



British Baseball Federation

BRIT-BALL

- The Official Voice of The British Baseball Federation -

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BASEBALL EXPLOSION SET FOR EUROPE

Europe looks set to be the the fastest growth area for baseball following the International Baseball Association meeting in Rome last month, reports BBF President, Steve Herbert.

On an historic day, the retiring President, Robert Smith, handed over the helm to Aldo Notari of Italy.

Notari now has the task to steer the amateur game into the 20th century and he has a hard act to follow. Smith was responsible for the inclusion of baseball as an Olympic sport and now Notari has to handle the difficult Pro-Am question which has reared its head following the basketball "Dream Team".

The continent of Europe now has the full backing of all IBA countries, and Europe is seen as a massive area for growth, both from a baseball stance and a marketing one. As one delgate declared, "...there's millions of bucks out there waiting for us to utilize for our continued development...".

Delegates were presented with a very optimistic view of our future but with a warning.

The International Olympic Committee are rumoured to be unhappy with certain aspects of baseball, the delays in games, it's length and the absence of top players. The whole question of our continued participation in the Olympics may come down to the Pro-Am question and the big media money sponsors.

Therefore, we must not dilute our game but we must surely address those areas of concern and bend with these opinions or surely we shall lose all the ground gained over the past few years.

coverage which began on July 6th (more details inside). MLB's Mike Carlson was on hand to promote the BBF and the Head Office address was on screen for potential players and spectators to contact for further information.

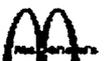
Already, enquiries have started to flood in on where people can go to see British games and how they can begin to play, and all registered clubs will be sent details of enquiries in their area as and when they are made, thus enabling the British game to grow.

SKY SPORTS & MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL GIVE BBF BOOST

Saturday 3rd July saw BBF players Ray Brownlie and John Heather make their TV debut on Sky Sports. Ray and John were in the Sky studios to promote the Sky

METS MAKE IT ON TO TV

An advertising agency recently contacted the federation for a photo of a baseball team for use in a commercial. A mugshot of Humberside Mets was promptly despatched and lo and behold, in the new BT adverts, advertising their North American offer, Humberside Mets can be seen on top of the American callers TV set.



On a Lighter Note



Every meeting has its eventful moments, and the IBA Congress was no exception.

Clarence, the delegate from the Finland obviously needs to be sat centre stage in the future - that way he can't fall off the edge as he did this year (I still say he was asleep!).

Obviously Norwegians have nerves of steel. He was a braver guy than us, hiring a scooter to tour Rome - has anyone seen him since?

Have you ever seen a breadstick in Denmark? The way the Danish guy was eating them you'd have thought there was a world shortage. Perhaps it was just me who didn't know they were a delicacy.

The meeting on a whole was extremely interesting, however it's really strange having to sit with a headset on listening to a translator. Passionate speeches do tend to lose a bit of momentum with the translator.

If you've never seen Rome before then go at once. It is by far one of the most beautiful cities I've seen (especially compared to Sheffield!). But fair skins beware, factor 3000 for me next time - gosh it was hot!

El Presidente

BASEBALL BRIEFING

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

Each 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.

This month we look at one of the up and coming stars of the game, feared by his opponents, admired by his peers, the one and only Jim Murray (who?). Jim plays for one of the Federations newest teams, Dalriada Demons, who play in the wilds of Scotland.



PAGE THREE PIN-UP



- SPOTLIGHT ON:** Jim "12th July" Murray (likes to walk)
- AGE:** Old and receding
- PLAYING POSITION:** 2nd base when he gives shorty a tenner!
- TEAM:** Dalriada Lemons, oops I meant Demons
- LIKES:** Pitchers that can't throw strikes, running between bases, playing freeze in the batters box.
- DISLIKES:** Hitting balls, tall guys with fair hair, pitchers that throw strikes over the plate.
- FAVOURITE TV:** Sesame Street, Big Bird drinks his juice (player on 3rd)
- FAVOURITE FOOD:** Sesame Buns and McGinty Burgers (the bane of his life)
- FAVOURITE DRINK:** Newcastle Brown Ale and Soda Water (Ale's a bit strong on its own!)
- AMBITIONS:** To win a game!



If you want to include your team or star player in the spotlight (plus photo if you have one), send in the details.



EURO COMPETITION PROVES TOO HOT TO HANDLE

Leeds City Royals embarked on their first ever European campaign last month, competing in the European Cup Of Cups A Pool in Madrid.

Their opposition consisted of the cream of European baseball, however despite their small squad of twelve, they remained optimistic.

In game one, Leeds faced last years Pool B winners, APF Tiraspol from Moldavia.

The Russians, a mean and moody bunch, held a 6-0 lead going into the ninth despite having been kept to just six hits by Leeds' Rob Lopez. However, Leeds staged a rally pulling back five runs, but with the bases loaded and two out, Frank Parker was jammed by a pitch and the game ended.

Game two was against Mediolanum Milan, one of the top Italian teams.

Following a first inning injury to Frank Parker, who sustained ruptured knee ligaments on the very first play of the game, Milan went on to win 27-3. Leeds ensured that they prevented the shut-out with three runs in the sixth.

Game three was against Skelleftia from Sweden.

The game hung in the balance until the fifth inning with the Swedes holding a 2-0 lead. However, Skelleftia then produced a big rally to eventually win 16-1.

Game four was against Madrid in front of a crowd of about 500.

This was the game Leeds had to win to stay in the A Pool. Despite good pitching from Ray Brownlie, he was let down in the field by errors and a poor batting performance, Madrid eventually won 10-1.

Game five was against Klevas from Lithuania.

After four losses it was difficult to raise team morale and the attitude of the umpires made it worse. Following some disputed umpiring decisions, which included Rob Lopez being balked twice for stepping off the rubber, the Lithuanian coach was ejected for defending Leeds City Royals case! In a forgettable game Klevas won 9-3.

Overall, Leeds finished 0-5, realistically expecting to have won one game. But with a small squad and as always not enough pitching, they struggled. Nevertheless, it was a worthwhile experience and will hopefully stand them in good stead for the future giving them something to aim for.

The opportunity to play against top class opposition in purpose built stadia is something that all teams around the country can aim for, as they aspire to reach the National Premier League or win the National Knockout Cup.

IAN SMYTH

LEEDS CITY ROYALS



MOVING PITCHERS Baseball: The American Pastime



The National Film Theatre is delighted to bring you a season of films revealing cinema's love affair with America's favourite game.

This season is as much for ex-pats as it is for homegrown spectators who may have videotaped the early morning TV highlights of major league baseball games and found themselves transfixed by a new, all-encompassing spectacle of grace, skill and heroism. It's also, I hope, a taster for the uninitiated.

The selection of films in this season offers a glimpse of baseball history (blemished, *Eight Men Out*, and unblemished *The Pride of the Yankees*) and a chance to see one of the sport's superstars, Jackie Robinson, performing in his own life story, and a side-view of another, Babe Ruth, knocking a ball about and applauding a fictional representation of his old rival Lou Gehrig. There are, in addition, the vintage comedies *Alibi Ike* and *The Bad News Bears*, starring respectively, the athletic Joe E Brown and the decidedly unathletic Walter Matthau, rarities such as *Bang the Drum Slowly*, with the young Robert De Niro, and one of the most beautiful of all baseball films, *The Natural*, photographed by Caleb Deschanel, and featuring Robert Redford, at his most composed and watchful, and the miraculous 'Wonderboy', a bat fashioned from a tree split by lightning.

John Pym

Now - take me out to the ballgame!

Mr Baseball	Thursday 1 July, 8.45pm	
The Bingo Long Travelling All-Stars & Motor Kings	Saturday 3 July, 8.45pm Tuesday 6 July, 8.45pm	
The Pride of the Yankees	Sunday 4 July, 5.40pm	
Major League	Wednesday 7 July, 6.30pm	Thursday 8 July, 8.45pm
A League of Their Own	Friday 9 July, 8.30pm	Saturday 10 July, 8.30pm
Eight Men Out	Saturday 10 July, 6.20pm	Sunday 11 July, 8.30pm
Fear Strikes Out	Sunday 11 July, 6.15pm	
Alibi Ike	Wednesday 14 July, 8.45pm	
Bang the Drum Slowly	Saturday 17 July, 6.30pm	Sunday 18 July, 8.45pm
The Jackie Robinson Story	Sunday 18 July, 6.15pm	
The Winning Team	Tuesday 20 July, 6.15pm	
The Bad News Bears	Saturday 24 July, 6.00pm	Sunday 25 July, 6.30pm
The Natural	Wednesday 28 July, 8.20pm	Tuesday 27 July, 6.20pm

Tickets can be booked by phone, in person at the door or in advance from:

NFT Box Office
Waterloo
Tel: 071 928 3232

BFI on the South Bank
London SE1 8XT

MATCH REPORTS

JUNE 13TH

NATIONAL PREMIER LEAGUE - NORTH

Humberside Mets 11 Nottingham Hornets 5

Hornets made it tough for Humberside but the Mets eventually ran out winners.

NATIONAL PREMIER LEAGUE - SOUTH

Milton Keynes Truckers 14 Essex Arrows 4

Crawley Comets 3 Bedford Chicksands Indians 26

Hounslow Rangers 7 Brighton Buccaneers 5

The Rangers became one of the few teams to secure a win against Brighton as they split a double-header.

Hounslow Rangers 6 Brighton Buccaneers 16

NORTHERN CONFERENCE DIVISION ONE - ENGLAND

Liverpool Trojans 13 Hull Mets 0

Trojans Martin Godsall pitched a three hitter and shut-out the Mets striking out fifteen batters along the way.

Liverpool Tigers 4 Menwith Hill Pirates 3

Hull Royals 20 Hull Giants 10

Royals Ray Todd went 5 for 5 with 5 rbi and scored four runs as the Royals ran out winners in this local derby.

Barnsley Strikers 12 Sheffield Bladerunners 4

NORTHERN CONFERENCE DIVISION TWO - ENGLAND

Leeds City Royals II 12 Durham Demons 9

Preston Bobcats 14 Cumbria Lakers 1

NORTHERN CONFERENCE DIVISION ONE - SCOTLAND

Tayside Cobras II 26 West Lothian Wildcats 29

MIDLANDS CONFERENCE DIVISION ONE

Derby Crowns 10 Long Eaton Sluggers 16

Nottingham Pirates 31 Newark Giants 4 (Rescheduled cup game)

SOUTHERN CONFERENCE DIVISION ONE

Croydon Pirates 15 Bristol Black Sox 19

Gillingham Dodgers 6 Gloster Meteors 4

Tunbridge Wells Royals 28 Hemel Red Sox 17

Bournemouth B's 13 Stevenage Knights 10

Arun Panthers 15 City Slick Sidewinders 4

SOUTHERN CONFERENCE DIVISION TWO EAST

Lashings Sluggers 15 Caterham A's 11

Waltham Abbey Cardinals 3 Burgess Hill Red Hats 31

Chichester Titans 11 Hounslow Hawks 18

Guildford Mavericks 9 Reading Royals 1

SOUTHERN CONFERENCE DIVISION THREE EAST

Tiptree Hotspots Rays 15 Bracknell Blazers 4

Brighton Buccaneers B 21 Tunbridge Wells Wanderers 11

Fulham Flames 26 London Wolves 29

JUNE 20TH

NATIONAL PREMIER LEAGUE - NORTH

Humberside Warriors 13 Humberside Mets 14

Gavin Marshall and Phil Thurston combined for the win to keep Mets at the top of the NPL following a close fought game. Warriors trailed 14-10 going into the bottom of the ninth but could only manage three runs. Mets Simon Radge hit an inside-the-park home run.



NATIONAL PREMIER LEAGUE - SOUTH

Hounslow Rangers 9 Milton Keynes Truckers 0

Brighton Buccaneers 6 Bedford Chicksands Indians 7

Buccaneers Marco Vettese hit a grand slam but Brighton let a 6-2 lead slip as the Indians took the first game of the double-header.



Brighton Buccaneers 9 Bedford Chicksands Indians 10

Dominic Pedretti homered for Brighton but this was not enough as once again the Buccaneers let a 9-3 lead drift away.



Crawley Comets 9 Essex Arrows 2

Crawley's Mark Mills went the distance allowing two runs in the first inning but shutting them out for the rest of the game, enabling the Comets to notch up their first win of the season.

NORTHERN CONFERENCE DIVISION ONE - ENGLAND

Liverpool Trojans 6 Menwith Hill Pirates 3

Trojans Martin Godsall took his sixth win of the season to place Liverpool in a commanding position at the top of the league. The Pirates took a 1-0 lead in the fourth but Liverpool brought four men home in the sixth to gain a 4-3 lead and scored twice more to take the game.

Hull Giants 12 Liverpool Tigers 9
Giants win severely damaging the Tigers title hopes.

Hull Mets 18 Sheffield Bladerunners 7

Mets notched up the second win of the season to place some daylight between themselves and the relegation spot presently occupied by Sheffield.

Barnsley Strikers 11 Hull Royals 10

The Strikers took a surprise win over the Royals in a close game.



NORTHERN CONFERENCE DIVISION TWO - ENGLAND

Leeds City Royals 24 Cumbria Lakers 22

Preston Bobcats 9 H C F E White Sox 0

NORTHERN CONFERENCE DIVISION ONE - SCOTLAND

Clyde Valley Knights 10 Glasgow Comets 18

Dalriada Demons 2 West Lothian Wildcats 15

The Wildcats win giving them a clear lead at the top of the division.

Dundee Dodgers 4 Edinburgh Reivers 16

The Reivers victory lifts them out of the basement.

SOUTHERN CONFERENCE DIVISION ONE

Arun Panthers 20 Stevenage Knights 7

Bristol Black Sox 6 Gillingham Dodgers 12

Hemel Red Sox 16 Bournemouth Bees 6

Totteridge Trailblazers 10 Croydon Pirates 13

SOUTHERN CONFERENCE DIVISION TWO EAST

Caterham A's 11 Reading Royals 13

The A's Kev Mack took the loss despite some good fielding by his team-mates. Caterham's Anthony Weakner took a good catch in centre-field.

Burgess Hill Red Hats 17 Lashings Sluggers of Maidstone 4

Red Hats Andy Wilson struck out nine to take his fifth consecutive win. Ed Latham homered and Ian Medhurst went 2 for 2 as Burgess Hill continued their

ascent up the league.

Waltham Abbey Cardinals 12 Chichester Titans 2

Guildford Mavericks 13 Hounslow Hawks 16

The Hawks just edged this one to keep a firm hold at the top of the division. Hounslow's Curt Stalcup, in his last game for the team, put in another fine performance to keep the Hawks ahead of their rivals who also won.

SOUTHERN CONFERENCE DIVISION THREE EAST

Hounslow Sentinels 11 Tiptree Hotspots Rays 12

The Rays continued their undefeated run with another fine win to open up a gap at the top.

Tunbridge Wells Wanderers 22 Bracknell Blazers 13

Fulham Flames 8 Brighton Buccaneers 20

JUNE 27TH

NATIONAL KNOCKOUT CUP ROUND TWO

Croydon Pirates 8 Crawley Comets 9

Mark Mills and James Pearce combined for the win to put the Comets into the third round of the cup.

Essex Arrows 13 Hemel Red Sox 3

The Arrows exploded for 6 runs in the third to take control of the game. Unfortunately for Red Sox pitcher Paul McGuinness, a line drive back through the mound, resulted in him having to withdraw injured and his replacement Stuart Boast fared no better. Arrow's Kevin Pickston went the distance, striking out 8 to take the win, with Paul Raybould going 3 for 4 with 2 runs and 2 rbis.

Hounslow Rangers 14 Bristol Black Sox 5

Rangers Gus Berutich took the win assisted by two double-plays by his team-mates.

Gillingham Dodgers 6 Gloster Meteors 22

Bedford Chicksands Indians 25 Burgess Hill Red Hats 0

Indians Carlos Baez not only pitched a 1 hitter, but also struck out 11, went 5 for 6 with 2 doubles, 1 triple, 5 rbis and 4 stolen bases, in what appears to have been quite a good afternoon for him. His partner-in-crime, Mike Hettrick, went 3 for 5 with a double, a triple and 3 rbis. Red Hats Andy Wilson took the loss.

Tunbridge Wells Royals 0 Stevenage Knights 9

City Slick Sidewinders 7 Milton Keynes Truckers 19

Truckers Nagishi took the win with Scott Kirkman making an unassisted double-play at second base and Mike Reavill also instigated a double-play at first and third base. Sidewinders Simon Drinkwater took the loss.

Guildford Mavericks 14 Brighton Buccaneers 19

Marco Vettesse and Naoki Shiga combined for the win as Brighton struggled past the Mavericks. Shiga also homered.

Preston Bobcats 9 Fintory Braves 0

Tayside Cobras 1 Liverpool Trojans 20

Martin Godsall notched up his eighth win of the season to power the Trojans into the next round. Godsall pitched a two-hitter with Trojans catcher, Gabrielle Brito-Coll hitting a double.

Dundee Dodgers 4 Hull Mets 23

Leeds City Royals 11 Nottingham Pirates 1

Humberside Mets 23 Glasgow Comets 2

Mets Gavin Marshall pitched a 2 hitter to place Humberside into the next round.

Menwith Hill Pirates 14 Leeds City Royals 2

Jarl Luscombe took the win for the Pirates striking out 9 along the way.

Hull Royals 10 Nottingham Hornets 7

Hull Royals sent NPL outfit and last years finalists, Nottingham Hornets crashing out of the cup in a close game. Royals Andy Wiltshire took the win and went 4 for 5 with 2 rbis. Andy Foster, shortstop for the Royals also made a double-play.

Humberside Warriors 32 West Lothian Wildcats 1

Warriors had the most convincing win of the day, with Stuart Brown taking the win and striking out eight along the way. Darren Butler showed his GB form with the bat, going 4 for 4 with 5 rbis

and Russ Mercer was top run scorer with six. Wildcats Dave banks went 2 for 2

NORTHERN CONFERENCE DIVISION ONE - SCOTLAND

Edinburgh Reivers 45 Dalriada Demons 9

Edinburgh continue their surge up the table moving into second spot behind the Wildcats.

Tayside Cobras 25 Clyde Valley Knights 15

SOUTHERN CONFERENCE DIVISION TWO

Caterham A's 24 Chichester Titans 10

Kev Mack and Shane Fletcher combined for the win for the A's with Shane Fletcher hitting three doubles. Dave Flynn hit his first ever double, (well done, Dave!) and Brian Robinson also hit three doubles.

SOUTHERN CONFERENCE DIVISION THREE

Fulham Flames 11 Bracknell Blazers 64

London Wolves 31 Brighton Buccaneers B 5

Masakito took the win for the Wolves striking out 10. Wolves Colin Clark went 6 for 6 in his last game for the team hitting a home run. Other homers included two from Paul Hand and one from Masakito, whilst in the field Steve Burn and Colin Clarke combined for a double-play.



LEAGUE TABLES

NATIONAL PREMIER LEAGUE NORTH

	W	L	GB
Humberside Mets	9	1	
Leeds City Royals	6	1	1.5
Nottingham Hornets	5	3	3
Humberside Warriors	4	6	5
Tayside Cobras	3	5	5
Fintory Braves	0	11	9.5

BBF NORTH - ENGLAND DIVISION 1

	W	L	GB
Liverpool Trojans	7	0	
Liverpool Tigers	5	2	2
Menwith Hill Pirates	4	2	2.5
Hull Giants	4	3	3
Hull Royals	3	4	4
Barnsley Strikers	2	4	4.5
Hull Mets	2	5	5
Sheffield Bladerunners	0	7	7

BBF NORTH - SCOTLAND DIVISION 1

	W	L	GB
West Lothian Wildcats	4	0	
Edinburgh Reivers	3	2	1.5
Glasgow Comets	3	2	1.5
Clyde Valley Knights	3	3	2
Tayside Cobras II	3	3	2
Dundee Dodgers	1	2	2.5
Dalriada Demons	0	5	4.5

BBF SOUTH DIVISION 1 - WEST

	W	L	GB
City Slick Sidewinders	5	1	
Stevenage Knights	5	3	1
Hemel Red Sox	5	3	1
Gloster Meteors	3	3	2
Bristol Black Sox	1	4	3.5
Totteridge Trailblazers	0	6	5

DIVISION 2 - EAST

	W	L	GB
Hounslow Hawks	6	1	
Reading Royals	5	2	1
Burgess Hill Red Hats	5	2	1
Guildford Mavericks	4	3	2
Caterham A's	4	3	2
Lashings Sluggers	3	4	3
Waltham Abbey Cardinals	1	6	5
Chichester Titans	0	7	6

SOUTH

	W	L	GB
Milton Keynes Truckers	8	2	
Brighton Buccaneers	9	4	0.5
Hounslow Rangers	7	5	2
Bedford Indians	5	5	3
Essex Arrows	3	7	5
Crawley Comets	1	10	7.5

DIVISION 2

	W	L	GB
Stretford A's	6	0	
Leeds City Royals II	4	1	1.5
Durham Demons	3	2	2.5
Preston Bobcats	2	4	4
Cumbria Lakers	1	5	5

BBF MIDLANDS DIVISION 1

	W	L	GB
Nottingham Pirates	3	0	
Newark Giants	3	1	0.5
Norwich Wanderers	1	2	2
Long Eaton Sluggers	1	3	2.5
Derby Crowns	0	3	3

DIVISION 1 - EAST

	W	L	GB
Arun Panthers	7	0	
Gillingham Dodgers	5	2	2
Croydon Pirates	3	4	4
Tunbridge Wells Royals	2	5	5
Bournemouth B's	1	6	6

DIVISION 3 - EAST

	W	L	GB
Tiptree Hotspots Ryas	6	0	
London Wolves	5	1	1
Brighton Buccaneers B	3	3	3
Tunbridge Wells Wdrss	2	3	3.5
Hounslow Sentinels	1	3	4
Bracknell Blazers	2	4	4
Fulham Flames	0	5	5.5



HOW TO SCORE MORE RUNS

British baseball is clearly behind some of our European counterparts in certain technical aspects of the game. Yet we are well ahead of many others. It may take some years before we catch up with the likes of Italy and Holland and yet there is an area of the game where we can match or even excel the very best. **BASERUNNING.**

This area of the games does not require the technical skills of baseball we associate with batting, throwing or catching. Good foot speed and awareness are the basic skill requirements. Sliding into base is a practised skill but even this is similar to the sliding tackle at soccer. So sliding apart, all players have the opportunity to be good baserunners. Even the new countries into the game have identified this aspect and have produced some excellent base running teams. Good baserunning can, and often does, turn a

losing team or game into a winning one. A poor hitting side can "manufacture" runs with good baserunning and can certainly unsettle and force errors from the defence.

Having said a good baserunner should have foot speed some of the best baserunners around are not in the fast bracket. What they are is alert, aggressive and produce perfect timing on steals etc. Just as a fielder should ask himself, before every pitch, what he will do with the hit ball - on the fly or on the ground - so the good baserunner will assess the positioning of the fielders, have noted the pitchers tendencies, recognised those fielders with strong arms, read the game situation etc and have in the back of his mind what he will do if a circumstance arises.

I would guess that less than 5% of teams actually have baserunning in their normal weekly practise drills. Very few

hits, less than 1%, are homeruns.

It is therefore clear that around 99% of runs are scored by a baserunner.

Many skills required to be a good baserunner are learned from experience and making mistakes and yet practising baserunning - ie getting experience - is left to game situations. And remember practise makes perfect and the more you practise the luckier you get.

Improving ones sprinting skills, to help your baserunning, also helps other parts of your game. Being "quick out of the box" will improve your chances of being safe by a stride rather than out by a stride. It will probably improve the batting average quite considerably.

Put baserunning into your practice drills on a regular basis and watch your run production increase.

Mike Harrold GB Manager



SKY SPORTS : IN A LEAGUE OF ITS OWN!

Following on from our announcement in last months issue, Sky Sports have now confirmed their coverage of Major League Baseball starting on Tuesday 6 July 1993.

Sky's coverage will include a Game of the Week every Tuesday and a lively, upbeat half-hour magazine programme called Prime Time Baseball '93.

We can look forward to extensive coverage of the All-Star Game, the Play-Offs, and live coverage of the World Series.

David Hill, Head of Sky Sports, said, "We believe the time is right to introduce baseball to a wider audience. It has always done well on British Television, but it has never received the sport of exposure and push Sky Sports can give. We think our audience, already tuned into major live sporting events, will be a natural for baseball".

Well I couldn't agree more and I am sure that a lot of people are relieved that games will be shown this season when it looked like we might not get anything. Of course the excellent news for British Baseball, is the fact that because of the push Sky is giving the sport, we as a Federation will get an increase in the number of people interested in playing and we will all benefit.

So your plan of action should be :

1. Go buy a satellite dish. 2. Subscribe immediately to Sky Sports and lets give them our full backing. 3. Stand by your phones and be prepared for an influx of players! Once again, well done SKY!

NOTICEBOARD

THE UMPIRES STRIKE BACK!

I think we all realise that we have a major lack of umpires in this country. We have 68 senior teams and 22 registered umpires, Croatia have only five baseball clubs, yet they have 23 registered umpires! So what's the problem? Why doesn't anybody want to umpire our games? At our recent Board meeting it was decided to address this problem. We are asking the Umpires Association to appoint one of their members to pro-actively recruit umpires. Major League Baseball International are also to be approached with a view to providing an Umpiring Envoy, to tour the country as the Coaching Envoys are presently doing. Do you have any more ideas on how we can recruit umpires?



PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE

Brit-Ball is not just aimed at Team Managers - we want every member of your club to read it. The end of season issue will be sent to every registered player. How are you going to explain to them what was in the previous issues if you have never passed them on? Come on, make the effort and pass Brit-Ball around the dugout or the bus as you travel to away trips.

INTERNATIONAL BASEBALL ASSOCIATION

The new committee for the IBA is as follows:

PRESIDENT:

SECRETARY:

TREASURER:

1st VICE PRESIDENT:

2nd VICE PRESIDENT:

3rd VICE PRESIDENT:

MEMBERS AT LARGE:

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Olivia Dubois

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Miguel Pozueta

Gaston Panaye

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Japan

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Chinese Taipei

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Spain

Belgium





Over to you!



Got something you want to get off your chest or maybe you want to make a point, then write to :

BRIT-BALL 66 BELVEDERE ROAD HESSLE NORTH HUMBERSIDE HU13 9JJ

Dear Mike Harrold

I read the copy sent of "Brit-Ball" with great interest. It is an excellent publication. There is information, news and ideas for all.

I can appreciate how much time and effort has gone into its production. Please convey my congratulations and best wishes for future publications to your editorial team.

Do not hesitate to make contact if you feel I can be of any help.

With best wishes

Yours sincerely

Kevin Hickey Technical Director
British Olympic Association

Dear Britball

I would like to take the opportunity to thank the Hull Mets for their kind donation of a baseball bat

As a completely new team to the Federation, (every player is a rookie with little knowledge of baseball and certainly no game experience!) we have been grateful for the help we have received. We would also like to extend thanks to Donald Brochie of Edinburgh Reivers, who was a great help in getting us started, and to Brian Parker and his players at Tayside Cobras for the encouragement and hospitality given to our team.

We now have the confidence to take the game to the opposition

and make them take notice and by doing this it has reflected in our scores. In 3 of our 5 games we have been beaten by only one run, sometimes leaving men on base, and although we are yet to win in the league, we beat a strong Clyde Valley Knights side to get through to the first round of the Knockout Cup, of which we we're very proud.

Finally, I would like to thank Alan Bunting for his impartial umpiring, a must in such a tight league, and we will be using his skills in as many games as possible. I would suggest that other teams do likewise or we may lose such a valuable asset to the Scottish game. Alan can be contacted on 0738 441155 or 0738 29696.

Also, even though you lose, keep smiling, after all it's only a game! You'll be surprised how some teams look as though they've ate an onion after failing to hump us. How's the piles Wully?

Yours

Shorty Manager and Pain in the Butt of the Dalriada Demons, Scotland.

Editor: All the best on the piles front Wully, and good luck for the rest of the season lads!

Dear Brit-Ball

Having read the article concerning the rift in British Baseball in the May issue of Anglo-American Sports, I fully agree with your feature "The Boredom Continues....." in the

June issue of Brit-Ball.

If Anglo-American wishes to cover both BBF and NLB, fine; but let it be hard news of clubs, players, competitions etc., in equitable proportions to that submitted by both organisations, rather than articles which are just a waste of valuable newsprint. Such cheap journalism is unhelpful to either organisation and is demeaning to British Baseball.

Yours faithfully

Will Cosgrave Kingston, Surrey

Dear Britball

Congratulations on the content of your recent issue of BritBall. I was impressed (so impressed you'll find my subscription for 12 issues with this letter). The style and content was interesting.

Though I don't know much about the Northern in-jokes, I do want to know what is going on in UK Baseball and know what the BBF and its teams are (or are not) doing.

As a potential topic for discussion in your letters page, I'd like to know what others think of the Slaughter Rule as it currently stands. I've always felt that the Rule is there to stop a side being completely annihilated, something that it is currently failing to do (did I hear the recent results in the BBF South 3rd Division correctly?). To make the rule work, I'd suggest that criteria becomes 30 runs up after

5 innings, 20 after 6 and 10 or more at the end of the 7th. In that way, genuine slaughters or mis-matches are mercifully cut short.

My other comment about the Slaughter Rule, would be that if none of these criteria are met, then the game should go the full 9 innings (and cannot be called if a team goes 10 or more runs down in the 8th).

Anyway just some idle thoughts of my own. Keep up the good work.

All the best,

Alun Stuffs
Hemel Red Sox Baseball Club

Editor: Some interesting ideas, Alan, which you should tell your conference co-ordinator about, and then when the time comes, they can be put forward as an amendment to the bye-laws. If anyone else has any comments to make on the Slaughter Rule, or any other bye-law, then please drop a line to Britball.

Alun Stuffs produces box scores and current statistics for his team each week. If you would like your team featured, then please send the information in on an IBM compatible 3.5" disk and we will show everyone how good or bad you are in Britball!

Bournemouth B's at Hemel Red Sox

	r	h	E
B's	002	020	02x
Red Sox	014	044	03x

HEMEL

	ab	r	h	rbt	bb	ZB	SB	SAC	K	hbp	PO	Ass	E
Stuffs 1B	2	1					1					2	
Nahkala 1B	2			1			1					6	1
Malkin II	4	2	1	1			3	1				1	1
Boast dh	4	2	2	1			2					2	3
(McGuinness p)													
Bracey rf					1								1
Sheloff cf	5	2	2				2	1				1	
Hare ss	4	3	2	1	1		4	1				1	
Cameron c	5	3	3	5	1	2	4					8	1
Hawes rf,3B	4	2	2	2			2	1				1	1
Beresford 3B,p	4	1	2				2					1	2
Bellaridge 2B	3												1
Groves 2B	1				1					1			

Totals 38 16 12 11 6 2 0 0 21 1 4 1 24 8 4

ZB Cameron 2(3), B's 2.

SAC Hawes (4).

K Malkin (4), Sheloff (2), Hare (7), Groves (6), B's 8.

BB Nahkala (1), Malkin (12), Bracey (5), Hare (12),

Cameron (9), Groves (3), B's 6.

HBP Beresford (2), 1 B's by Beresford.

LOB Red Sox 7 B's 10.

SB Cameron 4(29), Boast 2(7), Hare 4(16), Stuffs (24),

Malkin 3(15), Nahkala (4), Sheloff 2(3), Hawes 2(8),

Beresford 2(21), B's 3.

E Bracey (4), Malkin (1), Cameron (8), Hawes (4), B's 10.

PB Cameron 2 B's 3.

WP McGuinness 1 B's 1.

	ip	h	r	bb	so	er
McGuinness W(4-3)	6	7	4	5	6	2
Beresford	2	2	2	1	2	2

B's 7.3 12 16 6 4



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OLD TIMERS' BASEBALL CLUB.

The Old Timers' Baseball Club was founded in May 1988. The Founder Members include Barry Mayfield (Club Administrator) and Derek Phillips (Team Manager). The Honorary Club President is Robert William (Bob) Feller. He was the first American Legion graduate to be inducted into the baseball Hall of Fame. He was the Cleveland Indians' pitcher from 1936 to 1956. The Club is affiliated to the British Baseball federation and the Club colours are blue and gold.

The purpose of the Club is to provide an efficient administration in order that Members may enjoy sporting and social activities.

Membership of the Club is confined to persons who have attained the age of 45 and given at least 10 years service either as a player, administrator, official or lifelong supporter of a baseball club.

There are 42 Members of the Club. Of these 18 are players - some of them still playing for teams in the Sunday League.

The Team's home ground is at Kneller Hall, the home of the Military School of Music, Twickenham and enjoy a very good relationship with the military personnel based there.

They are always looking for new players and any person interested should contact Barry Mayfield (081 - 751 3080).

The Old Timers are taking part in a tournament in Germany at the beginning of July.

Other games arranged for June/July include -

26.6.93	Caterham	at Kneller Hall
3.7.93	Germany	
10.7.93	Brighton 'B'	at Kneller Hall
24.7.93	Guildford	Open Day
31.7.93	Bournemouth	at Bournemouth

Although they cannot run as fast as they used to, they still play a mean game of ball and always enjoy the competitive spirit. They will quite happily travel and are always looking for teams to pit their skills against.

So, if there are teams out there who are interested, please contact Barry Mayfield or Jean Crook (0795 - 425898).

Although Baseball is their first choice they also participate in slow pitch softball and have played against the visiting Old Timers' Softball teams as well as teams in other parts of the South of England.

They are a grand bunch of guys and I am proud to be a Club Member.


Jean Crook
Publicity Officer.



BOOK REVIEW



Rookie Coaches Baseball Guide - ACEP

£6.50

As the title suggests, this book is an ideal text for new coaches, and especially for coaches working with children.

In its clear, concise style, it gives step-by-step instruction of the whole concept of coaching baseball. It highlights the importance of the volunteer coaches responsibilities, and offers practical advice in all areas, ranging from coaching philosophy, communication skills, teaching fundamentals, programme organisation and safety.

Its guide to skills and drills are basic, however they are comprehensive enough for teaching children or adult beginners.

It emphasises the fundamental skills, on which the game is based on, and gives some enterprising ideas for practice which are cheap and easy to use.

As an introductory text, this is one of the best I have read. Its outlook is refreshing, in that throughout it highlights fun and enjoyment, which is what the great game of baseball is all about. (Editors note - Not only is it a great book, but I received my copy within one day of ordering it!)

The Science of Coaching Baseball - Jerry Kindall, Leisure Press £18.50

This book is one for the serious student of coaching baseball.

This text shows the advanced coach how they can further their coaching by utilising sports science. The book contains chapters on :-

Motor Learning, Sports Psychology, Biomechanics, Exercise Physiology, Sports Medicine, and Nutrition.

The contributors take complex scientific principles and discusses them in a baseball context, and produces a user-friendly text, which will greatly assist the serious coach in their endeavours.

In particular, the chapters on Sports Psychology and Motor Learning, are a must for the good coach. It explains how people learn, their motivation and philosophy. It provides the basis for developing a precise programme, which will make your role of the coach easier and more rewarding, and the learning potential of the player even greater.

The chapters on Biomechanics, Physiology, Sports Medicine, and Nutrition should not be overlooked. In the modern sporting world, these are all vital areas of knowledge, which can help us develop as coaches and subsequently improve our players.

IAN SMYTH BBF COACHING ASSOCIATION

Both books are available from Human Kinetics Publishers PO Box 1W14 Leeds LS16 6TR

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British Baseball Federation

1993 Knockout Cup Round Three



The following fixtures are to be played on July 18th 1993.

Hull Mets	V	Hull Royals
Brighton Buccaneers	V	Gloster Meteors
Bedford Chicksands Indians	V	Essex Arrows
Leeds City Royals	V	Humberside Mets
Menwith Hill Pirates	V	Liverpool Trojans
Milton Keynes Truckers	V	Stevenage Knights
Hounslow Rangers	V	Preston Bobcats
Crawley Comets	V	Humberside Warriors

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HARDBALL 3 - THE EXCITEMENT OF THE MAJORS AT THE TOUCH OF A BUTTON.

Ever thought you could make a better job of managing a major league team if given half the chance. Ever wondered what it would be like to have Griffey, Clemens, Bonds, and Justice in your line-up. Well now you can find out!

If you bought your son or daughter a Sega for Christmas and they've already tired of it or maybe you own a PC and you've been wanting a baseball game for it but don't know which one to get, then Brit-ball has come to the rescue.

Hardball 3, by Accolade, available for both the Sega Megadrive and IBM Compatible PC's, is possibly the best Baseball game currently on the market. The game concentrates more on actually playing matches than the man-management and statistics aspects evident in other Baseball simulations.

The game offers various levels of involvement, from batting practice (it is the only game I have ever seen with this useful addition) and exhibition games, to seasons of varying lengths (from 11 to 162 games depending on your stamina!), and includes the correct stats from the 1991 season, if you can be bothered to edit the players names (on the Sega you can only edit two teams at any one time!). There are however, some strange quirks in the games; for instance the Megadrive version includes Colorado and Florida, but doesn't include their stadiums, and the PC version only has eight stadiums (unless you purchase the Stadium add-on disk).

Anyway on to the game itself, on

beginning the game various options are available to show even the most uncoordinated person to enjoy the game. You can have the computer bat, field or run for you, or you can do all of the above yourself and you can play against the computer or against a friend.

On beginning the game, you see the players run on to the field and are greeted by the commentary of Al Michaels, a



well-known American commentator, who proceeds to introduce the player due up to bat, as well as the play-by-play and keeping you up-to-date with the score and inning count. The game looks very nice with digitised reproductions of the stadiums as well as close-ups of close plays at the bases, the players also play properly by backing up and moving to cut off throws from the outfield. You also see the pitcher shaking off the signals from the catcher while you are deciding what pitch to throw, or your batting strategy.

The game allows a fair bit of management and tactics, such as steals, pickoffs, hit and run, squeeze bunts etc, most of which are needed as the computer plays a hard game. The only disappointment for me is that you very rarely hit home runs while

the computer thinks nothing of putting your best inside slider into the bleachers!

If you decide to play a season of any length, you pick your team and the computer will play any games not involving you, by means of a weekly schedule where you see the games inning by inning scores as well as a brief line score, and then updates the standings. There is also an All-Star game mid-season which pits the best players in both leagues against each other, you can also play this game if you wish but you can't change the squad if you disagree with any of the players that the computer has picked. Then it is on to the League play-offs and World Series (if you are good enough).

All in all, Hardball 3 is a very good game for the Baseball fan who doesn't mind the lack of stats, but just wants an enjoyable game of baseball and thinks that it's about time they showed the kids a thing or two.

For further details about Hardball 3 and its availability contact Kevin Macadam at Head Office.

JIM BRINDLE
LEEDS CITY ROYALS II

In next months issue, Jim will be reviewing Tony La Russa Baseball 2, a must for the stats fan.



Please note the following changes in team contacts for your copy of the 1993 British Baseball Federation Handbook:



Derby Crowns
(1st contact)

Richard Dixon
97 Balfour Road, Derby,
DE23 8UP

Tel: 0332 773201

Norwich Wanderers

Andy Aron
93 Glendenning Road, Thorpe Park
Norwich, Norfolk, NR1 3LY Tel: 0603 765995

Mandy Buckland
73 Anchor Street, Norwich
Norfolk, NR3 1PB Tel: 0603 616508

Bedford Chicksands Indians

Ron Peters
Box 364, RAF Chicksands, Nr Shefford
Beds, SG17 5PT Tel: 0462 816982

Brian Stapp
Box 921, RAF Chicksands, Nr Shefford
Beds, SG17 5PT Tel: 0462 815417

Leeds City Royals
(1st contact)

Chaz Housley
17 Lynwood Crescent, Fitzwilliam, Nr Pontefract
West Yorkshire, WF9 5DL Tel: 0977 612593

Leeds City Royals II

Dean Davidson
3 Barker Place, Bramley, Leeds,
West Yorkshire, LS13 4BU Tel: 0532 563952

Chichester Titans
(1st contact)

Steve Sinclair
15 Woodfield Close, Tangmere, Chichester
West Sussex, PO20 6FL Tel: 0243 776425

Gillingham Dodgers
(1st contact)

Daniel Large
34 Swain Road, Wigmore, Gillingham
Kent, ME8 0SN Tel: 0634 235073

Hounslow Sentinels

Darren Johnson
51 Drayton Close, Hounslow
Middlesex, TW4 5EL Tel: 081 570 8280

Clyde Valley Knights
(2nd contact)

Peter Carracher
83 Hillhouse Road, Hamilton Tel: 0698 458254

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