

BRIT BALL

The Official Voice of the British Baseball Federation

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BRIT BALL

The Official Voice of the British Baseball Federation

Issue 38

85p

September 1996

GREAT BRITAIN SENIOR SQUAD VICTORIOUS IN EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS



17 - 0 on the slaughter rule. The GB Technical Commissioner, Ted Gerard-Thesingh, said after the game that he had never seen the GB squad play so well in all the many years he had been involved with Baseball.

The GB Senior squad had a successful summer. The climax to their season was winning the championship for the European B Pool Baseball Championship in Hull on 10 August 1996, against the Czech Republic.

The team played 20 games this past summer, the most games a GB squad has played in one season. The team ended up with an excellent 16 wins and 4 losses. The 4 losses were at the Flanders International Tournament held at Brasschat, Belgium. After those 4 defeats the team then proceeded to win their next 16 games in a row. This feat is a first in the history of British Baseball.

The European Baseball Tournament B Pool had its opening ceremony at Hull Sunday 4th August. Ten countries took part with a prize of the two top teams winning promotion to the A Pool for the 1997 season. Countries taking part were, Croatia, Austria, Slovakia, Yugoslavia, Lithuania, Czech Republic, Poland, Norway, Ireland and Great Britain.

GB opened their tournament with a convincing win against Yugoslavia. The game ended with final score of

GB took Yugoslavia apart with some excellent pitching by Ray Brownlie of Birmingham Bandits. The strong infield held them to only 2 hits. Simon Radge on 3rd base performed some excellent plays along with Josh Chetwynd at catcher.

Frank Parker of Hull Mets demonstrated how to hit the ball scoring 1 but creating 3 runs batted in. Joe Yarnold (Birmingham Bandits), Brian Thurston (Hull Mets) and Alan Bloomfield (London Warriors) each scored 3 runs. Peter Arthur and Josh Chetwynd (Leeds Owls) each scored 2.

The game played on Monday 6th August ended GB 3 Croatia 1. This was a game dominated by defensive play. Powerful pitching by G. Marusic for Croatia and Gavin Marshall for GB prevented either offence from amassing a score.

(Continued on page 11)

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★ happening in British Baseball,
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DON'T MISS THE BRITISH BASEBALL EVENT OF 1996

Saturday 28 and Sunday 29 September 1996

1996 Premier Division Final

1996 BBF / PONY Youth Final

Coldhams Common, Newmarket Road, Cambridge

(see page 14 for further details)

ENQUIRIES

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British Baseball Federation,
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North Humberside, HU13 9JJ
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<http://ourworld.compuserve.com:80/homepages/SRHERBERT/bbf.htm>

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Kevin Macadam (01482 643551)

Sponsorship and Event Enquiries:
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Congratulations

to Sally and Craig Savage on the birth of Tyler James at 8.18am on Monday 12 August. Tyler weighed in at a healthy 6lb 6oz despite being three and a half weeks early!



Brit-Ball

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The above items will also be available to view at the 1996 BBF Annual General Meeting.

Please contact:

Jan Macleod
Bournemouth Baseball Club
01202 770209

Brit-Ball

Page 3

BBF MARKETPLACE

The following items are available from the BBF to help develop your club.

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.

The Great Game of Baseball - an A2 poster explaining the game and its history. Ideal for displaying in your local library, sports centre

and schools to encourage people to play.

The Sporting News Official Baseball Rules - 1995 Edition - SPECIAL PRICE - only £1 per copy - can your team afford to be without them.

BBF Scratch Cards - what easier way can there be for your team to raise funds. Available at a special price of 15p a card.

BBF Baseball Camp Handbook - This 45 page book is a must for anyone organising a baseball camp this summer. It full of ideas for schedules, lesson plans, posters, advertising, competitions etc to make your camp a success plus examples of certificates and awards. Available at a cost of £3.50.

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BBF Polo Shirts - Again an excellent way to promote the British Baseball Federation. These shirts are available in red, royal blue, or white with the BBF logo on the left breast. We have all sizes in stock (S, M, L or XL) at an excellent price of £13 each.

European Championship Caps - An excellent high quality souvenir from this year's event. Available in royal blue, red or black with the baseball, stars and Union Jack logo at a cost of £10.

European Championship Polo Shirts - Again an excellent souvenir from the championships, available in red, royal blue, or white with the baseball, stars and Union Jack logo on the left breast. We have all sizes in stock (S, M, L or XL) at an excellent price of £13 each.

European Championship T-shirts - These are white t-shirts with the 1996 European Baseball Championships logo on the front. Available in S, M, L, XL and XXL at a bargain price of £10.

Scoremaster Scorebooks - Let's make the statisticians lives easier and all use the same scorebook - the official scorebook of the BBF - available at a cost of £4.00.

BBF Line-up Pads - feel ashamed when you present the umpire with your line up on a scrap of paper you found in the bottom of your bag? Get yourself a line-up pad. Each pad contains twenty quadruple sets which will last you the season. At £4.25 a pad can you afford to be without?

BBF Pin Badges - Identifies you with the BBF - excellent as end of season gifts for players - these iron based three colour badges are a snip at £1 each.

If you require more information on any of the above please contact:

British Baseball Federation, 66 Belvedere Road, Hessle, North Humberside, HU13 9JJ
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SENIORS**4 August**

London Wolverines 0 Gillingham Dodgers 9

11 August

Premier Division North

Menwith Hill Pirates 5 Nottingham Steelers 4
Menwith Hill Pirates 8 Nottingham Steelers 2

Northern Conference

Liverpool Tigers 14 Cartmel Valley Lions 5
Winning pitcher was Mark King in this strike out bonanza. For the Tigers Bobby Alger pitched 4 innings with 6 strike outs and Mark King pitched 5 innings with 10 strike outs and had only one hit. For the Lions Hideo Haga was the losing pitcher, but with 17 strike outs.

18 August

Premier Division North

Liverpool Trojans 0 Leeds Owls 9
Liverpool Trojans 6 Leeds Owls 16

Birmingham Bandits 6 Hull Mets 5
Winning pitcher Ray Brownlie, losing pitcher Andy Wiltshire.

Birmingham Bandits 11 Hull Mets 9
Winning pitcher Martin Godsall. One home run from Frank Parker of the Mets and two from Ray Brownlie of the Bandits

Menwith Hill Pirates 9 Hull Warriors 1
Menwith Hill Pirates 9 Hull Warriors 1

Premier Division South

London Warriors 7 Cambridge Monarchs 0
London Warriors 7 Cambridge Monarchs 0

Hounslow Rangers 16 Enfield Spartans 3
Winning pitcher was Don Knight with Steve Pollard hitting a home run for the Rangers.
Hounslow Rangers 8 Enfield Spartans 6
Winning pitcher was James Marshall

London Wolves 6 Brighton Buccaneers 10
London Wolves 16 Brighton Buccaneers 15

Essex Arrows 22 Hemel Red Sox 9
The Arrows, trailing 6-5 going into the third, blew open the game with 8 runs off reliever Booy. Highlight of the game was Reggie Thompson's 3-run homer for the Arrows.

Essex Arrows 24 Hemel Red Sox 18
A much closer game with the Arrows taking an early lead. The Sox pegged them back, thanks mainly due to a Sean Ozolins grand slam in the second, so that it was scoreless after seven innings. The Arrows came back in the 8th to win the game handsomely.

Northern Conference

Liverpool Tigers 9 Stretford A's 0
Liverpool Tigers 9 Stretford A's 0

Hessle Apaches Sheffield Bladerunners

Manchester Cougars 14 Birmingham Brewers 16

Cartmel Valley Lions 11 Preston Bobcats 13
Winning pitcher Damian Mullen

Newark Yankees 6 Barnsley Strikers 20

Scottish Conference

Dundee Dodgers 32 Edinburgh Reivers 16
Winning pitcher Darryll Plantinga. MVP of the game for the Dodgers was Ryan Smart with both excellent fielding and batting.

Glasgow Comets 0 Tayside Cobras 9

Southern Conference Division One

Tunbridge Wells Royals 9 Hounslow Hawks 0

Arun Panthers 15 City Slick Sidewinders 7

Stevenage Knights 0 Burgess Hill Red Hats 9

Southern Conference Division Two

Gillingham Dodgers 9 Guildford Mavericks 9

Southern Conference Division Three

Waltham Abbey Arrows 20 Guildford Mudcats 19

Fulham Flames 9 Bournemouth B2's 24
Winning pitcher Ian Macleod

Northern Conference

Newark Yankees 40 Sheffield Bladerunners 39

West Midlands Razorbacks 14 Liverpool Tigers 28
Winning pitcher was Mark King, losing pitcher Dave Berry. For the Tigers Craig Edgar went 4 for 5 with 3 doubles and a grand slam and 7 RBI's, Mark King went 4 for 6 with 4 RBI's and Mike Snaith went 3 for 6 with 5 RBI's.

Manchester Cougars 9 Stretford A's 0

Manchester Cougars 9 Stretford A's 0

Southern Conference Division One

Stevenage Knights 7 Hounslow Hawks 0
Stevenage Knights 7 Hounslow Hawks 0

City Slick Sidewinders 16 Tunbridge Wells Royals 0

Milton Keynes Truckers 12 Arun Panthers 10
Winning pitcher Garth Werner

Burgess Hill Red Hats 0 Croydon Pirates 7
Burgess Hill Red Hats 2 Croydon Pirates 29

Southern Conference Division Two

Bracknell Blazers 7 Brighton Buccaneers B 0
Bracknell Blazers 7 Brighton Buccaneers B 0

Gillingham Dodgers 9 Guildford Mavericks 0

August 25

Premier Division South

Essex Arrows 11 Brighton
Buccaneers 13
Essex Arrows 8 Brighton
Buccaneers 2

Enfield Spartans 9 Cambridge
Monarchs 4

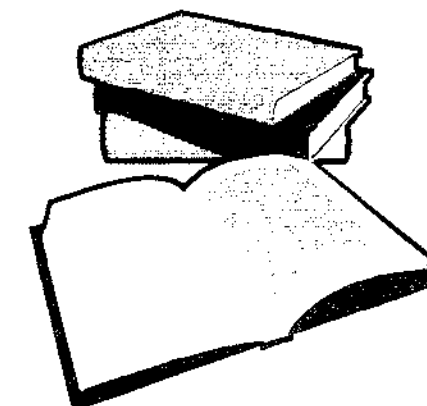
Hemel Red Sox 0 London
Warriors 7
Hemel Red Sox 0 London
Warriors 7

Hounslow Rangers 10 London
Wolves 0
Hounslow Rangers 6 London
Wolves 16

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London Wolverines 27 Brentwood Stags 13
Winning pitcher John Thomas with 7 strike outs

Caterham A's 37 Tiptree Rays 2
Tiptree Rays 3 Caterham A's 24

Southern Conference Division Three

Guildford Mudcats 16 Waltham Abbey 15
Winning pitcher Pedro Artega. Guildford needed 3 runs in the bottom of the ninth to win and managed it. Simon Sparrow hit a 3 run homer.

1 September

Premier Division South

Essex Arrows 3 Brighton Buccaneers 16

Enfield Spartans 9 Hemel Red Sox 3
Winning Pitcher Steve Hibbert
Enfield Spartans 7 Hemel Red Sox 2
Winning Pitcher Iain Lanario

London Warriors 16 London Wolves 1
Alan Smith took the win for the Warriors with Martin

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Sawyer taking the loss
London Warriors 10 London Wolves 0
Winning pitcher Chris Ackley, losing pitcher Jon Sawyer

Northern Conference

Barnsley Strikers 24 Preston Bobcats 26

Liverpool Trojans 17 Hesse Apaches 4

Sheffield Bladerunners 9 Manchester Cougars 0

Birmingham Brewers 0 Newark Yankees 9

Stretford A's 0 Cartmel Valley Lions 9

Southern Conference Division One

Bournemouth B's 22 Croydon Pirates 21
A close fought 10 inning game

Arun Panthers 9 Milton Keynes Truckers 0

Milton Keynes Truckers 0 Bournemouth B's 9

Southern Conference Division Two

Gillingham Dodgers 22 Brighton Buccaneers B 13

Southern Conference Division Three

Bournemouth B2's 9 Fulham Flames 0

8 September

Northern Conference

Preston Bobcats 5 Liverpool Tigers 23
Winning pitcher Bobby Alger, with a home run from Ged Bassey for the Tigers. This game secured the Tigers the 1996 Northern Conference title.

Barnsley Strikers 32 Hesse Apaches 6
Winning pitcher Chris Allott

Sheffield Bladerunners 39 Newark Yankees 19
Lee Vaughn and James Ellis scored home runs.

Scottish Conference

Dundee Dodgers 17 Tayside Cobras 19
This game was also the Tayside Cup. Winning pitcher was David Donaldson in a 10 inning game.

Southern Conference Division Two

Brentwood Stags 9 London Wolverines 0

Guildford Mudcats 9 Fulham Flames 0

Juniors

3 August

Scotland

Dundee Dragons 16 Alyth Adders 5
Winning pitcher Chris Outlaw with MVP for the day going to Gareth Criteon.

Aberdeen Reds 7 Edinburgh Blue Jays 0

17 August

National Play-Offs Round One

Hesse Apaches 22 Sibley Vikings 4
Winning pitcher was Lee Englestone who struck out 4. Karl Riley came on in relief striking out 7. For the Apaches Richard White hit a triple. Good defense won the game.

Plymouth Bladerunners lost Windsor Bears won

Trafford Saints 14 Dundee Dragons 15
Home runs by Jason Cromes and Drew Latimer for the Saints and a grand slam for Wayne Harvey and home run for Chris Outlaw of the Dragons

Tonbridge Bobcats 7 Hemel Red Sox 26

31 August

National Play-off Semi Finals

Dundee Dragons 8 Hesse Apaches 3
After a mammoth drive of 7 hours for the Apaches, the Dragons took control of the game in the first inning, running in 5 runs with the aid of a 3 run homer from Chris Outlaw. Wayne Harvey struck out 7 to take the win for the Dragons, with Chris Outlaw striking out 6 in relief. Karl Riley took the loss for the Apaches, striking out 5, with Lee Englestone striking out 4 in 2 innings in relief. Apart from the first inning this game was dominated by excellent pitching and defense from both teams.

Hemel Red Sox 19 Windsor Little League 13
This was an extremely close fought game, with Windsor managing to get within one run after the sixth inning. However Hemel finally won the game scoring a further 5 runs in the 7th inning. Winning pitcher for the Sox was Olaf Booy, losing pitcher Luke Wespieser. Windsor wish Hemel the best of luck going into the final at the end of September.

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BRITISH BASEBALL LEAGUE STANDINGS

9 September 1996

PREMIER DIVISION - NORTH

	WINS	LOSSES	GAMES BACK
Menwith Hill Pirates	16	2	
Birmingham Bandits	15	3	1
Nottingham Stealers	10	8	6
Hull Mets	10	8	6
Leeds City Royals	7	11	9
Hull Warriors	4	14	12
Liverpool Trojans	1	17	15

PREMIER DIVISION - SOUTH

	WINS	LOSSES	GAMES BACK
London Warriors	19	2	
Cambridge Monarchs	12	9	7
Enfield Spartans	12	9	7
Brighton Buccanneers	11	10	8
Hounslow Rangers	11	10	8
London Wolves	8	13	11
Essex Arrows	8	13	11
Hemel Red Sox	3	18	16

NORTH - DIVISION ONE EAST

	WINS	LOSSES	GAMES BACK
Barnsley Strikers	9	3	
Hessle Apaches	7	5	2
Sheffield Bladerunners	4	8	5
Newark Yankees	4	8	5

NORTH - DIVISION ONE WEST

	WINS	LOSSES	GAMES BACK
Liverpool Tigers	15	3	
Preston Bobcats	14	4	1
Birmingham Brewers	12	6	3
Manchester Cougars	9	9	6
West Midlands Razorbacks	5	13	10
Stretford A's	4	14	11
Cartmel Valley Lions	4	14	11

SCOTLAND - DIVISION ONE

	WINS	LOSSES	GAMES BACK
Dundee Dodgers	5	4	
Glasgow Comets	4	3	0
Edinburgh Reivers	3	4	1
Tayside Cobras	4	5	1

SOUTH - DIVISION ONE

	WINS	LOSSES	GAMES BACK
Croydon Pirates	14	2	
Arun Panthers	14	2	0
Milton Keynes Truckers	12	4	2
Bournemouth B's	10	6	4
City Slick Sidewinders	9	7	5
Tunbridge Wells Royals	7	9	7
Burgess Hill Red Hats	4	12	10
Stevenage Knights	2	14	12
Hounslow Hawks	0	16	14

SOUTH - DIVISION TWO

	WINS	LOSSES	GAMES BACK
Gillingham Dodgers	13	1	
Bracknell Blazers	12	2	1
Caterham A's	8	6	5
Brighton Buccanneers B	5	9	8
Guildford Mavericks	6	8	7
Brentwood Stags	6	8	7
London Wolverines	3	11	10
Tiptree Rays	2	12	11

SOUTH - DIVISION THREE

	WINS	LOSSES	GAMES BACK
Cambridge Monarchs B	10	2	
Bournemouth B2's	8	4	2
Waltham Abbey Arrows	8	4	2
Fulham Flames	7	5	3
Guildford Mudcats	6	6	4
Bracknell Blazers	2	10	8
Eastbourne Mariners	1	11	9

POSITIONS VACANT

Premier Division Commissioner

Applications are invited for the above position. The applicant should have a commitment to senior baseball.

The role of the Premier Division Commissioner includes: fixture scheduling; liaison with clubs within the division and BBF Head Office; chairing Premier Division meetings, dealing with protests and disciplinary matters, attendance at BBF Board and Technical Committee meetings and the Annual General Meeting.

Travelling expenses will be paid for meeting attendance, along with postage and telephone expenses at the current BBF rates. This is not a salaried position.

If you are interested in the above position, please apply in writing, giving details of any relevant experience to BBF Head Office, 66 Belvedere Road, Hessle, HU13 9JJ

Youth Conference Commissioners North and South

Applications are invited for the above positions. Applicants should live in the respective conference area, and have a commitment to youth baseball.

The role of the Youth Conference Commissioners includes: fixture scheduling, liaison with clubs, chairing conference meetings, dealing with protests and disciplinary matters, attending BBF Technical Meetings and the Annual General Meeting.

Travelling expenses will be paid for the execution of these roles, along with postage and telephone expenses at the current BBF rates. This is not a salaried position.

If you are interested in the above position, please apply in writing, giving details of any relevant experience to BBF Head Office, 66 Belvedere Road, Hessle, HU13 9JJ

National Schools Development Officer

Applications are invited for the above position. Applicants should be involved in the education industry, preferably with experience of physical education. Knowledge and understanding of the Federation's current schools initiatives will be an advantage.

The role of the National Schools Development Officer will include: establishing a National Schools Baseball Association; establishing local and regional schools baseball associations; developing and organising local, regional and national schools competitions; working with examination boards to include baseball in their programmes; liaising with colleges and universities to include baseball in teacher training courses, developing INSET courses for teachers; liaising with the BBF Youth Development Officer.

Travelling expenses will be paid for the execution of this role, along with postage and telephone expenses at the current BBF rates. This is not a salaried position.

If you are interested in the above position, please apply in writing, giving details of any relevant experience to BBF Head Office, 66 Belvedere Road, Hessle, HU13 9JJ

ON THE MOVE....

Please note the following changes to your 1996 British Baseball Federation Handbook:

Scottish Conference Commissioner Dundee Dragons, Dundee Dodgers

The new telephone number for Brian Edwards is 01382 660085

Menwith Hill Pirates

2nd contact is now:

Jay Stichberry
Box 1174, Menwith Hill, Harrogate, HG3 2RF
Tel: 01423 780638

Premier Division Commissioner

Due to changes in his personal situation, Gerry Walmsley has had to resign from the Board and his role as Commissioner. Between now and the Annual General Meeting Rosemary Hancock will assume all Gerry's responsibilities. She can be contacted at the same address as Gerry, but has a new telephone number from 12 September: 01223 514643.

Youth Development Officer

With immediate effect Ian Smyth has a new telephone number: 0113 281 7150



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Croatia managed to scramble one home in the first inning after a rare defensive error by GB. GB could do nothing offensively until the 6th inning. At the top of the 6th, Peter Arthur replaced Joe Yarnold and was walked. He was moved on to third base by sacrifices by Brian Thurston and Andy Maltby. Frank Parker came up to bat. The Croats were well aware of Parker's ability with the bat being the only GB offensive player who had managed to connect with their pitching.

They opted to intentionally walk him, to prevent him batting in Arthur. The Croat catcher, B. Nehadic made an error allowing a passed ball which let Arthur run in and steal home levelling the scores at 1 - 1.

This cat and mouse stalemate situation continued until the top of the 11th inning. The Croat pitcher made some very rare loose pitches which the GB offence took advantage of. Arthur was walked and moved on by Thurston; in the same play an error in the Croat defence allowed both GB runners to advance. Arthur on third and Thurston on second. Alan Bloomfield hit with Arthur running in. Thurston was forced out at home plate on the next play. Maltby sacrificed again to allow Bloomfield to run in. This left the scores at 3 - 1 to GB.

Ralph Rago the GB coach changed pitchers. Darrin Ward came in to hold the Croats for the bottom of the 11th inning. In this tense situation he struck out 1, ground out 1 and the third was caught in deep centre field by Peter Arthur.

This was a good win by GB as Croatia were a strong side and were keen to beat GB putting their strongest pitcher on.

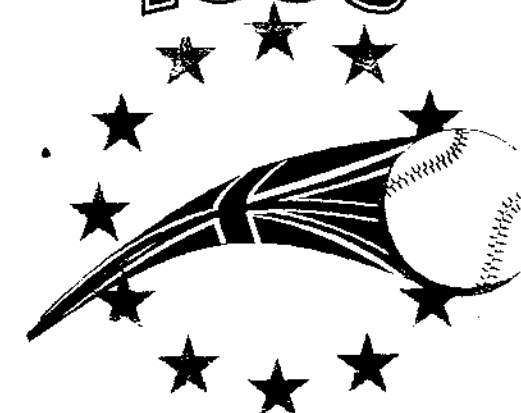
Great Britain finished at the top of group one of the European Baseball B Pool Championships with two wins against Slovakia and Austria on the 7th August. Joe Yarnold and Alan Bloomfield scored in the first inning to set the GB scoring steadily against Slovakia in a game that had been postponed since the Tuesday because of rain. By the sixth inning they had scored 9 runs.

The determination and liveliness of the East European team together with the excited support of their travelling fans gave GB a shock in the 6th inning as the Slovaks

scored 6 runs. Several changes were made by Ralph Rago (GB Manager). Pitcher, Peter Arthur had held the Slovaks well but was beginning to show signs of tiring as he was hit by batter after batter. Andy Wiltshire replaced him and was hit for a 3 run home run off his first pitch. He kept his confidence though and managed to prevent the Slovaks from scoring again.

Brian Thurston and Alan Bloomfield managed to score again in the top of the 9th inning leaving Slovakia to score 6 to win. At the bottom of the 9th, Rago turned to Darrin Ward again to close the game. Although he walked the first batter up he deserved his name as the 'Ice-man' as the next 3 batters were caught by Lee Evans twice and Joe Yarnold.

EUROPEAN Championships 1996



The afternoon game against Austria was the 4th in as many days. This situation is where the strength of the squad had to tell. On the bench for this game were Ray Brownlie and Frank Parker who was carrying an injury from the Slovakia game in the morning.

Once again GB managed to pull out a respectable lead in the early innings but were rocked and faltered in the 4th inning. Martyn Dutton managed to hold his pitching together to allow only 3 runs. Andy Wiltshire replaced Dutton in the 5th inning and managed to pitch out the game to a slaughter rule finish in the 8th inning.

Mark Vickers returning from injury to reclaim his place at short stop had 4 assists, one double play and 2 put outs. He also scored 2. Josh

Chetwynd proved his worth playing as designated hitter in this game and scored two.

GB began to show that there was strength in depth in the squad and were beginning to have the confidence of tournament champions.

On Friday 9 August the Great Britain Baseball Team secured themselves a place in the coveted CEB A Pool. In an extremely close fought semi-final game between GB and Lithuania, GB eventually came out winners by 11 runs to 10 in ten innings.

The Lithuanian team jumped to a 4 run lead in the second but the GB squad came back with four runs of their own in the bottom half of the inning. The Lithuanians then added three more runs only for GB to

pull away to lead 10-7.

However in the top of the ninth the Lithuanians tied the game to take it into extra innings and GB finally calmed everybody's nerves by scoring the winning run in the bottom of the tenth.

In the other semi-final the Czech Republic beat Austria. The top two finishing teams are promoted to the A Pool, which gives the two slots to GB and Czech Republic.

Saturday 10 August saw GB play in the final against the Czech Republic to find the tournament winners.

Promotion to the A Pool means that Great Britain have a chance to compete against Europe's elite and become part of the 2000 Olympics in Sydney.

GB rounded off a magnificent championship with a win in the final against the Czech Republic 6-5.

Having won promotion Ralph Rago was eager to ensure that the remainder of European A pool were aware that GB would be a force to be reckoned with next year in France.

GB started off faltering. They let one score in the first and second inning and another 2 in the 5th. They could one get one back in the bottom of the 5th. Ray Brownlie (pitcher) was managing to hold the Czech's and prevented their offence from scoring too much. He earned his personal award of best Win/Loss pitcher for the tournament.

By the 6th inning, the Czech pitcher, Brodsky was showing slight signs of tiring. This was seen by Brian Thurston, Alan Bloomfield and Peter Arthur. They managed to score to make the score even at 4-4.

At the bottom of the 7th the Czech pitcher was changed after he let GB score two more through Joe Yarnold and Simon Radge putting GB two ahead. In the top of the 8th an almighty swing of the bat by Talda for the Czech Republic sent the ball to the home run fence. It was obvious to everyone at the diamond except the umpires that the ball bounced inside the fence. The umpire gave Talda a home run, drawing them to within 1 run of GB.

Going in to the top of the 9th Brownlie just had to prevent them from scoring to win the match. His arm did not let him down. He struck out one and ground out two. The place erupted and GB players were in a heap on the diamond.

After the tournament Coach Rago commented "The coaching staff was and is very proud of the players that represented Great Britain in this tournament. We were proud of how they did not let themselves get distracted from the job of getting promoted and winning the championship. We would also like to thank the ground crews for the great job of getting the fields ready for the games. A special thanks goes to Ray Birch for his

outstanding job as Team Trainer".

The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Kingston upon Hull, along with CEB Executive Member and BBF President Stephen Herbert made the presentations, firstly to players who received individual awards:

Leading Hitter	Ales Nevatril	Czech Republic
Pitcher (ERA)	Dahir Karin	Croatia
Pitcher (Win-Loss)	Ray Brownlie	Great Britain
Most Runs Batted In	Tomas Pribyl	Czech Republic
Most Home Runs	Marek Rejman	Czech Republic
Most Stolen Bases	Vitoldas Pocopko	Lithuania
Most Runs Scored	Tomas Pribyl	Czech Republic
Outstanding Defensive Player	Ronald Kupka	Slovakia
Most Valuable Player	Ronald Kupka	Slovakia

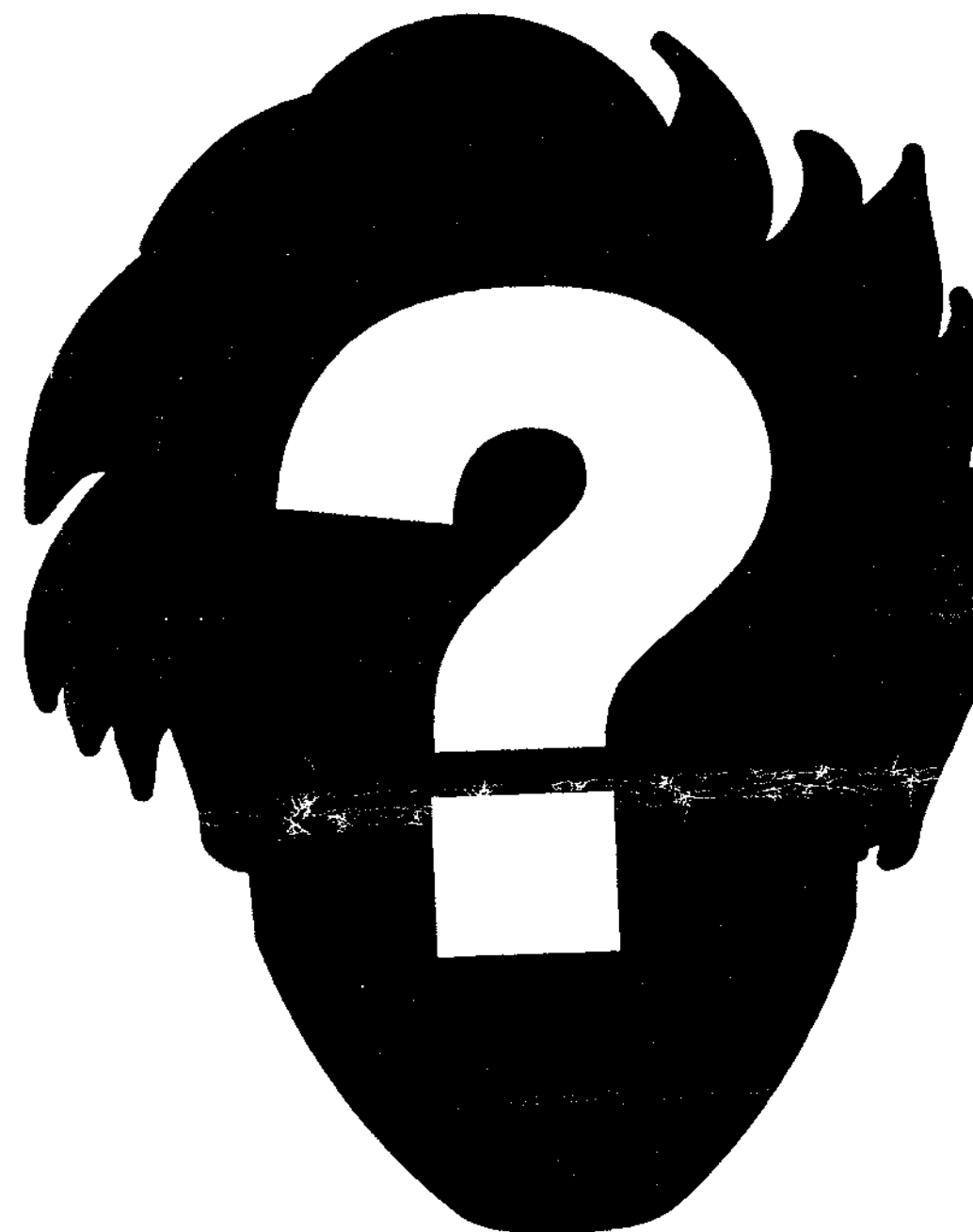
The top three teams were then presented with individual medals and a team trophy:

Gold	Great Britain
Silver	Czech Republic
Bronze	Lithuania

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

BRITISH BASEBALL
FEDERATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Sunday 8 December 1996

The venue and time will be announced in a future edition of Brit-Ball. Remember, every affiliated team, both senior and junior, are entitled to a vote. Make sure you use yours.



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person at the 1997 BBF Baseball Camp?

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Brit-Ball

Yesteryears Baseball is a new feature, which will provide an opportunity for our players of the past to recount their playing days. The information will also prove valuable historical information on our sport.

HOW THE GAME GOT ME

I've noticed over the last few months how old timers (yep that includes me) got into the game we all love so much, so I got to thinking why not tell how I became involved.

The year was 1915. Whilst serving King and Country I was ordered to pick up a number of vehicles from an American army base just outside a place called Cuffley, just north of Potters Bar.

Anyway, to cut the story down we arrived at this small camp. We were told there were three Diamond T's and Four Mack's to be driven back to our company but we would have to hang around for a while whilst the paperwork was being sorted out. So having time on our hands we decided to look around the camp so we set off on the scrounge, if you like, when all of a sudden we heard shouting on the far side of the camp, so we made our way over.

On arriving at the point where the shouting was coming from we were confronted by some fifteen to twenty soldier spectators watching a baseball game. Baseball I thought. I had seen it on the big screen once but not baseball live - I must watch I thought. If I remember right at least two or three batters came to bat and not once did one of them hit the ball.

So I had to open my mouth with remarks like 'up north were I come from the girls were I play this game and with smaller bats. That did it. Words I will not repeat came to my ears and the looks I got!

The next thing I knew was that a massive guy approaching me, I think they said he was a master Sergeant "so the girls

play it do they? How would you like to try to be a girl then and have a go?" Now let's face it when your with your mates you're never afraid - right! So I nodded my head and agreed to give it a try.

I was led to what I now know as the batters box and shown how to hold the bat. This became awkward until they realised I was left handed. Anyway at last I was ready, then it happened - swoosh, zip, frozen rope blue lightning, strike one, strike two, strike three, ya out.

Then it came, why didn't you hit the ball. But I didn't see it I said. Then the laughter and the hurting words arrived. Guess you'd best get back to the girls.

So after that I was determined to find out more about baseball and by 1948 I was playing in the Nottingham leagues and have loved the game ever since.

Benny Benson

So come on all you Old Timers, let's hear some on your memories. Handwritten notes will suffice for us to produce a story.



YESTERYEARS BASEBALL

1996 BRITISH BASEBALL LEAGUE
PREMIER DIVISION
CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL

1996 BBF / PONY YOUTH BASEBALL FINAL

Saturday 28 and Sunday 29 September 1996

Coldhams Common, Newmarket Road, Cambridge

Game Schedule:

Saturday	11.00am	Youth Final Hemel Red Sox v Dundee Dragons
	2.00pm	Premier Division Series Final Game 1
Sunday	11.00am	Premier Division Series Final Game 2
	2.00pm approx	Premier Division Series Final Game 3 (This game is dependent upon the result of the first two games, ie if one team win two straight games, the third game will not be played)

Refreshments will be available

The following is the schedule for the Premier Division Championship Series (each game is a 3 game series, each game 9 innings):

7 & 8 September	Game A	Menwith Hill Pirates	V	Hounslow Rangers
	Game B	London Warriors	V	Nottingham Stealers
	Game C	Birmingham Bandits	V	Brighton Buccaneers
	Game D	Enfield Spartans	V	Hull Mets
21 & 22 September	Winner of Game A	V	Winner of Game D	at Menwith Hill
	Winner of Game B	V	Winner of Game C	at London Warriors
28 & 29 September	Premier Division Championship Series Final			



The British Youth Series was held in Leeds on 24 / 25 August. This was an invitational tournament for national teams for players aged 13-15 years. Four teams entered the tournament England, Ireland, Scotland and a team representing the US Forces.

For all the teams this was a new experience, and for the players involved it was their first taste of international baseball. The tournament was run on a round robin basis, each team playing three games.

At the end of the tournament the standings were:

Scotland	3 - 0
England	1 - 2
US Forces	1 - 2
Ireland	1 - 2

US Forces
Ireland

1 - 2

The Scottish team were worthy victors, playing good solid defense, and having a potent offense, who led the tournament in hits and home runs.

ended on a tie breaker, after all the first tie

Positions 2-4 were decided on a tie breaker, after all three teams finishing with 1 - 2 records. The first tie breaker was the head to head result between the teams. However this could not be used as all three teams beat each other, ie England defeated Ireland, Ireland defeated US Forces and US Forces defeated England. The next tie breaker was runs conceded, where England came out on top, conceding fewer runs.

Every player at the tournament was presented with a medal, and the inaugural British Youth Series Champions, Scotland, were awarded the winners trophy.

My thanks must go out to all the coaches and players for making this an enjoyable and easy tournament to run. My thanks also go to the members of the Leeds Owls for their help in setting up the field, umpiring etc, and to the many parents who helped in many different ways.

Overall the tournament was a success upon which we hope to build, making this an annual event.

Jan Smyth
Youth Development Officer

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	*5	38
	*10	



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Contains all the contact details and fixtures for the 1997 season. An excellent buy for any intrepid baseball fan.

To reserve your copy (to be published March 1997) please return the form below along with a cheque for £5.00 made payable to the British Baseball Federation.

Please ensure I receive a copy of the 1997 British Baseball Federation Handbook. I enclose my cheque for £5 (cheques made payable to the British Baseball Federation).

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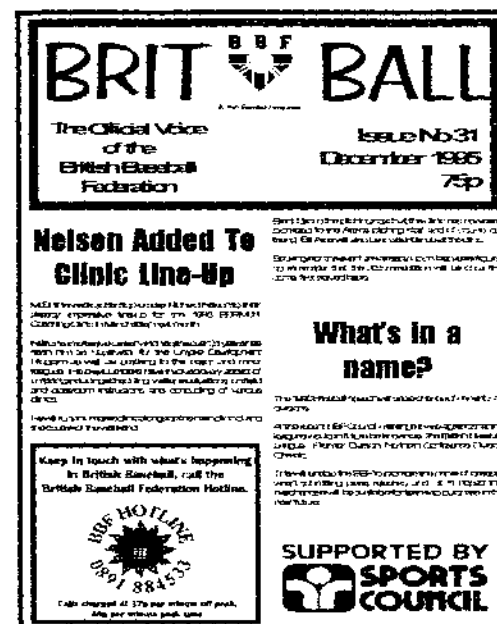
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BRIT-BALL

The Official Voice of the
British Baseball Federation



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World Friendship Series

From 26 July to 2 August, two teams from Greensboro, North Carolina visited the UK to play in the PONY World Friendship Series, to play some friendly games, and to visit various places throughout the country.

The two teams from Greensboro were Doyle Enterprises and the Allied Postal Workers Union, both of whom had qualified for the Palomino World Series to be held in Greensboro in August. Both teams were looking for some tough games to get them ready for the World Series, as were the GB team who were themselves preparing for the European Championships.

The tournament hosted by current BBF National Champions Menwith Hill, ran from 27 July through to 29 July, with each team playing each other in a round robin.

Tournament Standings

Great Britain	3 - 0
Doyle Enterprises	2 - 1
Allied Postal Workers Union	1 - 2
Menwith Hill	0 - 3

Trophies sponsored by AT&T were awarded after the tournament to all players, and the GB team were presented with the winners trophy.

From Menwith Hill the party from Greensboro travelled down to Windsor, where they were based for the second part of their stay. They played a double header at Hounslow, and my thanks go out to the Hounslow Baseball Club for hosting them. While in the London area, they took the opportunity to visit all the main tourist attractions and generally had a good time.

My thanks go out to the gym staff at Menwith Hill for their hard work in running the tournament, to Frank Scherer for organising all the umpires and scorers. Also to Nigel Moss and Tony Smith of Leeds Owls who expertly guided the visitors from Gatwick to Menwith Hill, and especially to Steve Pollard of Hounslow who acted as a guide, staying with the visitors for the duration of their stay.

Ian Smyth
Youth Development Officer

BBF / FBI NATIONAL SCHOOLS CHAMPIONSHIP



FINAL

BIRMINGHAM
15 SEPTEMBER 1996

Windsor v Leeds

Following the Northern and Southern Zone Tournaments held in July, the final of this championships will be held on Sunday 15 September at The Fort Centre Playing Fields, Farnborough Road, Castle Vale, Birmingham and will be between Windsor and Leeds.

Please try to attend and give these teams your support.

PITCHING SCREENS

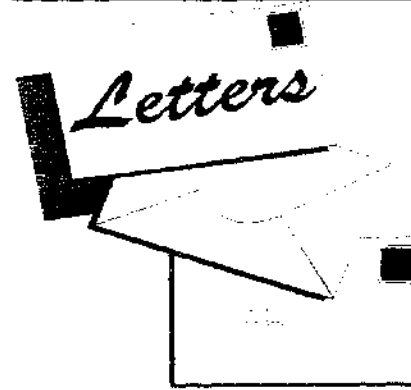
The British Baseball Federation have nine pitchers 'L' screens and 3 square first base screens available to teams.

The screens measure 8' wide x 8' high, the frame being made of galvanised steel and covered with a green rope mesh. They each have two wheels, making them easy to transport around your diamond.

BBF Affiliated teams are welcome to use these for the 1997 season, with the following stipulations:

1. You have a secure storage area to keep the screens in.
2. You arrange and pay for transportation of the screens from BBF Head Office to your ground.
3. When the screens are required by the BBF for use in European Championships, National Finals etc, they are made available.
4. The costs for loss or damage to the screens are the responsibility of your club.
5. The screens will remain the property of the British Baseball Federation at all times.

The screens will be allocated on a first come first served basis. Please contact BBF Head Office if you are interested.



Dear Sir, Madam

First we would like to introduce ourselves: The European Baseball School is an organisation which trains and coaches the baseball players. Our goal is: more fun, skills and improve the game of baseball in Europe.

We give advice and organise, among other training sessions during the winter, training sessions during the summer, training camps and tournaments.

Our students are being by main class players and (ex) professionals. The first year we pay all our attention, in order to achieve fast and guaranteed better presentations. The second year, tournaments and clinics are on the programme.

In July 1997 we organise an International Tournament for our pupils, the young baseball players in the age of 10-13 years. During this week the pupils will also have a lot of other, extra tournament. Two days of this week, our pupils will be trained. Our professional and experienced instructors will coach the pupils.

We would like to hear from you if you are interested in helping us in order to make this tournament a success, by asking your national team of the baseball clubs in your country to participate in this tournament.

We hope you are willing to help us and are looking forward to your reaction.

Kind regards
T Romley
Manager
European Baseball School
Seringstraat 42, 3812 XD Amersfoort
Tel: 00 33 4637 935
Fax: 00 33 653 752

Dear Kevin and Wendy

Sincere congratulations to you on the excellent outcome to all your work and efforts for the European Championships.

Also please pass on my thanks to all concerned with the Pitch Hit and Run Scheme for which I acted as an area coordinator. It is an excellent scheme.

Regards

Margaret Borley

Dear Mr Macadam

As secretary of the British Baseball Federation, I am sure you are interested in services of benefit to your member clubs. With this in mind, I am writing to you to offer the clubs of your association special concessionary rates for a Remedial Massage and Physical Therapy service tailored to their needs.

I have enclosed a leaflet detailing the tariffs for individual and club rates, and leaflets describing the Benefits of Remedial Massage for your information.

If any of your clubs are interested in this service, please pass on the information leaflets.

Yours sincerely
Stephen A Osborne LCSP (Assoc)
158 Main Street, Willerby, East Yorkshire, HU10 6DA.

Editor: If you would like copies of the leaflets mentioned, please contact BBF Head Office.

Dear Brit-Ball

THE COMMITMENTS!!!!

Just how much do you and your team care about British Baseball?

The BBF have been doing their best to take the game forward and get National recognition and some of you can't even be bothered to turn up for games. I have been the General Manager / Secretary for my club for 10 years and this has got to have been the worst season I have seen for apathy. If we can run 2 senior teams and a youth team, with no sponsorship at all, and ensure they are all in matching kit and have a high ground standard - so can you. So many teams seem to have no pride in themselves or the game. We've all paid our money for a season full of games so why is it some people want to spoil it.

Stop sitting there and whinging and get your act together!!! Get a work party of players in the off season and build a mound, beg an outfield fence from your local council / roadwork contractor / scaffold firm, sort out a uniform even if it's only a plain t-shirt, organise a committee, have a club meeting and send someone to the A.G.M., buy some scratch cards and use the profit to pay for match balls, produce a newsletter for your team letting them know what's happening, set up a savings account to pay for next year's reg fees, organise your club's Christmas party (preferably at your local American Diner and try for sponsorship while your there!).

The list is endless so come on get some commitment and make 1997 the best!

Jan Macleod
Bournemouth B's Baseball Club

Dear Brit-Ball

Congratulations

first and foremost I would like to thank everyone for the most warm welcome I was given at all the venues I attended.

Congratulations

to Kevin and his lovely hard working wife, yes I saw the perspiration on her brow!

Congratulations

to the three Characters in the officials tent, Ted Thesingh, Brian Holland, and of course Terry O'Brien who I have known for many many years. Thanks lads.

Congratulations

to all umpires who in my opinion conducted themselves in a most sportsmanly way. Once again for these gentlemen congratulations and well done. And now for the thing we all wanted to see happen

Congratulations

to Great Britain team manager Ralph Rago and the Great Britain team - a dream come true.

Congratulations

to everyone for making my time with you all worth while.

I remain in Baseball

Benny Benson

Dear Brit-Ball

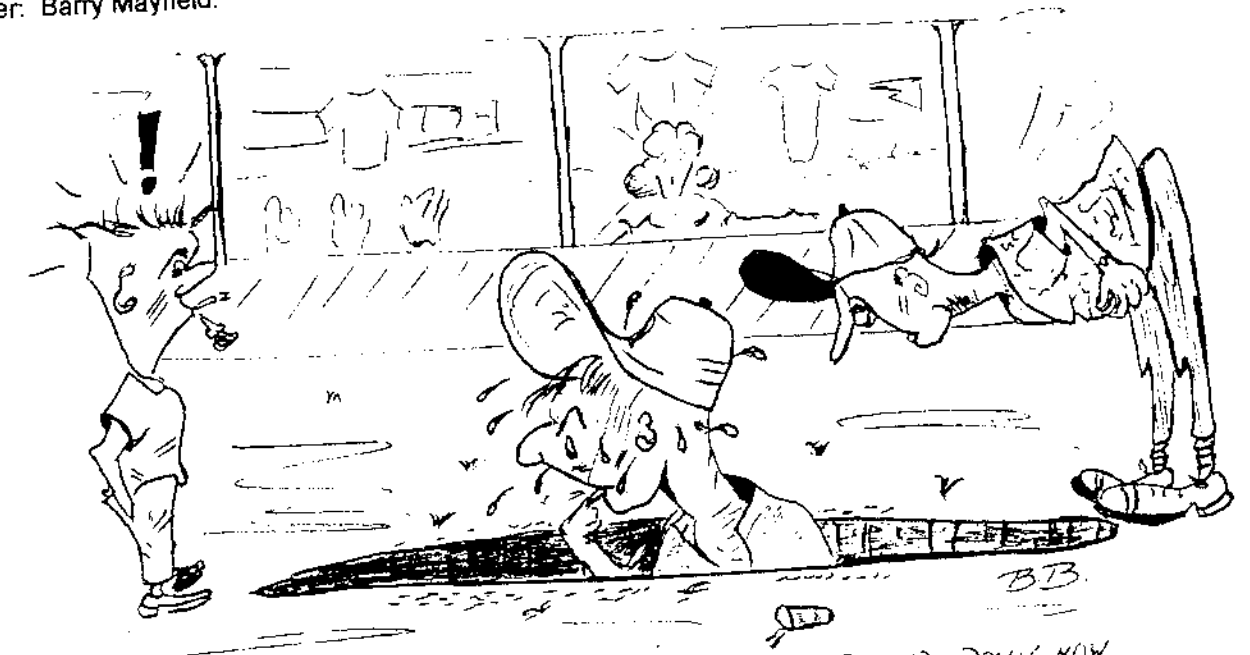
I recently attended the 20th Anniversary Celebrations of the Hounslow Baseball Club, founded at Ashford in 1976, with my wife Verity - a no alcohol, no baseball person; not like me! The evening was a surprise secret for the club founder: Barry Mayfield.

Having battled with 3 buses we duly arrived at the Civic Centre just after the 7.00pm pitch-off time. Several familiar faces greeted us in the lounge bar and others came in at regular intervals; in the adjoining Dining Hall the disco and colour lights began their pre-match warm-up. After half an hour the Great Man himself arrived amidst a buzz of excitement to be told why he had been lured on a false pretext to the Centre. Lee Mayfield recorded this and the evenings later happenings on a sinister looking device believed to have photographic tendencies.

About 9.00pm the cry went up "buffet": we grabbed our drinks and made for the far tables in the hall covered with every kind of goodies to suit every kind of taste. Yum yum! After all had eaten the dancing started to Oldie Pop and Rock & Roll (at least the young ones did, anyway; not us old things). The floor was then cleared for a young girl whose name I forget to do a solo dance whose name I forget consisting mainly of acrobatics, gyrations and somersaults, very good, must try it sometime.

An hour later the music stopped for the Great Man's presentation with Team Managers Earl Dix and Bob Gray making speeches in Barry's honour; the time came for the presentation to be made amidst wild applause: would Barry please step forward! Barry, where was Barry? At last someone had a vague memory of the Great man heading for the Gents and search party was sent to flush him out; a minute later and Barry was making haste towards the mike. Having explained his absence he went on to give a potted history of the club and then thanked all present for the handsome award in his honour.

The dancing restarted to a mix of old and new pop until a further break for the raffle; some really good prizes here,



YOU CAN STOP WALKING UP AND DOWN NOW
MR PRESIDENT. THE GAMES OVER AND
GREAT BRITAIN HAVE WON

a pity our tickets were of the wrong hue; never mind.

At 11.00pm, mindful of our last bus times, we said our goodbyes and left the party in full swing. We can only guess what happened in the final two hours and this must be left to others to record, if anyone stayed sober enough to remember! We had our own 3 bus battle home to concentrate our minds. Next stop bed: shuteye.

I hope my account is correct bearing in mind the effects of alcohol and age which tend to leave me in a kind of fifties to seventies telekinesis; the younger guest will probably think they were at another function entirely.

Yours faithfully
Will Cosgrave

Dear Readers

Through the medium of Brit-Ball may I offer my congratulations to all the players and coaching staff on gaining promotion to the A Group and on winning the European Championships B Group.

Despite causing a few heart flutters, particularly on the Friday against Lithuania when promotion was the reward, it was terrific to see a Great Britain team successful.

Well done.
Michael S Harrold

Dear Sir

I am interested in a pitching position or employment as a coach within your organisation. I would like very much to meet and and I am writing hoping you will grant me an interview.

As a result of my training with one of the best Major League Baseball Organisations, I am confident that my experience and knowledge of pitching and baseball can be an asset to your organisation.

I am presently coaching and playing for the Beine Nauroy team in the A1 National level in France. I am also pitching coach for France's National Baseball Team. In the last six years I have played baseball in the professional level for the Atlanta Braves and in the Texas-Louisiana League.

I enclose my resume and look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Sincerely

Yves Martineau

Editor: If you would like a copy of Yves resume please contact Head Office.

Dear Kevin

Congratulations on the report and announcement of your team's victory in the 1996 European Baseball Championships held in England. We are pleased to note that Great Britain is now promoted to the A Pool and will compete in France during 1997. Thank you for keeping us informed.

Best wishes and please give my best regards to your outstanding President.

Richard W Case
Secretary General International Baseball Association

Dear Brit-Ball

Major League Baseball International would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the British Baseball Federation for organising a successful European B Pool Championship and more importantly to Ralph Rago and the entire Great Britain coaching staff and team on their success in winning promotion to the A Pool.

Clive Russell
Major League Baseball International



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ATLANTA 96



To describe what it was like attending the International Olympic Youth Camp is very difficult. I can't say it was "brilliant" because that wouldn't be doing it justice. What made it SO special was more than seeing Olympic athletes compete, than witnessing the Olympic Flame run through our Camp, having a guided tour of the Olympic Village, being in the Olympic Stadium seeing USA v Italy at Fulton County Stadium!!!! What made the Camp SO extraordinary was the unique chance to be part of a completely cosmopolitan environment of 500 delegates from 157 countries all sharing our own cultures, languages and ways of life.

The aim of the Youth Camp, a now long-established Olympic tradition, is to spread the Olympic ideals to the youth of the world, giving

us the chance to experience the Olympic Spirit first hand.

I would like to thank the BBF for nominating me as one of the original 3,000 British applicants. Little did I think, when writing the essay on what I understood by the Olympic Movement, that I would make the short-list, let alone be one of 10 selected to represent Britain.

A special thanks also goes to Swatch for their funding, to the British Olympic Association who put so much work into organising this trip so well, and to Atlanta, for making this, for me, a truly amazing Olympic Games.

John Boyd

PUZZLE CORNER

FAN'S FINDS

(Devised by Will Cosgrave)

A baseball fan is amazed to find a ballpark marked on an old map. He decides to explore the site which is heavily overgrown and discovers twelve fragments of old baseball equipment. Can you work out the relics hidden in anagram form below?

1. SEBA
2. SKAM
3. TIMT
4. VEGOL
5. KACTEJ
6. REJESY
7. BREBRU
8. TENGNI
9. SLABLEBA
10. HUTUDNOG
11. CARESDOP
12. PRACKJOTS

CODE CRACKER

(Devised by Will Cosgrave)

Listed below are twelve nick-names of teams playing in the BBF / PONY Leagues. These are written in a substitute letter code. Knowing that F = S, can you crack the code and find the nick-names?

1. ZLKF
2. TLMF
3. YNTGF
4. ECVUF
5. HNIDF
6. ZVPGF
7. AGMVZF
8. HZGOLF
9. YCZGMLF
10. DUCBMF
11. KZGAVUF
12. HEGRLZF

Answers to last month's puzzles are as follows:

MORE MOUND MYSTERY

Hull Mariners
Ashby Royals
Hemel Rebels
Arnold Astros
Bushey Bulldogs
Barnes Stormers
Bushey Shooters
Basildon Raiders
Shoebury Steamers
Glasgow Diamonds
Southport Mets
Mansfield Marvels

BBF/PONY YOUTH LEAGUE STANDINGS

01 September 1996

NORTH EAST

	WINS	LOSSES	GAMES BACK
Menwith Hill Pirates	10	0	
Hessie Apaches	8	2	2
Sheffield Pumas	5	5	5
Hull Mets	5	5	5
Leeds Lugnuts	2	8	8
Hunslet Harriers	0	10	10

NORTH WEST

	WINS	LOSSES	GAMES BACK
Trafford Saints	7	1	
Bolton Knights	4	4	3
Cartmel Valley Lions	4	4	3
Preston Bobcats	3	5	4
Kirkby Braves	2	6	5

SCOTLAND

	WINS	LOSSES	GAMES BACK
Aberdeen Reds	6	1	
Dundee Dragons	6	1	0
Alyth Adders	3	4	3
Edinburgh Blue Jays	3	4	3
Glasgow All Stars	0	8	6.5

SOUTH EAST

	WINS	LOSSES	GAMES BACK
Tonbridge Bobcats	5	1	
Bournemouth B's	3	3	2
Leyton Cardinals	3	3	2
Brighton Jaguars	1	5	4

SOUTH - DIVISION TWO

	WINS	LOSSES	GAMES BACK
Hemel Red Sox	11	0	
Windsor	9	2	2
Cambridge Monarchs	6	6	5.5
South Bucks Blue Jays	6	5	5
Milton Keynes Braves	5	6	6
Bracknell Blazers	2	9	9
Brentwood Bucks	0	11	11

SOUTH WEST

	WINS	LOSSES	GAMES BACK
Plymouth Bladerunners	2	0	
Bristol Black Sox	1	2	1.5
Swindon Royals	0	2	2
Crewkerne Cutters	0	0	0
Gloucester Gators	0	0	0

TEEBALLERS LOOKING FOR A GAME

The Dundee Dragons Rookie Teeball Team are desperate for a game before the season ends. They are willing to either play at their ground or travel south of the border.

If you are interested in either travelling to Dundee or hosting the team, please call Brian Edwards on 01382 660085

OBITUARY

It is with great sadness that we have to report the sudden death of Ceri Morgan of Dragon Tours.

Ceri has been a great help over the past two years, assisting with our hotel and travel arrangements, and most recently his assistance with the European Championships was invaluable.

We are sure you will join us in sending our deepest sympathy to his wife and family, and colleagues at Dragon Tours.



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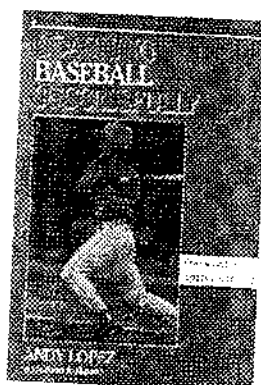


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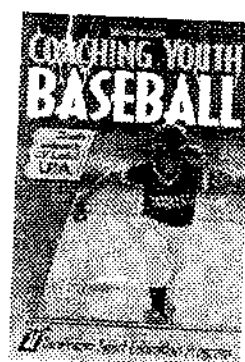


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Keith Peskett 01243 867867
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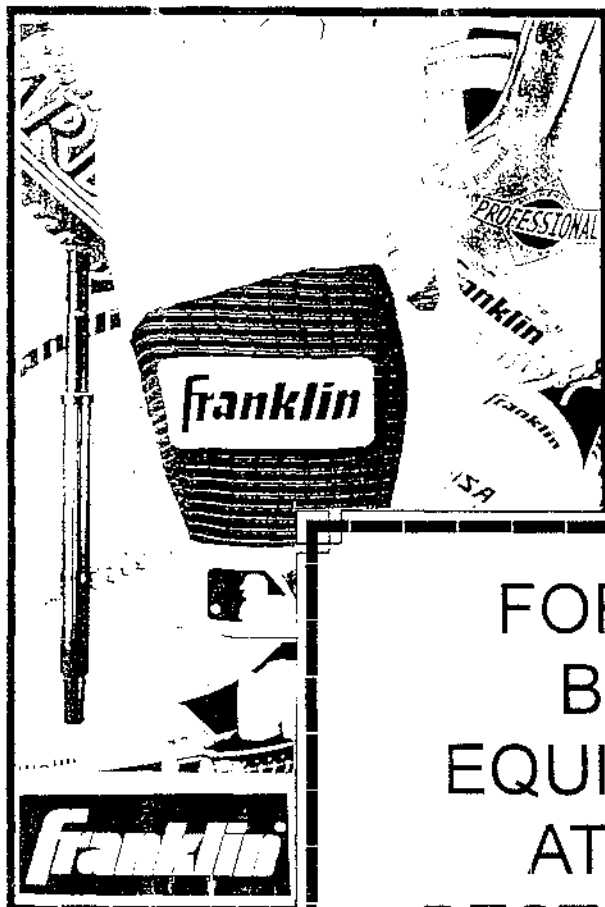
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