



# BRIT-BALL

- The Official Voice of  
The British Baseball Federation

75p

Welcome to the first edition of Brit-Ball, the new fanzine with all the news and views on BRITISH BASEBALL. Yes, "Brit-Ball" is here at last!

Each month we will be bringing you all the information you need to know about the British game.

During the course of the season we will keep you up-to-date on match reports and league tables from around the country.

We will also be placing the spotlight on British players and teams, giving you the chance to tell everyone why your team is the best!

There will also be a 'vibrant' letters page which will give you the opportunity to air your views - good or bad - on the British game.

Details of forthcoming events will be included - let us know what your team is planning. We will let you know the plans of the BBF - clinics, coaching courses, tournaments etc.

We will also be giving the scorers and umpires a chance to pass on their knowledge in a column dedicated to their particular skills and if you have any questions for them, then lets have them!

We also want to know your own stories about the game - tell us about your best and worst moments ! - and any other items of news which you feel would be of benefit to the other members of the Federation.

Well, thats what we've got planned

what do you think ?

Let us know by writing in to :

BRIT-BALL  
66 Belvedere Road  
Hessle  
North Humberside  
HU13 9JJ

## IN THIS MONTHS ISSUE :

We take a look at the forthcoming season and what's in store.

A review of the Major League Baseball Coaching Clinic held in Bushey at the end of January.

The Minutes from Hell ! - Why do they call them minutes when most meetings last hours ?

Who's who on the BBF Board.

Spotlight on GB star Ray Brownlie.

Caption Competition

1993 National Knockout Cup Preliminary Round Fixtures

Baseball's Grottiest Moments

The national squads - Mike Harrolds thoughts on what lies in the years ahead following the introduction of cadet and junior international teams.

Plus lots more !!!!!

## British Baseball Federation

As a board member I have always believed that the president should not be connected to any club or association and must not be caught wearing too many hats, as in the past. Unfortunately this has meant that I have resigned as manager from the Sheffield Bladerunners and to all intent I am a spectator this season.

The Presidents job is both interesting and challenging with probably my biggest hurdle being my own impatience and sometimes lack of tolerance. I feel that I have got a very good team working with and for you and that we will go from strength to strength. Quite a few people have asked me if it's congratulations or commiserations on being elected president, well picture the scene.... "It's early evening as you draw back the curtains and open the doors stepping on to the veranda. The cheers are loud and rhythmic .... El Presidente.... El Presidente.... El Presidente... just as you are thinking all is well, you realize you're not just amongst friends. The crowd are still cheering but the sound of machine gun fire drowns them out and you duck as the bullets embed themselves in the wall behind you...". It's a dirty job but someone's gotta do it!

Be on the look out for more newsletters, the BBF Fanzine and don't forget to call the Hot Line.

Stars of the future should get to any assessment days they can, you may not make the National Squad but there should be some All Star games this season to convince someone they made a mistake leaving you out.

I'll be travelling around a lot this season watching games and I don't mean just in Yorkshire.

On a final note, remember, talk about baseball to as many people as possible but keep it positive. Convince someone how rich and exciting baseball is. Keep on badgering the media with requests to show baseball or to do interviews. Most of all keep involved, too old to play then coach the kids. How about umpiring, we need more umpires and there are vacancies at the top level now.

Send us your suggestions for clinics and/or articles for the BBF mag. and have a good 1993 season.

Yours for baseball,

Steve R. Herbert  
President of the British Baseball Federation

Every team has its star player. The player who without his dedication and considerable talent the team would lose week in, week out - or so he likes to think!

Now 'BRITBALL' offers you the chance to bring your team's prima donna down a peg or two with an in-depth comical look at your star man.

The first victim is none other than that well-known Scottish / English / Canadian Ray Brownlie of National Premier League outfit Leeds City Royals.

### **PAGE THREE PIN-UP**

SPOTLIGHT ON: Ray Brownlie

AGE: 37 - or is that his number?

POSITION: Pitcher

TEAM: Leeds City Royals

LIKES: Wallabies

DISLIKES: Youth Hostels, San Marino Coaches, Nissan

FAVOURITE TV: Fantasy Island (where he pitched his no-hitter!!!)

FAVOURITE FOOD: Big Macs

FAVOURITE DRINK: Anything Alcoholic

AMBITIONS: To be as good as Ian Smyth at throwing the 'Knuckler'!!

Well, now you've not the idea, send in the dirt (plus photo if you have one) on your star player, so we can make him the page three pin-up he's always wanted to be!

## British Baseball Federation

The new season is almost upon us and I would firstly like to thank you for supporting the BBF, in what should be an exciting and successful year.

This year we have held the first of many clinics with MLBIP, Little League and Pony. The league structure has been revised giving every team a chance to compete at a level they can play and progress from. The National Premier League has expanded to 12 teams into 2 conferences with a show-case final to be played somewhere in the Midlands. The International scene looks very exciting with not only the seniors but both juniors and cadets in tournaments in Belgium and Spain.

We are moving baseball forward for all our teams, not just some unruly elements.

I will at this point clarify our position on the pirate league known as the National League. Tom Sims was contacted by myself and I relayed the information and conditions for further talks as laid out by Council.

The conditions being: -

- a) The National League teams cannot affiliate as a body within the BBF
- b) The Affiliation and player fees were non negotiable
- c) The National League officials must be empowered to make immediate decisions

The Executive and Council felt that these conditions were not unreasonable and the cut price deal the NL wanted to implement would be damaging and would be unfair to our members.

The NL have rejected this, even though we were prepared to welcome them back without penalties and had also offered them considerable invitations to integrate their top teams back into the BBF National Premier League. They have expressed a wish to remain in contact with us for future talks but have also since then issued a rather insulting letter to teams again degrading the BBF.

Frankly I am not impressed and very disappointed. These people have yet again said the BBF is going nowhere, is doing nothing and is run ineffectively. Last year we again moved this federation forward, even though we had this split. We introduced a schools programme that will be added to in 1993 to ensure that our game does not plateau and fall off in later years. The board this year has new faces and ideas and with the office relocation and computerization we will give even more service to you.

The National League players have my sympathy for the few people who insist on furthering their own agenda with their cowardly attitude towards the rest of the BBF. Yes we don't have the monopoly on good ideas and yes we are not always right but we have the strength of our convictions to let you decide at council and at the AGM whether you want us to continue or not. This is my biggest disappointment with the National League people, if their ideas were so brilliant would we be allowed stop them? Course not! This federation is there for you, not me. By trying to set a small rival league these people are damaging our image abroad and at home. Let's hope that next year these teams vote with their feet and find out what they've been missing.

**BOARD MEMBERS RESPONSIBILITIES FOR 1993**

**Steve Herbert**

President  
National Premier League Coordinator

**Ian Smythe**

Coaching Association Liaison  
Drug Test Coordination

**Jim Mortimer**

Constitution and Bye-laws  
Registration

**Gary Mortimer**

Playing Regulation Control  
Scorer/Umpire Liaison  
Technical Coordination  
Promotion Tournament\*

**Greg Welch**

Youth Development

**Paul Raybould**

Publicity

**Keith Peskett**

Sponsorship

**Kevin Macadam**

Knock-out Cup Coordinator  
Promotion Tournament\*  
Results Processing  
Setting 1994 Calendar  
Conference Coordinator Control  
Junior Region and Championship Control

\* Joint Responsibilities

**International Committee**

Steve Herbert  
Jim Mortimer  
Paul Raybould

BBF137  
27 March 1993

WANTED

GREAT BRITAIN GENERAL MANAGER

The job description includes; equipment management, the administrative side of the International Squads, travelling with the Squads (as often as possible - when finance allows) liaising with clubs and players on team selection.

Applicants must have the success of the International Team at heart at all times and be able to work as directed by the Team Manager as well as on own initiative.

APPLICATIONS IN WRITING TO

Team Manager  
BBF,  
66 Belvedere Road  
Hessle  
North Humberside  
HU13 9JJ

During all of my period as Manager of the Great Britain Squad I have consistantly cited the lack of Juniors to be the biggest cross I have to bear. To have a programme of introducing the 13 year olds to International opposition, dream facilities and the best available standard of coaching has - to date - been nothing but a rhetoric. To have the Senior team fed by quality, experienced juniors and to provide more competition for selection has only been a dream.

Three aspects have so far prevented my dream becoming a reality. Lack of quality and willing help. Lack of numbers of Juniors playing Baseball. Lack of finance. A fourth and, maybe in certain instances, just as important, has been a lack of drive by the Baseball fraternity.

It would appear that the lack of finance is about to be overcome and with up to 4000 new Juniors introduced to Baseball last year through various schemes, the participants may well now be out there.

Selecting a squad - any squad - from low numbers of participants does not provide for good chances of success nor does it give strong competition for places. For example. Who has the best job - the Italian Manager choosing his squad of 22 players from 5803 Senior players (9261 Junior players, 870 umpires, 550 scorers, 494 teams, 421 fields [CEBA Annual Review 1990]) or myself choosing a squad of 22 players from 1070 Senior players (175 Junior players, 19 umpires, 25 scorers, 80 clubs, 51 fields [same source]).

My own determination to have Junior squads will be a reality in 1993. Both Junior, 16/18 year olds and Cadets 13/15 year olds, will compete in their respective European Championships. It will still mean squad members will have to part self fund but it will be the start of my long term plan for the year 2000.

Remember if Manchester are successful in their bid to host the Millennium Games we will participate as hosts. The players in the year 2000 are the Juniors of today.

I have appointed Greg Welch to coach the Cadets and Barry Marshall the Juniors and I am currently liaising with them on a plan of execution for this years plans.

Clubs and club coaches, managers, secretaries can all help me Greg and Barry by keeping us informed of potential players. We will be holding some sort of Assessments for the two Junior Squads although details have yet to be finalised. What I desperately need Junior team coaches to do is to engender enthusiasm in to their players and get them disciplined and into the ways of Baseball. All too often a lot of my time is spent telling and coaching Senior Squad members how to and how not to conduct themselves in the "Baseball attitude". I also hope to be able to introduce some of the 17/18 year olds into the Senior Squad this year which I shall use to assess potential members and plans for the 1994 'B' Championships.

Best wishes to everyone for a successful and winning 1993 season.

# BASEBALL

## GENERAL MEETING Wed 18th March 1992

### Apologies

Sorry for apologising but no apologies.

### Minutes from previous meeting

Taken as read and accepted.

### Seating

It was found that there were not enough tables for all representatives. It was put forward that late comers should bring their own tables.

### League set up

All teams said they had affiliated to the governing body so all teams were able to vote.

### Proposal 1

East/West split in the league-with teams only playing teams in the same league to count towards the league table. Other inter-league games as friendlies.

### Proposal 2

Split league depending on last seasons standings and play teams from both leagues.

### Proposal 3

Send out for pizza

One team voted for proposal 3

Two teams voted for proposal 2

Five teams voted for proposal 1

A discussion re the fixtures ensued and an amendment that the friendlies be turned into league games. The motion was proposed and seconded, so was the barmaid.

The discussion re the league set up continued. It was decided that the voting had taken place too quickly and that there had not been enough discussion.

It was decided to vote again

### Proposal

East/West split playing in own division only.

Four teams voted for the proposal.

Two voted against.

Two abstained as they didn't understand the proposal.

Proposal carried.

### **Constitution**

It was carried unanimously that the weather would be the responsibility of the home team. If the home team can not produce weather of a suitable standard then the game shall be forfeited.

### **League Fixtures**

It was explained that the fixtures had been set out to the best of the fixture secretary's ability. It was realised that there would be some weeks a team would have two home games in succession. Other times, teams would have two away games. Some weeks there would be no away games.

Meeting called to an abrupt end as the lights failed leaving the members in complete darkness.

It was voted that the meeting continue as the members were in the dark most of the time anyway.

Meeting ended

## **GENERAL MEETING SUNDAY 5th APRIL 1992**

Meeting opened at 7.00 pm with 24 members and four psychiatrists present.

### **Apologies**

No regrets

### **Minutes from previous meeting**

Taken as read and accepted.

### **League set up**

The meeting opened with the President explaining that most teams had expressed an opinion that they were unhappy with the results of the last meeting. Teams wanted to play all other teams and not only those in their own league.

Three options were put forward

- a) 10 team league playing Home and Away (or Neighbours if preferred).
- b) 2 divisions playing H & A in own division only
- c) 2 divisions playing H & A in own division and other division teams only once.

Members needed to vote to see if the league should be split or not in the first place. Then to vote to see how the split would work. Various members had different ideas on how a vote should be taken so it was decided that a vote on how to vote would take place. It was put forward that the second vote should actually be the first vote to take place and that the first vote would then be the second vote. The reasoning behind this idea was that the members needed to know how the second vote which was now the first vote would turn out so that the first vote could then take place. It seemed odd to some members therefore that they may infact be voting for a vote which may never actually happen so why not forget the second vote first and vote on the first vote initially. Some members felt that they could not vote on whether to split the league or not until they new the outcome of the second vote first.

The three means of voting followed...

**Proposal 1**

Vote on all three set-ups with the least favoured dropping out and then voting on the remaining two.

**Proposal 2**

Decide on the way an East/West split would be played and then vote on split or status quo, (What you're proposin').

**Proposal 3**

Decide on status quo or split first and then if split wins decide on way the split would be played.

4 teams voted for proposal 3

3 teams voted for proposal 1

1 team voted for proposal 2

It was not clear to the members how it happened but the proposal with the least votes won so it was decided that the vote to see how to vote would take place. Members were asked to vote to see if they wanted to vote on whether or not the second vote should take place first or if they wanted the first vote to take place first. The opinion was that they could not decide this without knowing the outcome of the second vote. So it was voted that they would vote first on the second vote and if that came out favourable then they would vote on how the vote should take place.

The guest psychiatrists proposed that we should all visit the nearest mental institution for a fortnight. The proposal was accepted unanimously.

**Transport**

It was accepted by the members that in extreme rain a Ford should be used by teams.

### Fees

The subject of fees was cleared up quickly. Teams did not want to pay any money and in return for this wanted coaching clinics, umpire and scorers schools as well as free equipment for each team. This seemed overwhelmingly popular with all teams and the only monetary business that remained was to find out who's round it was.

### Balls

It was decided that the teams should all use the same make of baseballs. In some cases, some teams should use baseballs.

### Discipline

A player was reprimanded for handing the umpire a white stick during a game. The umpire could not see the white stick and subsequently tripped over it causing him to sprain his ankle.

The meeting closed at 12.30 pm

## BASEBALL BRIEFING

Five years of uninterrupted coverage of all the action from the Major Leagues ... five years of sustained development and improvement ... now comes our biggest change of all:



At a fraction of the cost of other alternatives you'll get a weekly 28-page newsletter rushed to you by 1st Class Post with game reports and box scores of every game. And of course ...

- all the big stories
- news from around the leagues
- statistics and standings

*Baseball Briefing's Fantasy League* adds new features too:

- wider range of statistical categories
- mid-season roster changes

**COST:** £1.20 per issue incl. postage. Send £33.60 for a full season subscription (28 issues) or have it on trial - five issues for £6. Cheques/PO's to: **BASEBALL BRIEFING**, 2 Drury Close, Waltham, GRIMSBY DN37 0XP.

**BASEBALL BRIEFING ... brings the Major League Baseball season to life!!**

# BASEBALL'S GROTTIEST MOMENTS

Paul Raybould recalls his....

## NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET PART V XI

Every now and then I get this sudden twinge of emotional pain. For no reason at all, out of the blue, the memories of THAT disaster returns to haunt me and my complexion quickly changes from a healthy pink to shallow white and then onto crimson red. No doubt the disturbing incident that continually generates this physical rainbow effect will plague me for the rest of my life.

I thought that if I tried to get it out my system in written format, exposing myself to the world, then maybe I'll forget about it forever. I can only hope and pray.

It was during a game several seasons ago and I was on the mound. I can't remember who we were playing or what the score was and anyway it doesn't matter. I had two strikes on the batter and on the next pitch he took an almighty cut. He missed. Unfortunately, so did our catcher.

On the command (well, more like the screams) of his team-mates, the batter raced off to first on the dropped third strike. Meanwhile, our catcher hunted around searching frantically for the ball not realising he was standing on it. After what seemed like hours, he found the ball and unleashed a rocket in the general direction of first base.

The ball had the pace to beat the runner but the trajectory was slightly off. About 20 feet slightly off. It sailed over our first baseman's head almost leaving a vapour trail in it's wake and glided out along the first base line.

It was at this point the rest of us in the infield turned to look for support from our able right-fielder. Gary (we'll call him Gary 'cause that was his name) had unfortunately lost his attention to some other interest (probably girls) going on beyond left field. He virtually had his back to the on-coming ball. Seeing that Gary was not going to be of much assistance to us, our second baseman Glen raced into the outfield to collect the live ball that by now was rolling to a halt about 250 feet from home plate.

By the time Glen reached the ball, the batter-now-runner had hit second and was turning for third. For obscure reasons still unknown to me, I had

meandered off the mound and was now standing roughly in the position that Glen had vacated. Instead of returning the ball down to our first baseman as is customary when a runner is rounding third, Glen tossed the ball to me.

I didn't expect it. I guess I panicked. With shouts of "Home! Home! Home!" coming from all directions, I found this an inopportune time to practice ball-juggling. Like a wet bar of soap, the ball popped in and out of my hand and glove.

The runner was now lumbering towards home. I finally got a grip and rifled the ball. A good throw might have caught him at the plate. Mine was an awful throw and the runner was easily safe.

A 'dropped-third-strike-home-run'. As his team-mates whooped and hollered and congratulated the lucky sod on his unbelievable achievement, I sank to my knees in bewilderment. I wanted to quit baseball forever and take up knitting (many of my current team-mates actually wish I had).

I returned to the mound to get ready to face the next batter and I paused for a moment to look round at my poor forlorn fielders who stood silently in their positions. I thought to myself "I hope these guys quickly forget what they just witnessed". Maybe they have. But I haven't.

\*\*\*\*\*

Do you have an amusing or embarrassing moment from your baseball career that you would like to share with us? If so, please send your story to Kevin and we'll include it in a future issue.

To: Kevin Macadam  
cc: BBF Board

February 3, 1993

BBF/MLBI CLINIC

Further to our discussion, I now reiterate my comments on the Big Event for the record.

Considering pre-event publicity was rather poor, the turn-out was very encouraging. Registration appeared to be handled comfortably but room allocation was badly organised. The £5 key deposit generated immediate hostility and the announcement that rooms were available at the university upset those who were forced to travel. Rooms should have been clearly allocated before the event.

The Opening Ceremony was conducted well. The lectures that were then delivered over the three days were very interesting and generally well presented. I'm sure all of us learned a great deal. I for one discovered that I had been teaching people the wrong batting stance for the last eight years!

The hall was cold, the seating uncomfortable and the sound system poor. This had a serious detrimental effect on the entire proceedings. Expecting people to sit quietly in such an environment for long periods on end was far too demanding.

The lack of any practical work upset many. I believe the total format needs re-addressing. If this is to become an annual event, I cannot see how we can encourage those who attended to sit through an identical event next year. How many times do you need to be told that if your players don't arrive to practice on time they will be forced to write an essay?

I have some thoughts on how future clinics could be arranged:-

1. We identify larger premises where an amount of practice sessions could be incorporated in a gymnasium. While lectures were being conducted in one room, groups could be taken to the gym for batting, throwing and fielding practice.
2. The clinic is held in the summer. Obviously we cannot call upon Major League organisations during their season. We would need to identify players who may have recently retired and are therefore available to entice a large attendance. Assuming the weather permits, we could conduct much of the clinic outdoors.
3. We send a party of members to the States for coaching tuition. I would suggest these members must be registered with our Coaching and Umpires Associations. Upon their return, they offer their services in a 'roadshow' style manner (travelling around the country performing local clinics).

Without an appreciation of what happened behind the scenes, the clinic appeared to run extremely well. Much of the success has to be attributed to Greg Welch and Bill Arce. The speakers all worked very hard and seemed to enjoy talking to us. I would particularly like to thank the umpire for publicly embarrassing us for our lack of umpires. Perhaps this may generate more people to come forward and take on this vital task.

Paul Raybould



# BRITISH BASEBALL FEDERATION

Head Office: 66 Belvedere Road, Hessle, North Humberside HU13 9JJ  
Telephone and Fax: 0482 643551    BBF Hotline: 0891 834533

Members of the International Baseball Association, European Baseball Association, British Olympic Association, Central Council of Physical Recreation. Recognised by the Sports Council.



## British Baseball Federation

### 1993 Knockout Cup Preliminary Round

The following fixtures are to be played on May 2nd 1993.

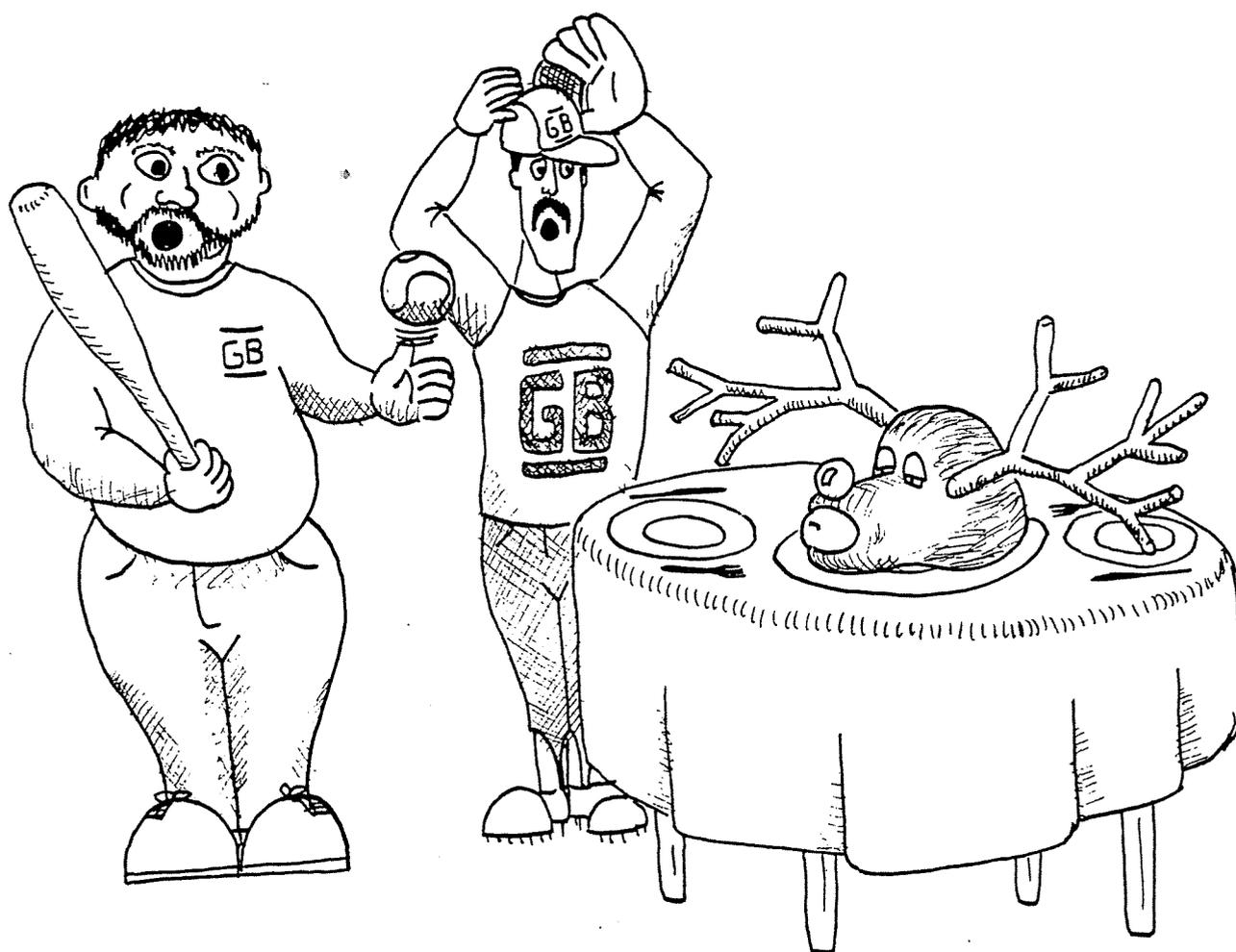
Dalriada Demons	V	Clyde Valley Knights
Wessex Kings	V	Swindon Locos
Tiptree Hotspots Rays	V	Waltham Abbey Cardinals
HCFE White Sox	V	Durham Demons
London Wolves	V	Fulham Flames
Hounslow Sentinels	V	City Slick Sidewinders
Lashings Sluggers Of Maidstone	V	Tunbridge Wells Wanderers
Reading Royals	V	Bracknell Blazers
Guildford Mavericks	V	Chichester Titans
Gloster Meteors	V	Brighton Buccanneers B
Cumbria Lakers	V	Derby Crowns

## CAPTION COMPETITION

On behalf of the BBF, our president Steve Herbert and Great Britain Manager Mike Harrold attended the CEBA Congress in Stockholm, Sweden. After sitting through countless meetings voting on this thing and that thing, the time came for their evening meal. And what should be on the menu but **REINDEER!!!**. Well as you can see, our on-the-spot reporter Mike Gooch, captured the moment for prosperity but unfortunately forgot to write down what they said to each other.

Well this is where you come in. Any suggestions??? An appropriate prize will go to the funniest answer.

Send your suggestions to  
Britball  
66 Belvedere Road  
Hessle  
North Humberside  
HU13 9JJ



**Keep in touch with what's happening  
in British Baseball**

**Call the British Baseball Federation Hotline on:**

**0 8 9 1 8 8 4 5 3 3**

Calls charged at 36p per minute off peak, 48p per minute peak time

As you can see from the above advert, the number for the British Baseball Federation Hotline has unfortunately had to change, due to circumstances beyond our control. However, the Hotline is still available for you to promote your team.

When your game has finished, it is essential that you phone your result through to Head Office on **0482 643551** as soon as possible. However, owing to the large amount of calls coming through you can phone results until 6.00pm the following day - if the line is engaged, simply wait and try again. Let us know all the interesting information about your game - result, winning pitcher, exceptional plays etc.

**LEAVE MATCH RESULTS ON -**

**0482 643551**

**LISTEN TO MATCH RESULTS and REPORTS ON - 0891 884533**

Listen to match reports on the Hotline from Tuesday to Thursday and listen to forthcoming events from Friday to Monday.

Use the Hotline to promote your team or event so that everybody knows about what's happening in your area.

**IMPORTANT** - The BBF Hotline not only provides up-to-the-minute information but also provides the Federation with income to help further the development of British Baseball. Therefore, it is in your own interest to persuade every member of your club to phone the Hotline at least once a week.

## SUBSCRIBE TO BRITBALL

Each BBF Registered Team, Association and Full Member will receive one free copy of 'BRITBALL'. If anyone requires further issues then you may subscribe using the form below:

<p>I wish to subscribe to 'BRITBALL'.</p> <p>Please find enclosed a cheque / PO for the sum of £9.00 for 12 issues.</p> <p>Name:</p> <p>Address:</p> <p>Postcode:</p>
---

### WATCH OUT IN THE NEXT ISSUE FOR:

- \* Drugs in Sport
- \* *Results from around the country*
- \* 'Get rich quick' schemes for your club - let us know if you have any.
- \* *What is the BBF Roadshow?*
- \* Letters from you - let us know what you thought to this issue - what should we include in the next issue - do you have something you would like to air your views on.

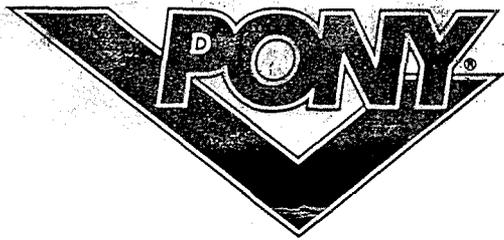
PONY SPORTS UK LTD

ARE DELIGHTED TO BE THE OFFICIAL SPORTS FOOTWEAR SUPPLIERS  
TO THE BRITISH BASEBALL FEDERATION

AS WORN BY THE MOST FEARED AND RUTHLESS HITMAN IN AMERICA

CECIL FIELDER 'ONLY WEARS PONY' (MOST HOME RUNS 1990-92)

**ONLY WEAR PONY®**



The Pentland Centre Lakeside Squires Lane Finchley London N3 2QL  
Telephone 081 346 2600 Fax 081 343 2529 Telex 919434

**THE BRITISH BASEBALL FEDERATION  
1993 HANDBOOK**

**Contains all the 1993 fixtures and team contacts for British baseball**

Please send me a copy of the **British Baseball Federation 1993 Handbook**  
I enclose a cheque / postal order for £2.50

Name: .....

Address: .....

.....

..... Postcode: .....