

BRIT BALL

The Official Voice of the British Baseball Federation

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BRIT BALL

British Baseball Federation

The Official Voice
of the
British Baseball
Federation

Issue No 22
March 1995
75p

BRITISH BASEBALL'S FIRM FOUNDATION

The new season is under a month away and there are a number of exciting projects that your club can become involved with to help boost its future.

Inside this month's issue we have details of the BBF Cadet and Junior programmes, which are looking to develop the next generation of

international players. There are also various junior tournaments advertised and details of this year's BBF/MLBI Envoy Programme are included. The Envoy Programme is an excellent way to kick start or boost your junior programme.

Five lucky youngsters are heading off to Japan to the World Children's Baseball Fair later this year and hopefully they will go on to be future BBF stars.

The 1995 league structures are also on show inside - watch out in next month's issue for 'The Kiss of Death'.

Floyd Perry has once again written an excellent article on ground construction, and for those of you interested, his book, which is advertised within, is an excellent read. A review of this will be in next month's issue.

Finally some good news for my own team, the Hesse Apaches. We have just received £10,300 from the Foundation for The Sports and The Arts to build a diamond and to purchase uniforms. So, for those of you who have a 'field of dreams' this proves that 'if you post your application the cheque will come'!

Keep in touch with what's happening
in British Baseball, call the
British Baseball Federation Hotline.



Calls charged at 36p per minute off-peak,
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FBI Presidente

I'm very pleased with the positive and generous letters concerning the last MLB clinic. Once again I would like to thank the clinic organisers for putting so much effort into a very successful start to the year. If you thought that one was good, you won't want to miss out next January.

Anyone who isn't familiar with the initials FBI must either be a new reader or have been in space somewhere. First Base International are the sponsors of the British Schools Programme and official equipment suppliers to the BBF. In conjunction with Chris Stuart (MLB) and Ian Smyth the lesson plans and support material are in good shape and ready for the push into the schools with a twelve week programme using BBF accredited coaches. As well as this FBI offer BBF members very attractive deals on a comprehensive range of top quality branded goods. So read the ad on the back page and give them a call and let them supply your team.

Listening to 'the strike' updates you'd be under the impression that this was only impacting baseball over the pond. Well you would be wrong! The plans of MLB regarding Europe are on hold which means several things in many countries could be in jeopardy. The excellent clinics and envoy programmes have been running each year and have enhanced both the skill, knowledge and awareness of baseball in the largely untapped European Federations. MLB research has formulated a bold plan to extend the normal support by adding its considerable expertise to Great Britain and Germany in a concentrated effort to raise the standards and image of baseball. This is the plan and maybe tomorrow could see a resolution in the USA and the green light for the next big level jump in this country. We await the outcome, eagerly and hopefully.

Well, the GB squad management has undergone a change. Ian Smyth has resigned as General Manager to concentrate on his role as Coaching and Player Development Director and GB pitching coach. Keep a look out for cadet camps being run throughout the summer in various areas culminating in the 1995 Cadet Summer Camp. I'm sure Ian will pen the details as they become available.

Team travelling abroad, or got a group wanting a tailor made holiday then give the official BBF travel operator a call. Dragon Tours UK will cut out that middle man and give you the package you want, not sell you something else.

The season start races towards us and I hope to manage more of a spectator role this year. The season start will officially open with the game in Birmingham on 9 April between the Braves and Humberside Mets and I shall endeavour to throw the first pitch somewhere in the direction of home plate. This sounds like a fund raiser to me, start a book now with anything from a strike (no takers!) to the same side of the city.

... Hesse Apaches for the invitation to
... hope your plans are
... in

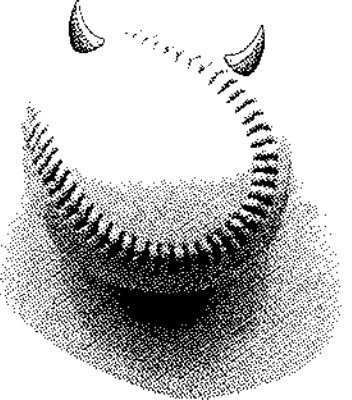
the North.
The administration of the BBF will be more professional and business-like as we will have the services of a professional secretary this summer and a dedicated sponsorship expert. The Head Office will also produce a BBF fact file for all teams, scorers and umpires during the course of this season. As a former club official I was always critical of not having the right piece of information to hand with the bye-laws and appropriate forms. With the work done by the Technical Director and the conference and umpires commissioners and scorers association we hope to end the confusion of what goes where, to whom and when. All the procedures for results, appeals, courses, accreditation and your handbook neatly filed in one place. Sounds good to me. Anyone out there with any snippets of wisdom concerning such a tome should write to Wendy Macadam at Head Office.

With the Board Executive now being restricted from team managing I think we are making a positive step to move to a totally independent governing body. I would hope to extend this when common sense and numbers allow to not having players sit in administrative posts as well.

The great BBF ball debate rattles on. It is the intention of the Council, incidentally subtly changed to more of a technical committee structure, to formulate the criteria for said ball this season and implement it for 1996. Ideally the minimum specification should be low cost and durable but we perhaps envisage at least one or two higher specs. If NPL will require a high quality raised seam ball. This is your chance to add to the formulating of a standard for the BBF. Please direct comments and / or samples to the Head Office. Next year seems a long way off but we need to isolate the choices and pursue the best deal for all teams now.

Personal thanks for your good wishes on my successful election to the CEB. I feel very strongly that this is a direct result of the hard work done by everyone in this Federation in raising our credibility as a serious baseball nation. It is indeed an honour and I hope to settle in quickly and work towards greater awareness and strength in Europe particularly for what are sometimes the forgotten developing countries. Lastly, with the return of London Warriors and Essex Spartans to the National Premier League this looks like a game to watch and I expect to attend and see the pot at first hand and maybe hopefully see some international players. I wish all teams a successful recruitment / training phase and hope to see old and new friends around the country. I will not tempt fate by giving tips, I leave such wisdom to Kevin 'Kiss of Death' Mac (I've told him not to mention Brighton anymore, best to Craig!).

Yours for bas
Steve He



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BBF COACHING / CADET IDENTIFICATION SCHEME

To identify potential talent I have put together a team of respected coaches to operate a new approach to the GB Cadet Programme. Whilst the Cadets will not be playing competitively, I hope we can attract future GB players. Clinics are open to any child who is 13/15 years of age and will be held as follows.

Margaret Borley Tel: 0732 352043
at Deacons Field, The Slade, Tonbridge
19 April, 6 May, 10 June, 8 July
all 10.00am - 12.00 noon

Craig Savage Tel: 0273 306872
at Preston Park, London Road, Brighton
22 April, 6 May, 10 June, 8 July
all 10.00am - 1.00pm

Cody Cain Tel: 01753 581937
at Feltham Arena's, Shakespeare Avenue,
Feltham
22 April, 6 May, 10 June, 8 July
all 10.00am - 1.00pm

Nigel Moss / Simon Radge Tel: 0532 742668
at West Park Bramhope Rugby Club,
Leeds
22 April, 6 May, 10 June, 15 July
all 10.00am - 3.00pm

All dates and time are subject to change without notice and anyone interested should contact their nearest coach. If the scheme is successful, then I hope to expand it to more locations in the future.

In August there will also be a residential camp open to any 13/15 year olds. Watch out in Brit-Ball for further details.

Please ensure that you pass on this information to anyone who may be interested.

Mike Harrold
GB Team Manager

GREAT BRITAIN JUNIORS



There will be two assessment days this year to try out for a place in the Great Britain Junior Baseball Squad. This year they will be competing in the European Junior Championships 'B' Group, to be held in Vienna from 6 to 13 August 1995. To be eligible to represent Great Britain you must hold a British passport and be born in the years 1977, 1978 or 1979 (we are allowed to take two players born in the year 1980).

If you would like to try out for the junior squad this year, please call Barry Marshall on 01482 226362, and inform him which venue you will be

attending. Directions to the grounds are available if required.

Both assessment days will commence at 10.30am prompt and will finish at approximately 3.30pm.

The two dates and venues are:

Saturday 8 April 1995
at
**Hemel Red Sox Ground,
Grovehill Playing Fields,
Grovehill,
Hemel Hempstead**

Saturday 15 April 1995
at
**Hessle Apaches Ground
Sydney Smith School,
First Lane, Anlaby,
North Humberside**

BBF COACHING ASSOCIATION LEVEL A COURSE

The above course will be conducted by GB Cadet Coach Cody Cain. It will be held on Saturday 25 March in Maidenhead from 12 noon until 6.00pm. The cost of the course will be £16.

On completion of the course the coaches will be able to teach baseball fundamentals, skills and drills, the rules of the game, how to organise practices and how to take necessary safety precautions when coaching. All equipment will be provided and a BBF Level A Coaching manual will be given to each attendee.

If you wish to register for the above course, please call BBF Head Office on 01482 643551. Full details and directions to the venue can then be sent to you.

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**THE BEGINNING
OF A BASEBALL
FIELD:
FROM FIRST
SHOVEL TO
FIRST PITCH**

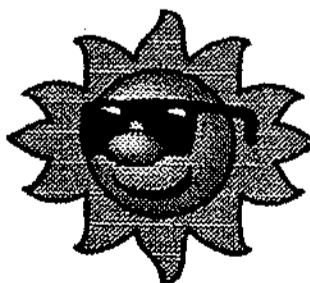
This will be an on-going series of articles explaining some of the planning and execution of ideas for a baseball field in your home community or country. With baseball's interest being so high in many different areas of the world more energies are being channelled into the creation and erection of true baseball only fields.

...step through the first ... must be

reality.

1. Is the field being built just for baseball or will it be part of a multi-use plan?
2. Is the field going to have support facilities (bleachers, restrooms and concession area)?
3. Is the field going to be built to accommodate juniors as well as seniors?
4. Is the field going to be used for practice as well as games and if so what is the daily maintenance like?
5. What will the long term plans of this field be?

Let's discuss #1 and see what some of the community's concerns should be. If the field is to be part of an existing complex (football or



soccer) then choose the area that has the home plate, mound and second base in a north-east setting for safety and protection of the hitters. Avoid setting home plate in the north-west corner because of the late afternoon sun.

#2 - if the new field is going to be built in segments to accommodate just baseball then provisions need to be made for water, sewage, parking and other add-ons so considerable acreage needs to be set aside for future construction.

#3 - if all age groups are going to use the facility, then multiple mounds and bases need to be planned for and designed. Possibilities of an all clay infield may be realistic.

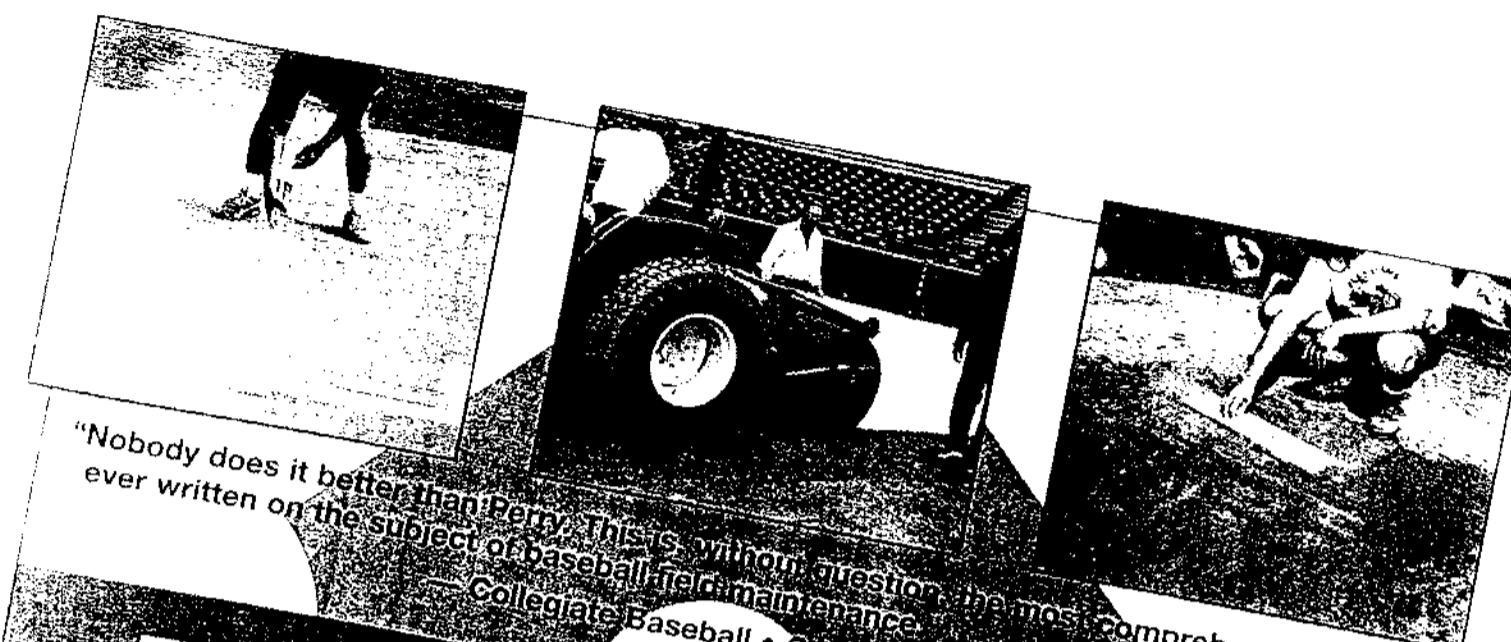
#4 - a field that receives considerable play needs to have a quality maintenance program and sufficient materials and know-how. With the help of these articles and other information available we can improve the knowledge of our groundskeepers.

#5 - sometimes long range plans are not even discussed or considered when formulating a facility. Keep in mind your country is going to be in the baseball business for years to come so your early planning is critical to the overall success of your nation program.

Our next article will discuss issues involving all grass fields, all clay fields and combinations of both. A twelve articles on facility maintenance you will be able to have a baseball that is flexible and physically easy to maintain.

Floyd P.

About the author: Floyd Perry is a high school and college coach in Orlando, Florida for 20 years and as the Director of Baseball Boardwalk and Baseball. He has completed fifty grounds maintenance workshops and seminars around the country since 1993. His video series ABC's of Maintenance or Baseball Softball is now available on the market.



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1995 SCORERS CLINICS REGISTRATION FORM

The objective of the clinics is to establish the skills of new scorers and refine those skills which the experienced scorer may already possess. Individuals attending the clinic should have a basic knowledge of the rules of the game, as well as the willingness to learn and build on the information and techniques taught in both a classroom and practical environment.

Please read the article "What is Scoring About and Where is it Going?" in the December edition of Brit-Ball. Let us know your comments, and try to attend one of the clinics to be held pre-season.

Each BBF registered team **MUST** send someone on one of these courses. Courses are to be held as follows:

- NORTH** Saturday 18 March 1995 12 noon - 4.30pm
 John Smeaton Sports Centre, Smeaton Approach
 Barwick Road, Leeds
- MIDLANDS** Saturday 25 March 1995 12 noon - 4.30pm
 BBF Indoor Training Centre,
 Mill Street, Aston, Birmingham
- SCOTLAND** Saturday 1 April 1995 12 noon - 4.30pm
 Alyth Town Hall, Alyth, Scotland

I would like to participate in the 1995 Scorers Clinic to be held in
NORTH / MIDLANDS / SCOTLAND*
* Delete as applicable

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|--|----------------|--|
| Name: | | Postcode: | |
| Address: | | Date of Birth: | |
| Telephone No: | | | |
| Baseball Team (if applicable): | | | |

I enclose £2.50 registration fee for the clinic
 All cheques should be made payable to the British Baseball Federation
 Return this form and money to : 1995 Scorers Clinic
 British Baseball Federation
 66 Belvedere Road, Hessle, North Humberside, HU13 9J

1995 UMPIRES CLINIC REGISTRATION FORM

The objective of the clinics is to refine those skills which the prospective umpire may already possess. It is not designed to teach the rules of baseball to umpires. Individuals attending the clinic should have a basic knowledge of the rules of the game, as well as the willingness to learn and build on the information and techniques taught in both a classroom and practical environment.

The roles and responsibilities of the umpire (both plate and field) will be addressed at length. Many of the basic rules and situations will be covered. Each BBF registered team **MUST** send someone on one of these courses.

Dates for the above are as follows:

- NORTH** - 25 - 26 March 1995
 Menwith Hill Station
 Harrogate

I would like to participate in the 1995 Umpires Clinic to be held in the
NORTH

| | | | |
|---|--|----------------|--|
| Name: | | Postcode: | |
| Address: | | | |
| Telephone No: | | Date of Birth: | |
| Baseball Team: (if applicable) | | | |
| I enclose £5 registration fee for the clinic | | | |
| All cheques should be made payable to the British Baseball Federation | | | |

Participants registering for an umpires clinic will be entered into a draw to win a set of umpires equipment, including face mask, chest protector and leg guards, donated by Spartan Sports. We have also had donated some more umpiring equipment from our friends at Pony Baseball. At every clinic there will be a winner of umpires leg guards, ball bag and brush. Robbie Staff was the lucky winner at the South Clinic, and John Symon at the Scottish Clinic.

Return this form and money to : 1995 Umpires Clinic, British Baseball Federation
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Ideally the family should have a variety of interests and activities. They must have a sense of humour, and enjoy each others company.

So, if you are part of a fun or diverse family, fancy a week on television and feel that you have a robust sense of humour, the BIG Breakfast researchers want to hear from you; write to Stef Wagstaffe at Planet 24, Norex Court, 195 Marsh Wall, E14 5SG.

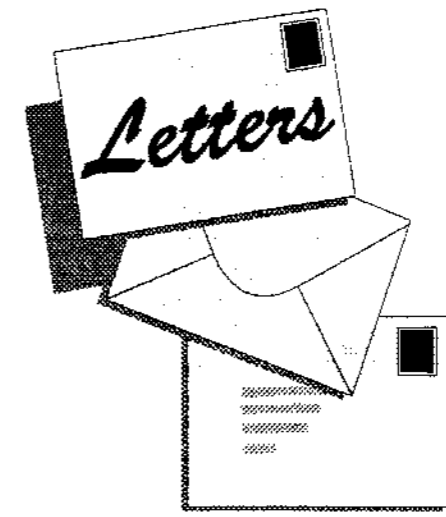
- 5.5 Dear Kevin
- 6.9 I am a member of the renamed "Hessle Apaches", I was fortunate to attend the parent clinic at Cranfield and I would like to give youth readers of Brit-Ball my feedback about the clinic and the experience I gained from it.
- 7.5 I am sorry that my arrival / registration, due to the popularity of the clinic our party was referred to a nearby hotel, so I can't comment on the residential facilities, but the food was good from theteria, where massive hot dogs were my favourite!
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- 14. I am sorry that my arrival / registration, due to the popularity of the clinic our party was referred to a nearby hotel, so I can't comment on the residential facilities, but the food was good from theteria, where massive hot dogs were my favourite!

From the programmed training sessions I gained further knowledge on pitching, bunting, outfield / infield drills, batting corrections, catching and throwing techniques.

The highlight of the weekend was Saturday night dinner, were an auction for baseball memorabilia took place. One of my friends bid for a baseball signed by Roger Clemens of the Boston Red Sox - unfortunately he was out-bid.

I highly recommend the weekend and hope to attend again next year.

Lee Englestone, Hessle Apaches



Dear Brit-Ball

It is very exciting to hear about the deal struck with First Base International. In particular the schools programme sounds very promising; far better than sporadic attempts to gain interest through TV or newspapers, I think.

A proper stadium for the London area is well overdue, bearing in mind the number of clubs in the South-East. I feel it will need to be used for weekly league games to maximise its use though.

Incidentally, I have never been able to understand why many rookie teams choose to build a diamond a mile or so from an existing team when they could ground share or become the second team of the incumbents. Surely working together means cutting costs, better facilities etc? If baseball is seen taking place every week in the local park it becomes a focal point for spectator interest without the need for a fixture list - if you are the sole team only the converted will know when you

have a home game. If you must be an independent rookie team then find yourselves a nice large town or suburb, five or ten miles away from existing teams and help open a new area to British Baseball. Co-operate or pioneer, that's what I say.

I hope any new rookie teams will not be upset by these views as they are intended to be constructive.

Yours faithfully
 Will Cosgrave

To All Our Friends in Baseball

It is with great pleasure that I extend to you an invitation to participate in our 7th Khoury League International World Series, August 4-12 at Sunset Park in Plantation, Florida. This year we will host the Juvenile Division, with players 13-14 years of age. Our friends from Aruba took first place in last year's competition. It was a wonderful experience for all of us.

This year the registration / sponsor fee is \$200 per team, with trophies awarded to the top six teams. Each sponsor will receive an ad in our 1995 program, as well as their team's picture.

A confirmation form is to be filled out and faxed to the number listed. After receiving the form, an information packet will be mailed to you with hotel information for coaches, players and parents, car rental rates, rules, rosters and other important information pertaining to the Series.

If you have teams in younger divisions (7-8, 9-10, 11-12), who would like to participate please contact Tim Ruesch from the National Khoury League Office at 0101 314 535 5357.

If you have any questions, please call or fax me at 0101 305 845 0408. We look forward to seeing you in August.

Sincerely, Tina Ray, Chairman, Khoury League International World Series

(Editor: If you are interested in taking part in this tournament, please contact BBF Head Office for a copy of the confirmation form)

WORLD CHILDREN'S BASEBALL FAIR

The BBF have been invited to send five children to the 1995 World Children's

Baseball Fair.

The 1995 Fair will be held from 31 July - 8 August in Gifu City, Japan.

The five children representing Great Britain are:

David Chapman
Glasgow Little League

Christopher Radge
Hessle Apaches

Matthew Lees
Brighton Buccaneers

Ryan Garner
Trafford Saints

William Lintern
Tonbridge Bobcats

These children were nominated by their respective clubs. This is a great honour for the children, who will have the time of their lives.

The fair comprises of baseball camps, visits to local tourist areas, theme parks and a professional baseball game. The children will also have the opportunity to meet and be coached by many Hall of Famers, including Hank Aaron, Sadaharu Oh, Brooks Robinson and Joe Dimaggio.

The clubs were chosen by ballot, from all the junior clubs registered by 1 January 1995.

The chaperon for the trip is Nigel Moss, the 1994 BBF Junior Coach of the Year. Nigel, a PE Teacher by profession, and a good baseball coach, is the ideal candidate to lead this trip.

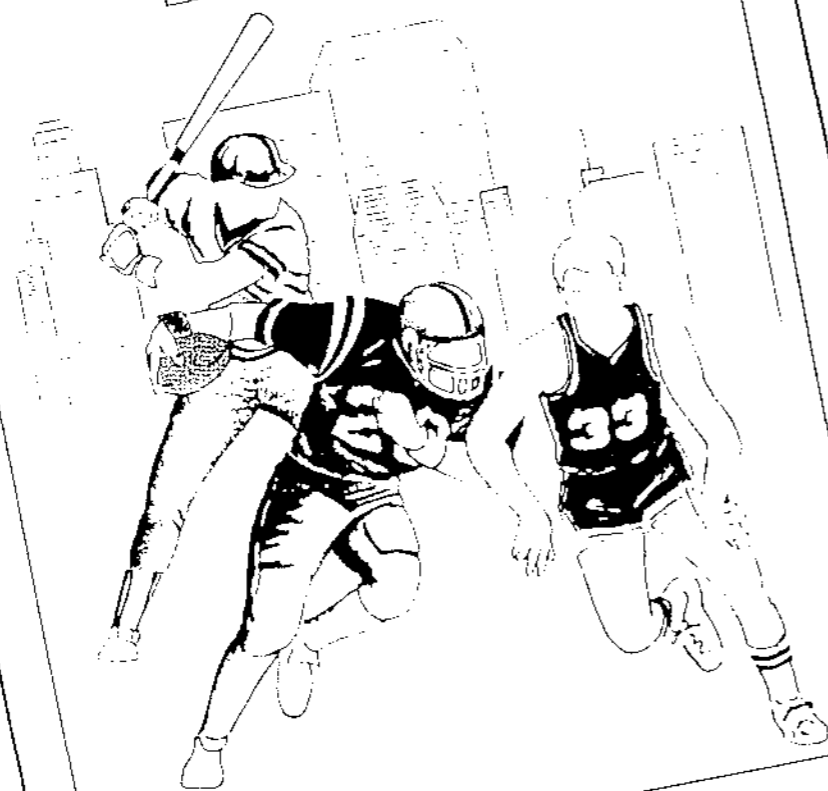
We wish all of them a great trip, & hope the experience they have help them with their baseball career.



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SUMMER CAMP PROGRAMMES

The BBF Coaching Association have produced a manual on how to set up and operate baseball camps. This manual is available at a cost of £3.00 (cheques made payable to the British Baseball Federation). The manual outlines from start to finish, the way to run a non residential day camp.

WHY RUN A SUMMER CAMP?

1. Attract children to your club
2. Promote baseball in your community
3. Promote your baseball club via publicity

Different organisations around the country organised camps last year. They included local authority sports centres, schools, youth organisations and baseball clubs.

These camps proved very successful in both attracting children into the game, and importantly to generate income, which can support your club financially. Last year this plan was used for a camp that generated over £1000.

WHAT DOES THE MANUAL PROVIDE?

1. Advertising strategies
2. Sponsorship opportunities
3. Administrative functions
4. Camp organisation
5. Lesson plans
6. Publicity options
7. Future developments

To obtain a copy of the manual, please contact BBF Head Office.

Ian Smyth
Director of Coaching and
Player Development

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Julie Frank Parker on the birth of her daughter Rebecca Kim on Monday 6 March. Sister for Ben and Daniel.

JUNIOR TOURNAMENTS

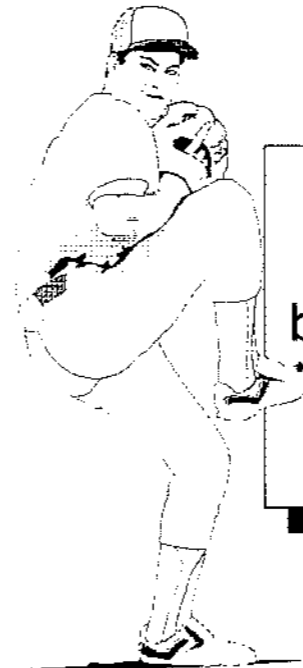
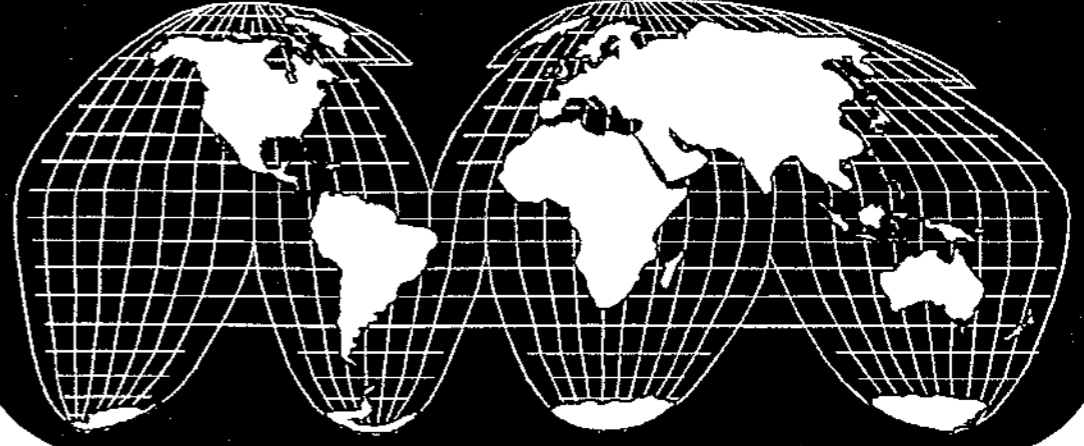
The 3rd Annual Junior Baseball Tournament will be held on Saturday 13 May 9.30am - 4.30pm at John Smeaton Sports Centre, Smeaton Approach in Leeds.

The tournament will be split into two age groups, with 6-11 year olds competing in a teeball tournament and 12-15 year olds competing in a baseball tournament. Entry fee is £10 per team (cheques made payable to Leeds City Council). Closing date for entries is Friday 28 April, and should you require any further details or a copy of the tournament rules, then please contact Ian Smyth on 0113 260 1853.

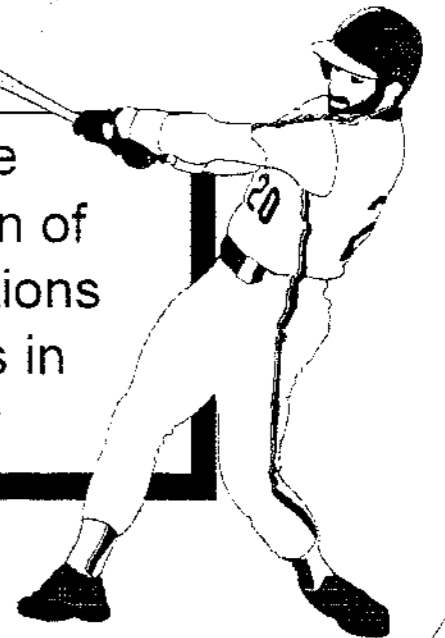
Also, Hull Mets Baseball Club are staging a Junior Tournament on Saturday 2 May 1995 for the following age groups; 6 to 11 year olds and 12 to 16 year olds.

The tournament will take place at Eastmount Recreation Centre, Hull and any club interested in taking part should contact Doreen Megson Dorcli, Station Road, Burstwick North Humberside, HU12 or telephone 01964 622 Closing date for entries Sunday 9 April.

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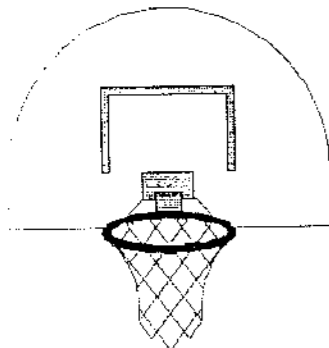
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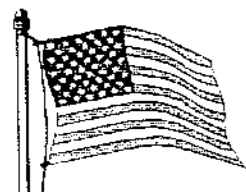
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1995 LEAGUES

Many of you have been asking who will be in which league for the 1995 season. Below is the current structure:

BBF NATIONAL PREMIER LEAGUE - NORTH

Humberside Mets
Nottingham Homets
Leeds City Royals
Birmingham Braves
Liverpool Trojans
Menwith Hill Pirates
Humberside Warriors

BBF NATIONAL PREMIER LEAGUE - SOUTH

Essex Arrows
Crawley Comets
Hounslow Rangers
Hemel Red Sox
Brighton Buccaneers
Bristol Black Sox
Enfield Spartans
London Warriors

BBF NORTH - ENGLAND DIVISION ONE

Nottingham Pirates
Liverpool Tigers
Tamworth Strikers
Hull Royals
Barnsley Strikers
Stretford A's
Preston Bobcats

BBF NORTH - ENGLAND DIVISION TWO

Newark Giants
Durham Demons
Manchester Cougars
Sibley Vikings
Birmingham Dodgers
Hessle Apaches
Leeds City Royals II
Sheffield Bladerunners

BBF NORTH - SCOTLAND DIVISION ONE

Glasgow Comets
Dundee Dodgers
West Lothian Wildcats
Tayside Cobras
Edinburgh Reivers
East Coast Pirates

BBF SOUTH - DIVISION ONE NORTH

Essex Eagles
Cambridge Monarchs
Gloster Meteors
Stevenage Knights
City Slick Sidewinders
Droitwich Spa-Tans
Waltham Forest Angels

SOUTH

Arun Panthers
Croydon Pirates
Tunbridge Wells Royals
Bournemouth B's
London Wolves
Hounslow Hawks
Lashings Sluggers

BBF SOUTH - DIVISION TWO NORTH

Totteridge Trailblazers
Tiptree Rays
Tonbridge Bobcats
Milton Keynes Truckers
Norwich Wanderers
Gillingham Dodgers

SOUTH

Bracknell Blazers
Burgess Hill Red Hats
Brighton Buccaneers B
Caterham A's
Guildford Mavericks
Chichester Kyotes

BBF SOUTH - DIVISION THREE

Fulham Flames
Waltham Abbey Arrows II
Guildford Mudcats
Brentwood Stags
Eastbourne Mariners
Cambridge Monarchs B
London Wolves II
Crowborough Cougars

FEELING GUILTY....

1995 team affiliation fees were payable on 1 January 1995. Player affiliation fees are due to be paid by 31 March 1995. Below are a few statistics on the current status of the registrations process:

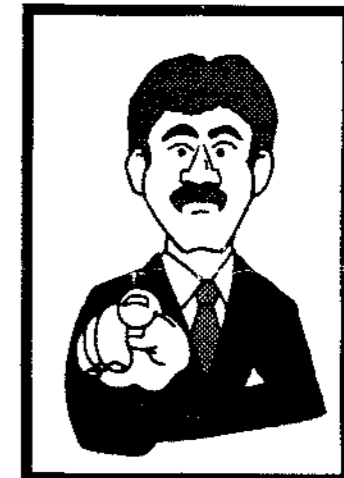
On 1 January 5% of senior teams had affiliated.

On 1 February a total 28% of senior teams had affiliated.

On 1 March a total of 65% of senior teams had affiliated.

Since the 1 March, the percentage has increased to 77%, however, no teams have registered any players yet.

Although a monetary commitment has been received from the above teams,



72% have only paid a deposit, or their affiliation fee and not their public liability.

For those of you who keep calling head office to enquire when the

handbook / league schedules will be sent out, perhaps the above will answer your question. Neither the handbook or the league schedules can be correctly produced without the information found on the affiliation forms, or the affiliation fees received from teams to give their commitment to playing baseball in the 1995 season. As we have found in the past, to produce the schedules early, and then find out that teams are not affiliating, only causes disruption during the season, when teams can sometimes go several weeks without playing a game.

So for the 17 teams who have not yet affiliated, we hope you are feeling guilty for holding everyone else up in making their plans for the 1995 season.

COMPETITION CORNER

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

(devised by Will Cosgrave)

Can you identify the incomplete names of the famous defunct British Baseball teams below. If you are just too young - ask an old timer, they will know them!

1. _U_L _C_S
2. _R_W_E_ _I_N_S
3. _O_H_M _A_K_E_
4. _O_T_N_H_M _I_N_
5. _U_T_N_O_D _R_V_S
6. _O_D_R_ _R_E_ _O_

CODED CLUES

(devised by Will Cosgrave)

Listed below are seven common baseball game words written in a number code. Can you figure out what the words are? 3, 6, 9 are vowels, the others are consonants.

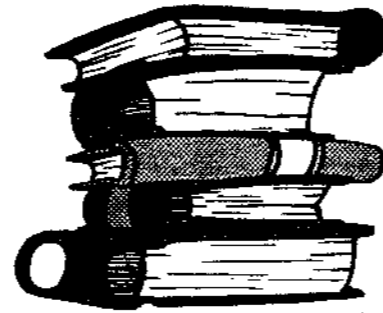
- a. 6 9 8
- b. 7 9 5
- c. 1 9 5 8
- d. 2 6 9 5 8
- e. 3 7 7 6 7
- f. 7 9 1 1 3 7
- g. 2 6 5 8 7 6 4

Watch out in next month's edition of Brit-Ball for the answers.

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BBF / MLBI 1995 ENVOY PROGRAMME

The purpose of the Envoy Programme is to provide the CEB Federations with continuous instruction in baseball fundamentals, to players and coaches of all ages and levels.

This summer MLBI are sending six envoys to Great Britain. They will arrive in June, and stay in Great Britain for approximately 10 weeks. All the envoys are experienced college coaches in the US, and many have also coached in Great Britain previously.

The Envoy instructors' time and efforts will focus mainly on our youth and schools programmes, helping existing BBF clubs to expand their junior membership. They will bring to your club many benefits:

- * Develop your junior programme
- * Players receive expert coaching
- * Develop baseball in your local schools
- * Enhance your own coaching skills

The coaches can be expected to work five or six days per week, a minimum of four and maximum of eight hours per day. The majority of their time should be spent on the field in practice or clinic situations.

As an envoy host your responsibilities will be:

- * To provide housing and food for the envoy, whether this is in your own home or a local hotel. The

envoy coach must have available his own bedroom, with an adequate supply of linens, blankets and hot water. Three meals per day must be provided, which meet the requirements of the coaches themselves.

- * To provide transport to and from his airport of arrival / departure, as well as all local transportation.
- * To arrange coaching sessions with local teams and schools for the duration of his stay. You will also need to supply a certain amount of baseball equipment for the envoy to use during his visits to schools etc, where equipment is not available.

So, if you like the sound of the above, and think that the envoy coach will be invaluable to your club this summer, then you need to send in an application to BBF Head Office giving the following details:

- * Your name, address and telephone number.
- * The names of your senior and junior teams
- * An outline of the programme you intend to use for the envoy for the duration of his stay, and how you intend to publicise this.
- * A brief summary of why your area will benefit from the envoy's expertise.

Applications should be sent in by Friday 28 April 1995.

THE BRITISH BASEBALL FEDERATION 1995 HANDBOOK

Contains all the 1995 fixtures and team contacts for British Baseball

Please send me a copy of the British Baseball Federation 1995 Handbook

I enclose a cheque / postal order for £4.00.

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UMPIRES AND SCORERS

For the 1995 season each BBF affiliated team must register an umpire and a scorer, as well as send the nominated person to one of the clinics which are taking place around the country (booking forms and further details can be found in this issue of Brit-Ball).

The reason for this stipulation is that during the course of the season we will be sending out several pieces of information which are pertinent to their roles. We would like to ensure that this information is received by the correct person, who can make most use of it. It is a waste of your registration monies to send out information which is just going to sit on a shelf gathering dust!

Many of you have called Head Office to say that you don't have one specific person who scores or umpires, but several of your players take it in turns. If this is the case, please just register one of these people. They can then be responsible for passing the information on to the other people with whom they share the role.

Another fear of many teams is that if they do register an umpire or scorer then this person will be sent off around the country to officiate at games other than for their own team. **This is not the case.** We are giving both scorers and umpires the opportunity to state where they would like to officiate, ie

1. Anywhere in the country
2. In their local area only
3. For a specific team only

So, no more excuses, register those people!

CORRECTION



as follows:

Single game £15
Double header £20
for plate umpire, plus travelling expenses

Single game £10
Double header £15
for base umpire, plus travelling expenses

This is incorrect and should read:

Single game £15
Double header £20
for both plate and base umpires, plus travelling expenses

The BBF Scorers Association recommend the following fees for scorers:

Single game and
double header £5
plus travelling expenses

Make sure that you give your umpire and scorer the credit they deserve and pay them for their services.

SPONSORSHIP IN GOODS

In today's economic climate, as I'm sure many of you are aware, companies are very often reluctant to give sponsorship in the form of money. However, many are often willing to give you their goods, which for them to produce cost a lot less than they do in High Street shops.

One example, which is always needed on the baseball diamond, is a first aid kit. To buy the goods from the shops costs a fortune, so why not take a look in your medicine cabinet, or current first aid box, and see who manufactures the products. A quick letter to them explaining who you are, and what you require for the current season often reaps great rewards, and saves you a fortune!

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PRICE GUARANTEE

FBI will bulk purchase at the lowest international prices, often direct from manufacturers' factories. Therefore FBI will endeavour to sell its range at equal to or below US retail levels. FBI will guarantee that it will match or improve any printed or written price for equipment available in its range within 14 days of purchase. This guarantee is subject to stock availability.

FBI POINTS AWARD SCHEME

FBI is proud to announce the Points Award Scheme to celebrate its first trading season trading in British Baseball. Under this scheme an individual or a team can collectively earn points for purchases from FBI. 20 FBI points will be awarded for each £10 purchase value. The points can be redeemed for instant gifts or accumulated on account for larger gifts at any time in the future.

GOLD POINT ACCELERATION PROGRAM

Any team or individual account which accumulates £2500 of purchases will then be awarded gold points earned with greater redemption value. The 1995 range of products includes:

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