

BRIT BALL

The Official Voice of the British Baseball Federation

Made available online by Project COBB
(the Project for the Chronicling of British Baseball)

<http://www.projectcobb.org.uk/brit-ball.html>

With kind permission from the BBF Board



BRIT



British Baseball Federation

BALL

The Official Voice
of the
British Baseball
Federation

Issue No 31
December 1995
75p

Nelson Added To Clinic Line-Up

MLBI this week added top umpire Richard Nelson to their already impressive line-up for the 1996 BBF/MLBI Coaching Clinic in Manchester next month.

Nelson's impressive career which spans over 31 years has seen him as Supervisor for the Umpire Development Program as well as umpiring in the major and minor leagues. His previous tasks have involved every aspect of umpiring including scheduling, written evaluations, on field and classroom instructions and conducting of various clinics.

He will run an umpires clinic alongside the main clinic during the course of the weekend.

Brent Strom, the pitching coach at the clinic has now been promoted to the Astros pitching staff and of course our friend, Bill Arce will also be in attendance at the clinic.

Bookings for the event are already up on last years figures so remember that the accommodation will be on a first come, first served basis.

What's in a name?

The 1996 baseball season will see a change of name for all divisions.

At the recent BBF Council meetings it was agreed that the leagues would in future be known as The British Baseball League - Premier Division, Northern Conference Division One etc.

This will enable the BBF to promote the name of baseball when submitting press releases and it is hoped that merchandise will be available for teams to purchase in the near future.

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



Calls charged at 37p per minute off-peak,
49p per minute peak time.

SUPPORTED BY
 SPORTS
COUNCIL

ENQUIRIES

Editorial Enquiries:

**British Baseball Federation,
66 Belvedere Road, Hessle,
North Humberside, HU13 9JJ,
Tel: 01482 643551
Fax: 01482 640224
Compuserve ID No. 100417,2103**

Editor: Kevin Macadam
Deputy Editor: Wendy Macadam

BBF Executive

President: Steve Herbert
Coaching: Ian Smyth
Technical: Gary Mortimer
National Premier League: Gerry Walmsley
Director: Greg Welch
Publicity and Publications: Kevin Macadam

BBF Council

Conference Commissioner - South:
Sharon Bonfield
Conference Commissioner - North: Nigel Moss
Conference Commissioner - Scotland:
Brian Edwards
Umpires Commissioner - North: Frank Scherer
Umpires Commissioner - South:
Mack McKinney
Great Britain Team Manager: Ralph Rago

Advertisement Enquiries:
Kevin Macadam (01482 643551)

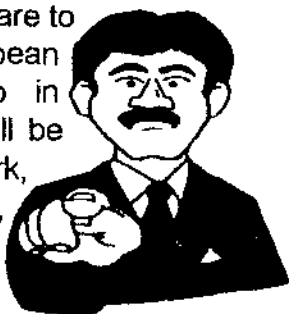
Marketing and Promotions Enquiries:
Keith Peskett (0171 837 5117)

Subscription Rates: 12 issues, inclusive of postage £9.00. Cheques and Postal Orders payable to 'British Baseball Federation' and sent to Brit-Ball Subscriptions, 66 Belvedere Road, Hessle, North Humberside, HU13 9JJ

BBF Handbook: Printed annually, price £4.00 inclusive of postage. Contains all contact details for BBF teams and league fixtures. Cheques and Postal Orders payable to 'British Baseball Federation' and sent to BBF Handbook, 66 Belvedere Road, Hessle, North Humberside, HU13 9JJ

WE NEED YOUR HELP.....

As you may be aware, in 1996 the British Baseball Federation are to host the 1996 European Championships 'B' Group in Hull. Teams competing will be from Ireland, Denmark, Finland, Portugal, Czechia, Poland, Romania, Bulgaria, Hungary and of course our own Great Britain squad.



The British Baseball Federation would like to make this tournament the finest that Europe has ever seen and to do this we need assistance from as many volunteers as possible.

Some ideas of how we need people to help are as follows:

Publicity - TV, radio, press both prior to the event and during the competition
Programme / poster production
Stewards
Photography
Video
VIP Escorts
PA system technicians
Raffle sales
Programme sales
Announcer / commentator
Technical Commission liaison
Merchandising
Cheerleaders
Chaperones for all participating teams
Mascot
Finding sponsorship
Scheduling
First Aid
Car Park attendants
Communications - fax, telephone
Security
Diamond preparation crews

I'm sure you'll agree the list is endless and not everything has been covered here. If you think that there is some way in which you will be able to assist, even if it is only being a car park attendant for one day of the tournament or you have an idea that we may not have thought of then we want to hear from you. Please contact BBF Head Office as soon as possible. We will be holding a meeting of all volunteers early in the New Year, and look forward to seeing you there.

BBF / PONY YOUTH BASEBALL LEAGUE

In 1996 the BBF plan to introduce league play for youth teams throughout the country. In each conference leagues will be regionalised, creating more localised competition and reducing travel and other associated burdens.

The respective champions of these local divisions will then be eligible for the play-offs, which will culminate in a National Youth Final.

The BBF have entered into a partnership with PONY Baseball, who have assisted in the development of a set of rules, that have been devised especially for BBF Youth play. These rules are intended to allow children to experience all the aspects of baseball, while having some restrictions to meet the needs and abilities of our kids.

Meetings to introduce teams to this concept have been held in the North West, North East and Scotland. The next meeting is to be held:

Date: Sunday 17 December 1995

Time: 10.30am prompt

**Venue: Civilian Staff Restaurant (MOD),
Maple Way, Elmwood, Feltham, Middlesex**

We also plan to hold a meeting in the Midlands in the new year.

If you require more information regarding PONY baseball, or would like your junior team to be included in the league, please contact Ian Smyth on 0113 261 2571.

ON THE MOVE.....

Premier Division Commissioner
New details for Gerry Walmsley are as follows:
5 Kinnaird Way, Cambridge, CB1 4SN
Tel & Fax: 01223 410639

Leeds City Royals
1st contact is now:
Paul Thomas, 30 Aston Terrace, Leeds, West Yorkshire, LS15 7QS
Tel: 0113 236 3213
2nd contact is now:
Nigel Moss, 6 Tynedale Court, Meanwood, Leeds, West Yorkshire, LS7 2SF
Tel: 0113 295 9370

GB Head Coach
Ralph Rago
7 Sandringham Gardens, Leeds, West Yorkshire, LS17
Tel & Fax: 0113 266 9530

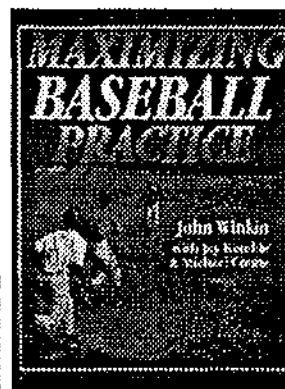
FOR SALE

THE SPORTING NEWS
1995 EDITION
OFFICIAL BASEBALL RULES

£3.50

Please send a cheque made payable to the British Baseball Federation to 66 Belvedere Road, Hessle, North Humberside, HU13 9JJ

New!



Maximizing Baseball Practice

John Winkin with Jay Kemble & Michael Coultis
Foreword by Tommy Lasorda

"A great resource for all baseball coaches"

- ★ Includes 54 illustrated drills designed to give players the gamelike experiences they need to compete successfully
- ★ Coaches are shown how to plan a practice, make use of facilities and how to involve as many players as possible in each segment of the practice session
- ★ Each drill has the goals outlined, the skills emphasised, details of how to perform the drill and coaching tips

0-87322-430-2 152 pages 134 illustrations paperback **£14.95**

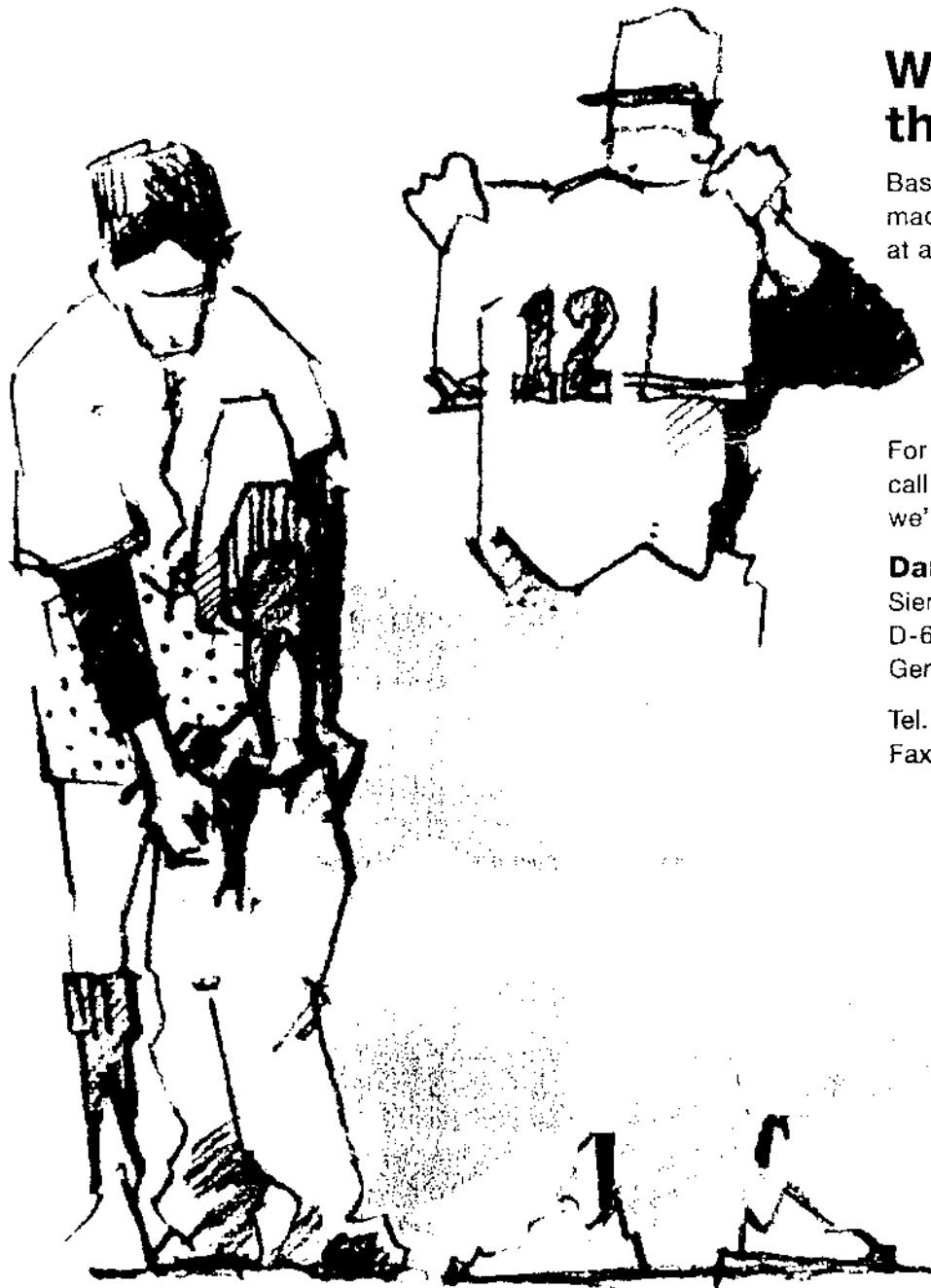
To order: please send a cheque made payable to HK (Europe) Ltd; **Credit Card Orders:** available by phone
P&P: please add £2.50 for one book (50p for each additional book)

HUMAN KINETICS (EUROPE) LTD, PO Box IW14, Leeds LS16 6TR Tel: 0113 278 1708 Fax: 0113 278 1709



Daniel's

Your active teamwear manufacturer



When only the best will do:

Baseball uniforms and leisurewear made in Germany, at a price you can afford.

For our free catalogue call our service phone - we'll phone you back!

Daniel's Active Sportswear
Siemensstrasse 2
D-68542 Heddeshelm
Germany

Tel. 0049 (6203) 4823
Fax 0049 (6203) 4824

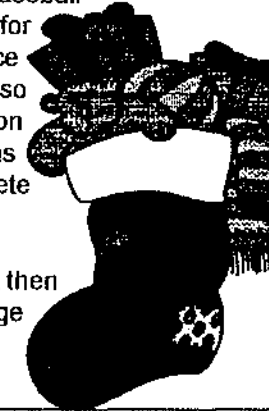
Say Daniel's - you've said it all!

The Perfect Christmas Present

The Sporting News 'Chronicle of Baseball' is the story of America's National Pastime from 1900 to the present day. The hardback A4 book by Ron Smith tells the story of baseball month by month from America's leading sports weekly.

The book contains all the major stories from 1900 to the present day plus the rest of the news in brief. 700 historic photographs and 351 pages of great baseball events and leading personalities combine with the most memorable quotes of the baseball legends. Tables of key statistics for each year also provide at-a-glance reference material. The book also devotes special features focusing on some of baseball's most famous individuals including Ty Cobb, Pete Rose and Nolan Ryan.

If you would like a copy of this book then they are available including postage for £15 from BBF Head Office.



HOW DO I.....

The BBF have available the following booklets to assist in the development of your club. They are available free of charge to all BBF affiliated teams. If you would like a copy of any of them, please contact BBF Head Office.

Diamond Development - contains details of all bodies to whom you can apply for funding.

Diamond Construction - every possible dimension you could require for building and marking out your diamond

Introduction to the Game - for beginners to baseball, it briefly explains the rules and what equipment is required.

History of the Game - A brief history of baseball in the UK, good for any youngsters doing a school project on baseball.

How to set up a Baseball Team - How do you go about starting your own team - ideas for fund-raising, recruiting players, details of fees, where the BBF spend the money etc.

Teeball - an instructional leaflet on the game of tee-ball. Ideal for passing on to your local school to encourage them to play the game.

Baseball Information Sheet - again another leaflet which is ideal for people new to the game, it explains what the BBF is and what we can provide.

Parent Information - a leaflet designed for you to hand out to your junior players parents. It explains baseball to them and gives details of how they should become involved in your club.

Baseball Qualifications - a booklet which explains the aims and objectives of the coaching association and gives you details on how to attain level A, AA and AAA qualifications.



Established 1990

DENVER ATHLETICS LTD.

76 Sluice Road - Denver - Downham Market - Norfolk PE38 0DZ - England
Telephone: 0366 384603 - Fax: 0366 384009

SEND FOR OUR 75 PAGE FULL COLOUR CATALOGUE OF BASEBALL / SOFTBALL PRODUCTS
MADE IN THE USA

Uniforms - £22.50 each
minimum of 12 assorted sizes, small - ex large
Button front mesh jerseys
wht/gry/ryl/scr/gld/kly/mmm/col/blk/ppl/dkg/orn/bm/aqu

Baseball Pants - £22.50 each
minimum of 12 assorted sizes, small - ex large
Heavy weight polyester, double reinforced knees, back pocket, inside elastic waistband, snap and fly front, pro quality
wht/gry/ryl/nvy/scr/blk/kly/mmm/gld/aqu

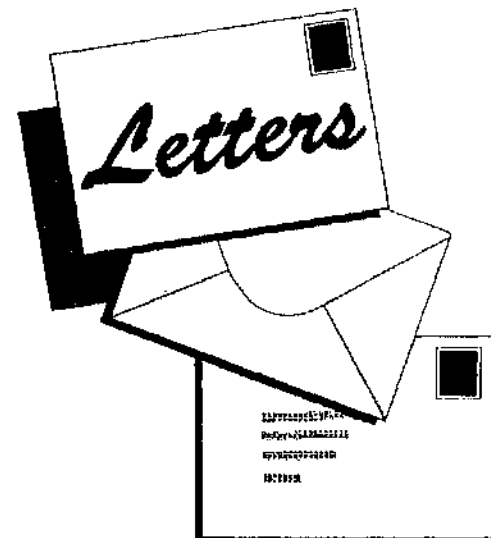
Basic Practice Pants - £17.50
White / black / grey singles available
Sizes small - ex large

Markwort®

COULD YOUR SPONSORSHIP CAMPAIGN BE A WINNER?

If you can prove that your sponsorship campaign successfully delivered results and fully met its objectives, then you should be starting now to plan your entry or entries for the Hollis Awards for Effective Use of Sponsorship - but only if you believe the campaign demonstrates innovations, creativity and most importantly results. Deadline for the Awards is December 22nd with the presentation lunch to take place on February 13th 1996.

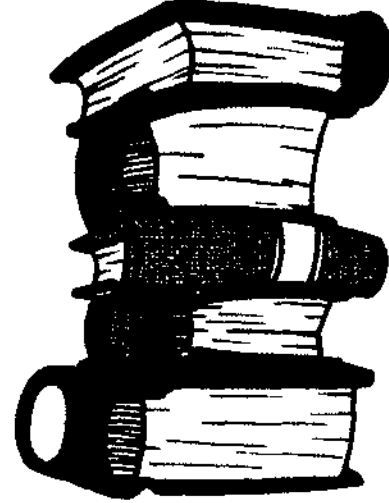
With the support of the European Sponsorship Consultants Association (ESCA), the very first Hollis Awards were launched earlier this year and met with great success and acclaim. Against stiff competition from top brands and companies throughout the UK, lager brand Tennent's took the Sponsorship of the Year Trophy and was trophy winner in the Brand Sponsorship category, Lloyds Bank PLC took top prize in the Corporate Sponsorship category, Comhill Insurance PLC in the Sponsorship Continuity category and The Evening Standard won first prize in the New Sponsorship category. The ESCA Award for Pan-European Sponsorship was awarded to pasta brand Barilla.



GAZELLE BOOK SERVICES LIMITED

Falcon House
Queen Square
Lancaster
LA1 1RN

Tel: 01524 68765
Fax: 01524 63232



The Awards are open to all consultancies, irrespective of ESCA membership plus all sponsored or sponsoring parties.

The Hollis panel of judges, chosen to represent all facets of the sponsorship industry, will be looking for evidence of effectiveness from each entry - a key factor which was missing from some of the submissions in year one. Organisations which entered the Awards last year are strongly encouraged to do so again, but please make sure that the focus of the entry is on objective fulfilment and results.

If you are the sponsored party, please also ensure that you illustrate not only how the sponsorship benefited your organisation, but how the sponsorship fulfilled your sponsors objectives

First time sponsors

New for year two is the 'First Time Sponsor' category which replaces 'New Sponsorship'. This category is now open to any sponsor or brand for which sponsorship is a new communications tool. Again, judges will be looking for evidence of effectiveness.

We are also welcoming entries from across Europe. Please note that if your campaign is targeting

audiences in two or more countries, whether via an international event, or perhaps sponsorship of a national event with European TV coverage, the campaign should be entered into the ESCA Pan-European Award category. If, however, the campaign has a purely national focus then it should be entered into whichever other category is most appropriate.

So if your campaign was a winner for your organisation, make sure it's in line to win a prestigious Hollis Award by starting to plan your entry now. Please send us the completed entry form along with your cheque for £25 plus VAT per category entered. If you need any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me or my colleagues Amanda Williams or Helen Evans. If you would like to speak to and ESCA representative, Robin Ford of DSM (01483 303040) is your contact.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely
Rosemary Sarginson
Publishing Director
Hollis Directories Limited

Editor: If you could like a copy of the entry form, please contact BBF Head Office.

Dear Kevin

I wonder if I might call upon the assistance of your readers to help me with my research. I am studying US Armed Forces Baseball in Britain during World War Two and would very much like to hear from anyone that has recollections of baseball from the years 1942 to 1945. I am keen to make contact with people who attended any of the many fund-raising games that were staged throughout the country or who were part of the few British teams that played against the US military at that time.

If anyone can offer information on this subject or can suggest someone that was involved, I would be very pleased to hear from them and I will gladly refund any postal costs.

Yours sincerely
Gary Bedingfield
97 Ramney Drive, Enfield, Middlesex, EN3 6DX

Dear Mr President

I write to you in the hopes of securing a position within your organisation. As you may see from my resume, I have significant experience as both a coach and instructor, as well as a player at the international level.

I am primarily interested in being involved in player and coach development, especially at a National team level, or as a player-coach with a club team. I would appreciate hearing from you concerning such a position.

I may be reached at the address below. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely
Rick Johnston
2427 Marine Drive, Suite 3, Oakville, Ontario, CANADA,
L6L 1C8

Editor: If you would like a copy of Rick's resume, please contact Head Office.

Dear Sir

Our club the Beveren Lions is organising an international tournament in the weekend of Whitsun in 1996. We would like to invite a club of the British first division to this tournament.

Best regards

Roel Allaer
Manager Beverse Base en Softball Vereniging
Em Durlletstraat 7, 9120 Beveren, Belgium

Editor: If you are interested in attending please contact this team direct for further information. Please don't forget to obtain BBF permission to attend the tournament, and notify your conference commissioner so that your absence can be incorporated into the league schedule.

MLBI'S RUSSELL SET FOR NEW CHALLENGE



MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL
INTERNATIONAL

MLBI would like to announce the hiring of Clive Russell as MLBI's Director of European Operations.

Clive will focus most of his time on MLBI's business interests and less on Game Development activities. Clive will dedicate approximately 85% of his time to MLBI business and only 15% to development.

It is believed that we can still achieve similar, if not better success in the grass roots programs without full-time MLBI attention to the programs. This is due to the increased capabilities of the European Federations and their understanding of the MLBI Game Development programs.

Clive will oversee MLBI International Consultants, Bill Arce and Jim Jones, as they work with the Federations on implementing the annual Clinic Tour and the Envoy Program. It is thought that pushing responsibility "down" to the Federation and local level will prove to be successful.

Clive is anxious to meet all of the Federations members. He welcomes the opportunity to learn about your country's baseball history, needs and plans. It is hoped you all have a chance to meet him in the near future and trust you will congratulate him on his new position and welcome him to the baseball family.

Steve Baker
Vice President Market Development
Major League Baseball International



DRAGON TOURS (U.K.) LTD

CLUB TOURS - TOURNAMENTS - SUPPORTERS TOURS

6 UPPER COED CAE, BLAENAVON, GWENT, NP4 9JA. U.K.

TEL: (01 495) 79 12 60 TEL/FAX (01 495) 79 12 66

TRAVEL TRUST
ASSOCIATION
T9462

DRAGON TOURS (U.K.) LTD. is a fully licensed Tour Operator / Travel Agent offering complete financial protection to our clients.

DRAGON TOURS (U.K.) LTD. was formed to concentrate on all aspects of Sports Travel, whether it be arranging Club participating Tours/Holidays - Tournaments - Supporters Tours, and Special Events. Since 1970 our experienced staff have specialised in outbound group travel Worldwide and inbound group travel to the U.K. and Ireland.

DRAGON TOURS (U.K.) LTD. are licensed to offer FLIGHT ONLY (Scheduled and Charter); PACKAGE HOLIDAYS; ACCOMMODATION and CAR HIRE; obtaining SPECIAL OFFERS and LATE AVAILABILITY with our fully Computerised Information and Reservation System.

So if you are planning a Club Tour/Holiday - Tournament - Supporters Tour - Special Event - Flight Only or Package Holiday, then do not hesitate to contact us for a no obligation price quotation.

For Further Information Contact:

DRAGON TOURS (U.K.) LTD

TEL (01 495) 79 12 60

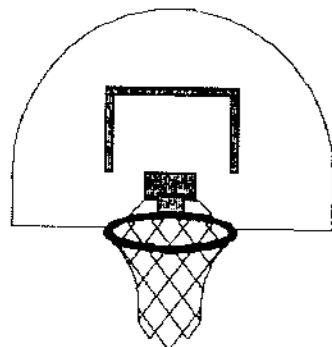
FAX (01 495) 79 12 66

Sole Official Tour Operator and Travel Agent for the:

British Baseball Federation

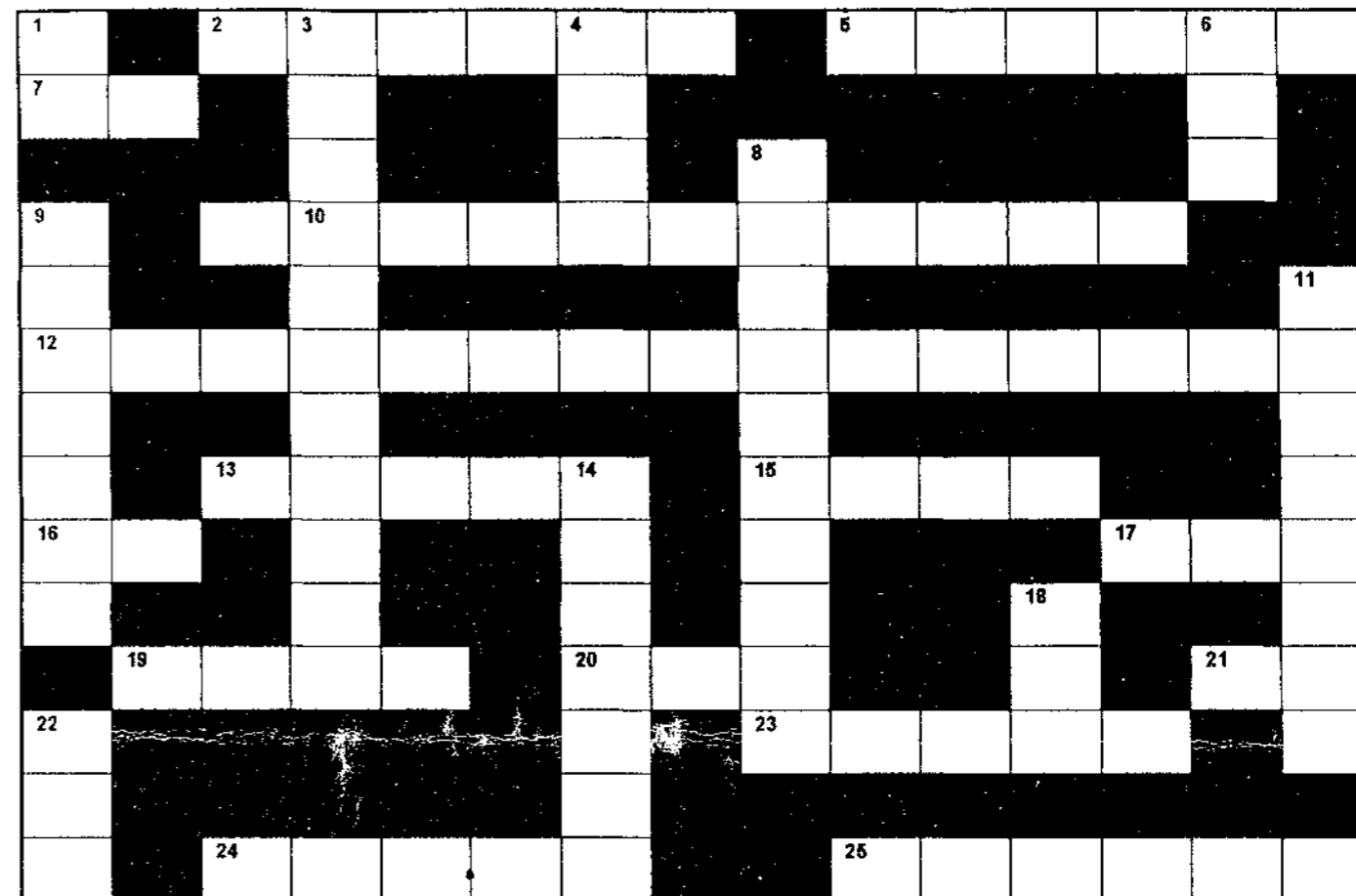
A Member of The Discovery Travel Group

Registered in England Reg No 2963665 VAT No 648 4309 20



BOSOX WORD

By Jan Macleod, Bournemouth B's



ACROSS

- Dick "Dr Strangelove" (6)
- Home Park (6)
- He was bought from St Louis for \$3,500 (2)
- Played for 17 years in right field (6,5)
- He established 19 club records (4,11)
- & 15. The "Double X" (5,4)
- Queen's Average??! (1,1)
- Pine ___ Rag (3)
- A relation of tricky dicky? (4)
- Harrelson - 1968's Perfect Fielder (3)
- Stuffy 1st baseman? (1,1)
- It's a monster!! (5)
- Lefty 3rd baseman who was sold to Yankees (5)
- The man responsible for the sale of the century (6)

DOWN

- Initially the first player to become league president (1,1)
- The greatest hitter? (3,8)
- They built him a house in the Bronx (4)
- American League East (1,1,1)
- He once lost 25 games in a season but he still made the Hall of Fame (3,7)
- Bill's balls-up in '86 World Series (7)
- Formerly from Plymouth? (8)
- Summer of '49 rivals (7)
- A doubter in rightfield? (3)
- The come in pairs (3)

PHA Leisure
American Sports Specialist
UK Agents

3, Yeats Close
Newport Pagnell
Buckinghamshire MK16 8RD
Tel/Fax (01908) 615632

You supply the talent.

We supply the rest.



EASTON

Official bat supplier to I.B.A.

577 Airport Blvd., Burlingame, CA 94010 FAX: (415) 337-1035

DUNDEE DODGERS ANNUAL AWARDS PRESENTATION 1995

This was held on Friday The 13th October. There were the usual malcontents present including "guests" from other teams. David Donaldson, his mum Karin, and Jim Wilde all from Tayside Cobras and Gordon Dean, our favourite Scotland Team Manager attended our much coveted awards ceremony. It is well known that Gordon enjoys an audience, so when he and Jim helped present the awards, there were times when we couldn't get Gordon to sit down!

The first to be presented were the trophies. Onfield manager, Gary Cumming, was voted Player of the Year while Alex Boyd took Rookie of the Year. David Seal received Gold Glove Outfield for the second consecutive year and rookie Dodger, Stan Kennedy, scooped Gold Glove Infield. The last two trophies which are based on statistics were Batting Champion, received by Alex MacBain (.478) and Most Valuable Player for the second year running was Brian Farkas.

Next was certificate awards which are all based on stats from 12 games. Brian Farkas won 3 outright - Best Slugger (.649), Most Stolen Bases (40) and Most Hits (27) and he was 1st equal with David Seal for Highest RBI (25) and first equal with Gary Cumming for Home Runs (2). Gary also won Most Runs (28) and Most Triples (2). Paul Moodie won Most Doubles (5) and Alex MacBain won a Highest on Base % of .625. All the above players (except Mr Seal who didn't show) were on the Scotland Team Squad this year.

With the Friday the 13th theme in mind, the "Much Acclaimed" Bodger Awards were revamped (pardon the pun) into a more bogey man look with the authenticating signatures provided by Freddy Krueger and Hannibal Lecter instead of Charlie Brown and

Mickey Mouse as in previous years. For those of you fortunate people who have never heard them, Dundee Bodger Awards are for silly plays, embarrassing acts of anything similar connected to the world of baseball. I say "world" because this year we haven't restricted the "lucky" recipients to our own team, everyone is at risk. So be careful in the future because you'll never know who's watching A highest even number (34) were printed from a possible 71 suggests!! A sample are as follows:

Strike Out King / Wooden Spoon (17)
The Brass Neck Award - for asking the rich winner if she would kindly donate the £50 Raffle Prize back to the club.

Harry Carpenter Lifetime Achievement Award - for always giving everyone a really interesting breakdown of every play he makes.

Most Offensive Girlfriend Award
Most Offensive Boyfriend Award (Girlfriend of above)

Most Inaudible Play Call Award
The Florence Nightingale Award - for making Halibut cycle to the hospital with blood gushing from his eye.

Gold Face Outfield Award - for his ability to catch flyballs with his face.

Best Put Out Of A Ghost Runner

The Ray Bans Award - for wearing sunglasses no matter how dull it is.

The Last Fox-trot In Alyth Award - for running into 3rd base "slow, slow, quick, quick, slow" whilst he base coach was shouting "Lo, Lo....."

The Walk Right In Award - for not bothering to attend Scotland trials and being picked for the squad.

The Lead Off Batter Award - for showing the way forward to the Scotland team by consistently striking out.

The Chip Shop Glove Ownership Award - for leaving the glove he

bought from Gary and still hasn't paid for, in the Alyth chippie.

The Early Warning Award - for requiring at least six weeks notice of a game, so he can make other arrangements for getting laid.

Mr Dependable Award - for being solely responsible for our only forfeit of the season (the last five awards went to the same person)

The Saddam Hussein Award - for his diplomatic skills

Boomerang Pitching Award - for best use of backstop

Mr Clean Award - for stealing bases without every sliding or diving.

The Brotherly Love Award - for when brother A hit a line drive straight into brother B when he was pitching at batting practice.

The following Bodgers are outwith the team:

The Hostess With The Mostest Award - for feeding the entire Cobras Team at his house after a game (Reiver)

The Telly Savales "Who Loves Ya Baby" Award - because he says he loves everyone (Pirate)

Umpire Of The Year Award - for frequently consulting the rule book and over-ruling base umpires (Independent Umpire)

MVP Award - even if he isn't playing and **Most Unbiased Mother** (Cobra)

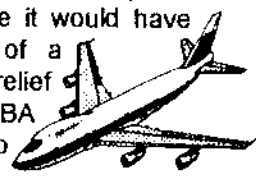
The Unsporting Award - for taking a free lift to Alyth then claiming a forfeit against us so his team could get in the play-offs (Cobra)

Windmills And Clogs Award - for constantly telling everyone about his Dutch bird and moving to Holland (A certain bearded ex-Cobra who's actually finally gone to Holland!)

**Brian Edwards
Dundee Dodgers**

Was it real or just an Illusion?

Did anyone notice a sudden gust of wind from the east on the afternoon of Sunday 29 October? I'm surprised if you didn't because it would have been the result of a collective sigh of relief from the IBA delegates who landed at Brussels airport on a Cubana airlines flight from Havana, Cuba.



After spending the last 16 hours on a plane where the seats folded forward, the food was inedible, the in-flight movie non-existent and the leg room enough to upset one of Snow White's best friends, we finally touched down and applause rang out through the plane. The reverse thrust of the plane's engines at the same time had disturbed the contents of the toilets situated near our seats. I jokingly commented aloud how useful the oxygen masks would be now to negate the smell. I then looked up. There were no oxygen masks. Had we had cause to check this before we left Havana I doubt whether we would have boarded the plane, however now we all saw the funny side of it.

We were returning from the 1995 IBA

Congress, which El Presidente, Steve Herbert and myself had attended on behalf of the BBF. We eventually arrived in Havana after a long journey through the airports of Leeds Bradford, Heathrow, Brussels, Orly, Santiago de Cuba and finally Havana before being escorted by coach to our hotel approximately 10 miles outside Havana. We had travelled with the other European delegates; Ulf Steinvall from Sweden, Anne Murphy from Ireland, Freddy Steger from Switzerland, Wilf 'Schmetterling' Bialek and Martin Miller from Germany, as well as my room mate for the week Tore Rismyr from Norway to name but a few.

We stayed at the Hotel Panamericano complex which was constructed for the 1991 Panamerican games. It was similar to an Olympic Village, the majority of which has now been turned over to the local residents. Our residence Hotel Las Brisas made Faulty Towers look like the Waldorf Astoria.



Our apartment was apparently one of the better ones in the complex and after a few days of being a cockroaches breakfast it all became a bit much for El Pres and he retreated across the road to Hotel Panamericano and the luxury of a hot shower and comfy bed. We stayed put. A TV and fridge full of beer was all we required and having found out the result of the first game of the World Series we looked forward to inviting everyone around to our humble abode to watch game two. However despite being only 70 miles away from the United States we were told the devastating news that the game would not be shown live and all we could see were highlights on ESPN2!

We consoled ourselves by going on a taxi tour of Havana and alighted at La Bogueta Del Medio one of Ernest Hemingway's haunts. Tore was distraught after being told they had no daiquiris at the place where they were invented! This was our first indication of some of the problems the islanders face.

The locals thoughts on the blockade and life in Cuba were quite philosophical. If they let it get to them they would be permanently depressed. Most thought Fidel Castro was a good leader and that the blockade was unfortunate. They welcomed visitors and were very friendly people.

Monday saw the start of the congress which was scheduled to last two days. The hotel where it was held was like the Waldorf Astoria. Air-conditioned and fountains in the foyer, it seemed wrong somehow that whilst most of the islands inhabitants were struggling to survive there should be so much excess. Each delegate had a set of headphones which simultaneously translated the various speakers during the congress. The whole congress was completed in one 10 hour session.

One of my main purposes of attending the congress was to meet the other delegates and to exchange ideas. It was interesting to hear at the congress the IBA's commitment to the Internet. More details on Great Britain on the Internet will feature in next month's Brit-Ball.

Speaking to the other delegates it was interesting to hear how they ran their various federations and what problems they have. Anne Murphy in Ireland has the offer of a purpose built facility but can't get the land, Wilf from Germany explained the lack of baseball diamonds in Germany, the Israeli delegate again had a problem with land - plenty of desert but the sandstorms make fly balls difficult to field! In Norway and Sweden the cold weather shortens their season. Overall it would appear that we are luckier than most countries.

Later in the week the Intercontinental Cup got underway and we travelled into Havana to watch Korea take on Japan. The Japanese jumped on the Korean pitcher from the first pitch and ran out easy 11-2 victors. The stadium, Estadio Latinamericano was comparable to any Major League ball park however the behind scenes facilities were severely lacking. Sport is free in Cuba so entrance to games is also free and I was surprised that more people didn't attend the games, in a country where baseball is the No 1

sport. We stayed at the stadium all day as Holland were due to play Cuba in the evening.

The opening ceremony lasted about half an hour with each team led out Olympic style behind their flag and local children putting on a flag waving display.



The whole spectacle was very well orchestrated. When the game got underway I think the Cuban pitcher got the shock of his life when the lead off Dutch hitter drilled his first pitch for a stand up double. The Dutch led for 2½ innings by 1-0 and the European delegation sat with their fingers crossed urging them on. However, the Cubans finally awoke and cruised to an easy victory. The Dutch team were a credit to Europe.

On the Friday we went to see Nicaragua vs Cuba. This was a very exciting game, the Cubans led 1-0 then the Nicaraguans hit a two run homer and led until the eighth inning by 2-1. Their pitcher threw a great game striking out Linares, Kindelan and Mesa on a regular basis and it looked as though we were about to witness a major upset. However after surrendering a double, the manager, in my opinion, panicked and replaced him with a relief pitcher who was not in the same class. The starter left to a standing ovation and the Cubans tied it in the bottom of the ninth to take the game into extra innings. In the bottom of the tenth with the bases loaded Omar Linares, currently the greatest amateur player, drove in the winning run to end the game and secure victory.

Eventual winners of the championships were Cuba, beating Japan 4-1 in the final.

During the course of the week I think it can be safely said that everyone who attended the congress went home with happy memories of Cuba, many new friends, and for some of us a rash!

Kevin Macadam

PUZZLE CORNER

Lost Locations

(Devised by Will Cosgrave)

You are an eminent baseball historian researching a pioneer league. You know that there were 8 teams with nick-names of animals or birds all ending in 's'.

Each square of the map-grid below is identified by the letter at the ends of the rows; for example, to top right-hand square is ABTY; the bottom left-hand square is BCKS. When you find a square whose letters spell a suitable nick-name mark it with a star (*) and then find the remaining teams' names and locations.

	B	S	R	L	O	L	S	Y	
T									B
U									S
E									K
H									S
A									J
W									S
S									A
K									S
	C	A	M	O	G	S	Y	A	

Answers to last month's puzzles are as follows:

- Bury Saints
- Eltham Eagles
- Fintry Braves
- Sutton Royals
- York Bullfrogs
- Ashton Bobcats
- Crawley Giants
- Chelmer Cougars
- Reading Raiders
- Leicester Hawks

Boothferry Trophies Limited



Suppliers to the
British Baseball Federation

For all your baseball trophy requirements call 01482 226459

94 Spring Bank, Hull, North Humberside, HU3 1QH

**BRITISH BASEBALL FEDERATION AND
MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL INTERNATIONAL**



1996 COACHING CLINIC



**Friday 19 January
- Sunday 21 January**

The 1996 British Baseball Federation and Major League Baseball International Coaching Clinic will be held at Hopwood Hall College, Hopwood Campus, Manchester.

This is the fourth clinic of its kind and will be building on the success of its predecessors. The BBF and MLBI are pleased to announce that Houston Astros manager, Terry Collins, along with Brent Strom, pitching coach of the Houston Astros, will be the main speakers at this year's event. They will be assisted by Ralph Rago, the Great Britain manager and the Junior clinic will be run by Alan Ashkinazy from Pony Baseball.

Strom has been a pitching coach in the Astros organisation for the last five years and during a career cut short by injury pitched for the New York Mets, Cleveland Indians and the San Diego Padres.

Collins was appointed Astros manager in 1994 and spent the majority of his playing career with the Dodgers. He turned his hand to managing in 1981 and spent much of the 80's managing the Dodgers AAA affiliate, the Albuquerque Dukes.

Ashkinazy played in the Red Sox minor league organisation for four years and coached high school ball for six years. He has been a Pony Baseball coach for the last five years and coached the Greensboro Palomino team to victory in the 1993 World Series.

Rago has coached for thirty five years and most recently for University California Davis where he held the position of Assistant Head Coach and Recruiting Co-ordinator. There will also be a MLB Umpire present running an umpires clinic at the event and details of this person will be made available as soon as possible.

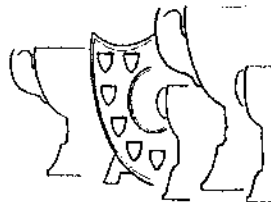
There will also be a MLB Umpire present running an umpires clinic at the event and details of this person will be made available as soon as possible.

The facilities are on a par with Cranfield University where last year's clinic was staged and accommodation is

available on a first come first served basis at a very reasonable price. The College is situated 35 minutes from Manchester Airport, 5 minutes from Castleton railway station (via Manchester Victoria) and within easy reach of all main motorways. The campus is situated 20 minutes from the centre of Manchester.

Also at the clinic there will be a BBF exhibition stand to give advice to teams on assistance available from the BBF and outside bodies. There will also be application forms available so that you may apply for grant funding, other ideas on how to raise money and details of how to develop your ground to name a few.

Once again the BBF Annual Dinner will be held on the Saturday evening with the presentation of the 1995 BBF Coaching and Player Awards, an auction of baseball equipment, souvenirs and a raffle.



It is also hoped that Top Athletic Facility Expert from Florida, Floyd Perry, will be in attendance running a Grounds Maintenance Seminar. We are also aiming to run scoring and umpiring clinics at both beginners and CEB advanced levels alongside the main coaching clinic. Watch out in future editions of Brit-Ball for more details of these clinics.

The clinic will commence on Friday night at 7.30pm with registration commencing at 5.00pm. The clinic will close at 3.00pm on Sunday. A detailed programme and directions to the college will be sent to you upon receipt of your registration form.

To secure your place at the clinic please book as soon as possible. If you are interested in attending the dinner only, then this is possible however as places are limited priority will go to the clinic attendees.

You can also pay for the clinic by instalments between now and January. Just send in your registration form with a £20 deposit and we will then provide you with all the necessary details.

Whether you are travelling from abroad or within the UK, let Dragon Tours arrange your transport. Dragon Tours are the Official Travel Agent of the BBF and can arrange all types of transport so that you can get to the clinic. For further details call Ceri on 01495 791260 or fax on 01495 791266.

**1996 MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL COACHING CLINIC
REGISTRATION FORM**

I would like to participate in the 1996 Coaching Clinic:

Name:			
Address:			
		Postcode:	
Telephone No:		Date of Birth:	
Team Name (if applicable)			
I enclose the following sum of money:			
Clinic	£		
Dinner (Saturday Evening)	£		
Accommodation	£		
I would like to share a room with:			
TOTAL ENCLOSED:	£		
All cheques should be made payable to the BRITISH BASEBALL FEDERATION			

FEE STRUCTURE

Adult BBF Member (£20 if booked before 1.1.96)	£25.00
Adult Non Member	£35.00
Junior - under 16 (MUST be accompanied by a responsible adult)	£20.00
Team Rates	1 extra free clinic place per group of 10
Dinner which includes: Dinner Auction of Equipment and Souvenirs Annual Coaching and NPL Player Awards Presentation	£12.50 After Dinner Speakers Raffle
Accommodation - Twin rooms only £17.50 per person per night bed and breakfast	£35.00 for weekend

Please return your completed form and money **BY FRIDAY 12 JANUARY 1996** to:

1996 Coaching Clinic
British Baseball Federation
66 Belvedere Road
Hessle
North Humberside
HU13 9JJ

"OK" Let's Get Straight To The Points



FBI are out in front when it comes to sorting you out with the kit you need at a price you can afford. Add this to the new points system which many teams are switching on to and you have a winning combination

FBI would like to Say a big Baseball Thank you to

**These Guys have
really got the
Point**



The Birmingham Braves, The Chichester Kyotes, The Brighton Buccaneers, Essex Arrows, Hull Mets, London Wolves, The Birmingham Brewers, The Dundee Dodgers, Burgess Hill Red Hats, Darlington Demons, Bristol Black Sox, Totteridge Trailblazers, Liverpool Trojans, Droitwich Spatans, Kirkaldy Baseball Club, Nottingham Pirates, West Midland Razorbacks, Manchester Cougars, Bracknell Blazers, Sheffield Bladerunners. Brentwood Stags.

Can we be of service to you soon ?

And for all you other teams out there that have not had the FBI experience the season is not over for you yet. FBI are getting ready to have a mad, bad, end of season sale. All those established customers will get the details first, so if you are not on the hit list what are you waiting for.

**Give us a call
0171 837 5100**