has a batting average of .313 and a 1.50 ERA.

### JORGE "CHINO" BEAUJON

KEY STAT: RBIS 24

Hailing from Caracas, and in his fourth year with the club, the Venezuelan really likes to punish the ball. He has .414 batting average, .724 slugging rate and division-topping 4 homers. Chino's love of the game is infectious and his quality and skill are evident in every aspect.

### DOUG BOESCH

KEY STAT: BATTING AVERAGE .491

The American has been a real find this year. He has played outstanding in centre field and shortstop and is near the top of the hitting categories with .774 slugging average, 20 RBIs and 20 runs.

# RICHMOND FLAMES

FORMED: 1992 GROUND: CONNARE FIELD

England is represented in the tournament by a number of Great Britain Juvenile players centred in the country. Scotland is directed by the coaching staff of Renfrewshire Baseball. Ireland is represented by the Greystone Mariners. Armenia is bringing their national team from this age group, and the International Boys Nankyu Baseball Association will represent Japan.

## TEAM UPDATE

The Flames have been steadily rising since their promotion from the old third division in 1998. In 2000, they only missed out on a place in the top flight due to the league's restructuring. The following season they briefly joined forces with Bracknell as the Bracknell Richmond Wildfire and proceeded to go the entire season without a win! This blip ended in 2002 when former player Vinnie Connare returned and made the Flames hot again in their own right. The Richmond organisation now extends to a team in each of the southern divisions with many big-name sponsors and a new field complete with bullpens and batting cage. The organisation aims to become one of the largest in the country and their time in the big league will surely come.

## ROUTE TO THE FINAL 4

This year the Flames started badly, prompting coach Connare to describe his own side as "rubbish", and they had 0-3 and 1-2 records in wins-losses to rivals Cambridge and Sidewinders respectively. Yet made Connare proud when they finished the regular season with only two defeats in thirteen games, having initiated long evening training sessions which vitalised the whole organisation. They put out the favoured Sidewinders in the play-offs to reach the Final 4.



# RAWLINGS NATIONAL LEAGUE



## KEY PLAYERS

### JON MILLER

KEY STAT: SLUGGING AVERAGE .848

Bracknell's envoy from Princeton is a solid catcher and talented third-baseman, has proved his worth on the mound, and swings a useful bat for 15 RBIs. His baseball knowledge and calming presence are other positive effects on the team.

### JASON HOLOWATY

KEY STAT: BATTING AVERAGE .423

As well as his steady bat, 15 runs and slick skills at second base, Holowaty's maturity and experience have been vital to keep the young players focused.

### MATT GILBERT

KEY STATS: ERA 2.93

On his day he is possibly the best pitcher in the league. With vast experience and a will to succeed, Gilbert can quite easily go to the mound and win a game. An added bonus is his aptitude at bat,

## BRACKNELL BLAZERS

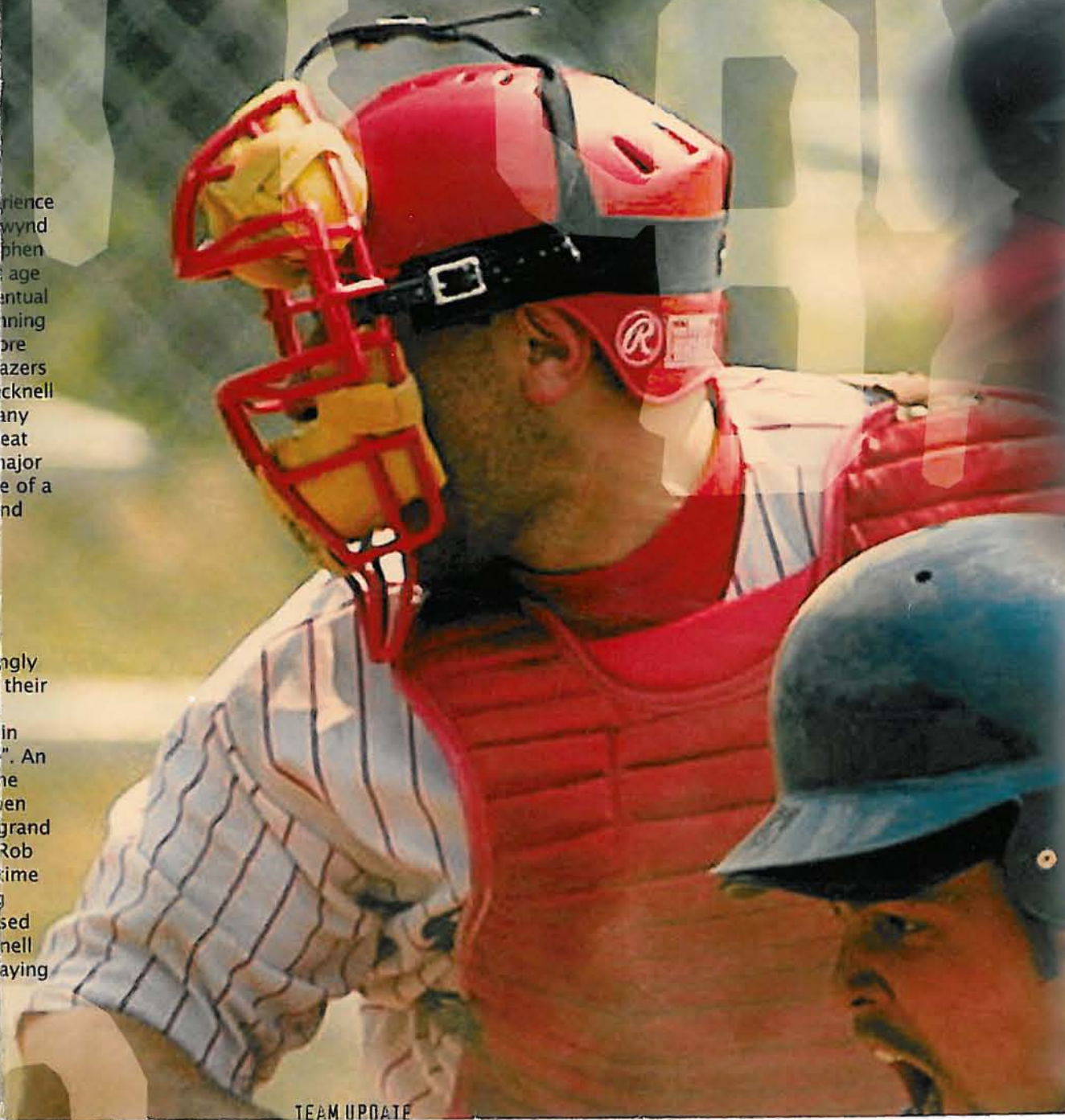
FORMED: 1992 GROUND: WESTMORELAND PARK, BRACKNELL

## TEAM UPDATE

Last year the Blazers' combination of experience – including ex-Channel 5 pundit Josh Chetwynd – and fiery young talent in Ryan Trask, Stephen Brown, Seb O'Dell and Phil Matthews (total age of that infield? - 67) saw them frighten eventual champions Brighton to death in an extra-inning semi-final. This year young talent has more experience and is hungry for success. Blazers promote the sport very heavily in the Bracknell area, having established coaching in many schools. They provide players to the Great Britain squads at every age level. The major development this year was the purchase of a new backstop, and dug outs, seating and permanent fencing are all on the way.

## ROUTE TO THE FINAL 4

Both Bracknell and Windsor have had milestone seasons but the Blazers strongly believe that it would be a big waste of their time if they did not just win the whole thing. To quote Jon Miller on his arrival in Bracknell: "I have not come here to lose". An illustration of the club's confidence came mid-season versus London Warriors when Miller hit three home-runs including a grand slam, Trask hit a three-run homer and Rob Rance notched up a grand slam. Long-time pitcher Luke Russell – crucial in getting them where they are now – will be missed due to college commitments, but Bracknell wish him "All the best, its been great playing ball with you kid".



TEAM UPDATE



posting a .504 average.



#### KEY PLAYERS

##### ALEX MALIHOUDIS

KEY STAT: RBIS 18

Malihoudis has represented Great Britain at various levels in the last decade and proud achievements include driving in the championship-winning run in the 2001 Final Four, his first game back after a career-threatening knee injury. This year the 24-year-old shortstop and centre-fielder topped the league in RBIs, doubles (6) and triples (2).

##### NICK CARTER

KEY STAT: ERA 3.12

The Buccaneers' ace pitcher has been a member of the Great Britain team since 1996. He has won the club's MVP award for the past three years and in 2003 Carter led the Rawlings National League with 7 wins-1 loss and notched 48 strikeouts.

##### MICHAEL CLOSE

KEY STAT: ERA 2.21

This outfielder and pitcher was the Bucs' key off-season acquisition. Born in Perth, Close played most of his career in Western Australia but, through owning a British passport, also represented Great Britain at the 2003 European Championships. Close led the club with 50 strikeouts (4th in National League) and when not on the hill, several opposing runners have learned it is foolish to test Close's strong arm from deep left field.

## BRIGHTON BUCCANEERS

FORMED: 1963 (CELEBRATING THEIR 40TH ANNIVERSARY THIS YEAR)  
GROUND: PAVILION FIELD, BRIGHTON

Title holders, the hosts have reached the national final for the past four years, winning it three times. In that period, they also reached the final of the European Cup B-pool. Former Buccaneer John Foster became the first member of a British team to go on to the top level of pro-baseball when he joined the Atlanta Braves in 2002. On the Buccaneers' current roster are numerous Great Britain internationals. The next phase for the impressive facilities here could see Britain's first floodlit baseball diamond by the 2005 season.

#### ROUTE TO THE FINAL 4

An experienced club, the Buccaneers have repeatedly demonstrated their ability to win in high-pressure situations. In 2002, they survived a tense extra-inning semi-final against the Bracknell Blazers before beating Windsor in the final. This year the Bucs again have winning records against the main contenders but struggled against bottom club Menwith Hill. They have been inconsistent at the plate and sometimes struggled to score the runners they put on base. They will sorely miss their hard-hitting catcher, Will Lintern, who has just left the team to begin his first year at Menlo College in California.



# BRITISH BASEBALL'S 2003 FINAL 4 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP



## KEY PLAYERS

### ADAM ROBERTS

KEY STAT: BATTING AVERAGE .405

The veteran of the Bears' line-up, Roberts has represented Australia on the international stage, played at semi-professional level and is one of the most experienced players in the league. He boasts an imposing hitting record with the ability to hit to all parts of the field and display power. The opposition's game plan in the finals will be focused on how to avoid the damage inflicted on them by Adam's contributions.

### MICHAEL STEWART

KEY STAT: RBIS 11

Joining the Bears from the Croydon Pirates, Stewart has quickly established himself as the clean-up hitter. With a slugging average of .568, his ability to come through with runners in scoring position has been key to the team's regular season success and he is hitting form just in time for the finals.

### DEAN STOKA

KEY STAT: ERA 1.00

Contending to be top pitcher in the league, with a 13-2 win/loss record including European competition, Stoka's highlight was the perfect game he threw against the Croydon Pirates on July 27. He was pitcher of the tournament during the victory in the European Cupwinners Cup in Belgium earlier this year.

# WINDSOR BEARS

FORMED: 1990  
GROUND: WINDSOR BOYS SCHOOL

## TEAM UPDATE

The Bears were built on the foundations of a successful junior programme. The senior team has been an emerging force over the last four seasons, finishing as runners up in three of those. Having retained the nucleus of the team that took them to the final last year, the Bears added catcher Matt Soltvedt through the US import scheme and Dean Stoka and Adam McCormack through affiliated Australian club Eagles. In 2003 Windsor became the first British club team to win a European championship, beating Swedish club Tranas 2-1 in the European Cupwinners Cup Final. The win means that Windsor will be competing in the European Cupwinners Cup A Pool in 2004.

## ROUTE TO THE FINAL 4

Despite losing records against main contenders Bracknell and Brighton, the Bears did what was required against the lesser teams to put themselves at the top the Rawlings National League. Along with a club-record 18 wins and a European trophy, this season ranks as one of their most successful and - with the most potent hitting line-up in the league and solid depth in pitching - this is their best chance lift the Championship trophy.







# CROYDON PIRATES

FORMED: 1981  
GROUND: ROUNDSHAW PLAYING FIELDS

## TEAM UPDATE

The Croydon Pirates had their best domestic season this year since 1999. The organisation has grown to field a senior side in each of the leagues and this year also has a Pony team (13-16-year-olds) for the first time. For the last 8 years the Pirates have hosted the London Tournament, the largest participation baseball tournament in the UK. Croydon have also regularly been attending a Dutch tournament since 1990, winning the title 3 times. Ben O'Brien, the Pirates' imported American college player has been visiting the local schools in the area to promote interest in the game which should also help with recruitment for the future.

## KEY PLAYERS

**JEFF McDONALD**  
KEY STAT: RBIS 16

The Canadian centre fielder arrived at the club having played semi-pro for the Kitchener Panthers in Toronto. His strong throwing arm has resulted in several runners being thrown out on the base-paths. He is among the top home-run hitters with four homeruns and 16 RBIs this season.

**RODDIE LIEBENBERG**  
KEY STAT: RUNS 13

The South African infielder has played two years for the team and prior to this was part of the last South African Olympic squad. Has a strong arm and bat and currently holds the post of Pirates coach.

**RYAN KIRKBY**  
KEY STAT: ERA 4.50

In his first season for the Pirates the Australian pitcher and infielder leads the team pitchers with 3 wins-1 loss, and lays claim to the accolade as the only player to have played in every game for the Pirates this season.

## ROUTE TO THE FINAL 4

Pirates have produced their most competitive performance so far in the Rawlings National League this season but so many games lost by one run dented their league placing throughout. Nevertheless, they are the surprise element at the Final 4, pinching the last place from London Warriors. They provided a thrilling finale to the regular season with an astonishing double header sweep against Bracknell which also let Brighton sneak second place. This season they have recorded their first victories against Brighton in RNL history. Now in their first ever Finals appearance, the Pirates will sail into battle on a high, taking on Bracknell in the 3rd v 4th Game.

## TOURNAMENT UMPIRES

The following individuals have been selected to umpire the Final 4 Tournament, the climax of the British Baseball Federation regular season.

**BJ DeLORENZO** (North) - Crew Chief; **JACOB PLIETH** (South); **EDWARD EDSALL** (South); **DARRIN MULLER** (South); **STEVE WILLIAMS** (North); **JAMES NORMAN** (South)

The Technical Commissioner for the tournament will be Ted Gerard-Thesingh, an ABUA-GB life member and veteran former umpire, whose officiating career spanned from 1971 until 1995.

Jacob Plieth will be working his sixth BBF final, having officiated at the 1997, 1998, 1999, 2001 and 2002 events, while Ed Edsall, who umpired at all of the Final Four Tournaments between 2000 and 2002, will be

working his fourth final. BJ DeLorenzo worked the last two events, making this his third national final, while Steve Williams will be umpiring his second event, having worked last year's. James Norman will be officiating his first Final Four tournament.

Plieth, Edsall, DeLorenzo and Muller have additionally represented Great Britain at International level.

## SCORING OFFICIALS:

**BRIAN HOLLAND** **CLIVE MAUDE** **MICHAEL ORPEN** **PALMER**