

# BRIT BALL

The Official Voice of the British Baseball Federation

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## **BLYLEVEN TO HEAD 1994 BBF MLB COACHING CLINIC**

It's official, Bert Blyleven and Sam Suplezio will be at the 1994 BBF Coaching Clinic.

Following on from the success of last year, the BBF in partnership with Major League Baseball, are hosting the Second Annual UK Baseball Clinic next January. The clinic will be held from Friday 28 January (5.00pm) to Sunday 30 January (3.00pm) at the USIU-E in Bushey, Hertfordshire, and is open to both BBF members and the general public. Speakers at the clinic include Blyleven, a 292 game winner and twice World Series Winner, and Suplezio, who are both scouts for the California Angels organisation.

A BBF banquet is planned for the Saturday evening with Blyleven and Suplezio as After Dinner Speakers.

The major improvement in the 1994 clinic will be the "Hands On" coaching that will run alongside the main clinic schedule. Throughout the weekend, BBF players and members nominated by their clubs will be able to attend small workshops and receive tuition from the two coaches in smaller groups using the BBF Roadshow to help correct hitting mistakes.

Most of the clinic this year will be £20.00 for BBF members, £30.00 for non-members booking before 1 December 1993 and £25.00 and £35.00 respectively after this date. Look out in the next issue of Brit-Ball for the official booking form and further details on the actual clinic programme.

## **FRENCH'S BASEBALL FESTIVAL PROVES A HIT WITH THE CROWDS**

A crowd of 5,190 turned out on a glorious, sunny Sunday to witness the New York Mets beat the Boston Red Sox 8-3 at the Foster's Oval.

A torrential downpour on the Saturday resulted in game one of the festival being cancelled.

Because of the previous days weather the NPL Series deciding game was cancelled by the organisers, much to the disappointment of those who had come early to watch. They were however compensated in some way by the great atmosphere that surrounded the festival.

A paper plane throwing competition and the opportunity to mingle with the future stars added to the great atmosphere around the ground.

A home run derby, pitting the skills of cricket stars "Syd" Lawrence and Alec Stewart against the Minor League players, proved exciting with Mets Alan Zinter sending a ball sailing out of the ground to win the derby and bring the crowd to their feet.

A three run homer for the Mets piled on the agony for the Red Sox whilst the antics of the Pittsburgh Parrott, all combined to make it a day to remember for every one who attended.

Although this was only the minor league teams and not the major league stars, the organisers showed the British sports fan what it is like to go to a sporting event and be entertained as opposed to being bored or feeling threatened.

# El Presidente

Another busy month has passed. I attended the MLBIP conference in Spain and the four days of seminars were particularly interesting and informative. Topics ranged from managing and goal seeking to marketing and licensing, and then to running successful tournaments. The informal panel discussions were far reaching, covering amongs other things "Professional Baseball Players in the Olympics" and "A True World Series". Just think for a moment about the implications and the scope of these last two topics and you can imagine not all was amicable debating.

The Knockout Cup Final was an interesting contest with Humberside just getting the edge over Chicksands on a very wet day. The Hounslow people did the Federation proud in creating such a pleasant atmosphere, the road show batting cage, stalls, beer tent and barbecue all made for a fun day.

The NPL series was all going to plan on the Saturday on a dry but overcast day in Birmingham when half-way through the first game I received a garbled message (it's cancelled), a phone number (minus a digit) and a bill from the taxi driver for £7.00 for bring it. Yes, you guessed it, the weather in London was awful and the Oval event for that day was cancelled. After eventually figuring out the missing digit I got to work on a portable phone (Thanks Gary) and found out that because of re-scheduling, particularly the TV coverage, our games would not take place on the Sunday.

Deciding not to influence the teams or a result we sat back and awaited the result of the first two games. When things are down they sometimes continue that way, the teams were tied 1-1, after two terrific games. We explained the situation, gave the teams a chance to discuss, and then made what was possibly the only option left. The Series would be a tie and both teams would share the honours for

six months. Wearily we made our way to London.

Fosters Oval, Sunday 3 October. I've got to admit it was a great day even though our teams didn't get to play. The home run derby was more than well supported and the game between the Mets and the Red Sox was everything you could wish for. The Pittsburgh Parrot kept everyone on their toes, especially me. Having spent most of the day avoiding said parrot I managed to find myself wrestling our NPL trophy back from a six-foot tall mustard pot - what the heck - who wanted dignity anyway. Our teams eventually found some fame as they were re-presented with the NPL trophy (if you haven't seen it - it's a beauty). Brian Thurston received the MVP trophy from MLB and with Leeds City Royals and Brighton Buccaneers each picking up a trophy from their season, we were well received by an appreciative crowd. We need to take all the positive things from this weekend and build on them for next year. The media were very interested in British Baseball, both major newspapers and for television, SKY and BBC breakfast time news.

Well, after shaking all those hands and being interviewed so much this year, on top of the usual day to day administration I'm finding it very exhausting. The next month will see all the Board getting a second wind and preparing budgets, bye-law amendments, Council and AGM agenda, and spring clinics - both coaching and umpiring.

British Baseball has taken a very big step this year with the re-organisation of the leagues, its commitment to youth and schools, the success of our juniors at international level, the envoy programme and the Bushey clinic. In closing the page on this year I would like to say a big thanks to all those unsung workers that have supported me as President in my first year and I wish all of you a successful 94 season, which I'm sure with your continued support will be bigger and better for British Baseball.



Each team has it's 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 'BRIT-BALL' 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 God's gift to baseball, the man who is feared south of Watford, none other than Mr Craig Savage.

## PAGE THREE PIN-UP

SPOTLIGHT ON  
AGE  
PLAYING POSITION  
TEAM  
LIKES  
DISLIKES  
FAVOURITE TV  
FAVOURITE FOOD  
FAVOURITE DRINK  
AMBITIONS

Craig "Clay Sausage" Savage  
29

Outfield or yelling from the bench  
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## ANGLO DUTCH JUNIOR BASEBALL TOURNAMENT IN MAIDSTONE, KENT

The biggest gathering of young baseballers descended on the newly established baseball fields at the Police Training College, Sutton Road in Maidstone at the beginning of September.

If the enthusiasm and excitement of the 100 young players is anything to go by baseball is set to become part of the Kent sporting scene.

The event really began the night before when the Dutch visiting teams from Schagen and Hoom - about 25 miles north of Amsterdam - arrived at Oldborough Manor School after a 3 hour trip from Harwich in their 60 seater coach. "I was amazed at not only the number of players they brought - but the number of parents and supporters who came along" said Alan Chell the Maidstone coach who organised this side of the event.

The group were accommodated in the gymnasium on their foam mattresses and sleeping bags. They had brought provisions for an army and the youngsters devoured the goodies with gusto.

The next day the two Dutch teams - URBANUS and RANGERS arrived at the field in their eye-catching red and blue uniforms - matched only by the smart uniforms of Tonbridge Bobcats - Windsor and Maidstone looking slightly bedraggled in their T-shirts and track suit pants.

After some discussion about the right ball to use (they use a rubber ball and we use proper baseballs) and some of the rules - the matches got underway. Tonbridge and Windsor beat both the Dutch teams in the first round of the round-robin and that set the tone for the day. Tonbridge won the tournament unbeaten - with Windsor second - followed by Rangers - Urbanus and Maidstone. "It was really exciting to be playing against teams from so far away" said Margaret Borley "and satisfying to find we could beat them".

Although losing was a disappointment for Maidstone - the event was highlighted by the first-time presence of many parents and the fact that the players learnt a lot about the game and clearly had a terrific time. According to the visiting coaches Edwin and Peter - the entire Dutch party thoroughly enjoyed themselves and will especially remember the English fish and chips devoured on Saturday evening. The owner of the Coxheath fish and chip shop couldn't believe his luck when we walked in and ordered 60 portions of cod and chips please! To everyone's amazement this was completed in 20 minutes.

But in the end the real winners were the young baseball players who have established a new link with our European neighbours and received an invitation to Holland to play there next Spring.

Alan Chell  
Maidstone Little League

## RED SOX WIN CRAWLEY TOURNAMENT

The Hemel Red Sox swept all before them at the Crawley Baseball Tournament over the August Bank Holiday weekend. After two days of hard baseball, the Red Sox finished with a 6-0 record to win the Northwest Airlines Trophy, presented by the Mayor of Crawley.

The first game was against London Old Timers who were duly despatched 17-6 recording a win for pitcher Beresford and the first home run for Sox's Danny Groves.

Next the Sox tackled tournament favourites Hounslow which proved to be a triumph for the pitching of McGuinness who struck out five batters and allowed only three runs thanks to some good Sox defense. All the Sox hitters notably Malkin, Sheloff and Bracey contributed in this 9-3 win. Following this they pounded Tunbridge Wells 15-7 behind the pitching of American Chris Shurling helped by a double-play and three walks from Paul Hawes.

On the Sunday, Hemel's first opponents were previous winners and hosts Crawley Comets. This was a close tussle, with the Comets jumping ahead with five runs in the first inning and one in the second. The Sox managed to pull level with aggressive base stealing and hits at vital times. Pitcher Beresford found the groove and with the help of solid defense notably from rookie Gary Hartley he shut out the Comets, allowing the Red Sox to win 8-0.

This left German team Kreuzau Lions, and another fine defensive performance from the Sox infield and outfield, enabled pitcher McGuinness to shut out the Germans and take an 8-0 win.

Having won the tournament outright, Hemel faced an All-Star team made up of the best players from the other teams. McGuinness started on the mound for the Sox giving up two runs but showed the strain of his previous efforts. Beresford relieved and took the Sox up to the final inning before tiring. Manager Gren Bonfield called on catcher Duncan Cameron to pitch his first ever innings which he duly did in impressive style setting down the batters in order, striking out the last man with a knuckleball. This left the Red Sox needing three runs to keep their 100% record and in a nail biting finish they secured the victory with two outs on hits by Malkin, Sheloff, Bonfield, Hawes and a game winning pinch hit by Stuffsins.

## SOME PERSONAL THOUGHTS ON THE MANCHESTER BID

Let me begin by saying that the Manchester 2000 Bid was an excellent bid and technically rivalled Beijing and was superior to Berlin and Istanbul. Only Sydney could have boasted a superior technical bid and then only marginally.

Sydney were prepared to go to great, at times, any lengths to guarantee success. They overcame the distance and cost problem by offering to pay for all athletes, officials and equipment travel expenses to the games. They have agreed to switch event timing of popular sports to fit the scheduling of the American TV audience which could mean some events taking part late at night or very early morning. They spent a massive amount on their bid, twice as much as Manchester and, of course, they have a wonderful setting.

Manchester will get some fantastic sports facilities out of the bid. A brand spanking new velodrome for cycling - the most modern in Europe - which will become the home of the British Cycling Federation. A new indoor sports arena which can house a host of indoor sports from badminton to table tennis. There is even talk of the main athletics stadium being built, albeit not quite on the grand scale of an Olympic stadium, nevertheless, a state of the art facility. Remember Crystal Palace is our number one athletic track and that was built "a few years ago".

So what went wrong? As has been publicised we thought, and I was told in a meeting a week before the vote, that we had got 18/20 solid votes. That number is far short of the required 45 majority but a good foundation to pick up the floating voters. We got 11 in the first round, 13 in the second and 11 again in the third. Take away from that the votes of the Princess Royal and Dame Mary Glen-Haig and it leaves just 9 votes. 9 from 86 is very, very, disappointing and is not ground from which to build.

There will, of course, be de-briefing meetings and I shall be attending the BOA meeting on the 8 December at which, I expect, a lot of straight talking will be expressed. There will always be more which could have been done, better technical innovation and more readily built facilities. However, I think the first question to be answered if we



are to consider bidding again is do the Sporting World really want the Olympics in Britain and if so, is a provincial City every going to be attractive enough to the IOC voters and their closest advisors. On the face of it only London has the charisma to attract the IOC members, but can the London traffic system etc cope with it? We will have to wait and see if a further bid is to be made and then weigh up which city should be the British Bid.

I believe another reason Manchester failed in its bid for 2000 had nothing at all to do with Manchester. As I have said it was a superb bid, ably conducted and should have won. A problem we have in this country is our lack of taking sport seriously. Many, many other nations view sports as an integral part of their culture, their way of life, their external relations. We tend to view sport as a pastime. I am not referring to or criticising the administrators or participators in sport. I am referring to the public perception of sport, the Government policies toward sport and Government bodies involved with sport. It isn't too long ago that sport in education was given a virtual heave-ho and disputes over teachers pay has just about put paid to out of school hours sport in our schools. Money for sport from the Government is used for administration first and the amount which goes directly to sport is a small percentage. Our sports journalists also do us no service with the wider world which must affect our credibility. As a nation we put sport very low on our list of priorities. Our Sports Minister is a junior post within the Department of the Environment. We have to correct all this if we are to be taken seriously.

The affect on Baseball as a direct result of Manchester not getting the 2000 games are obvious. No stadium, no automatic qualification, no additional funding. But wait! No stadium in Manchester but the BBF are working on a possible stadium further south. No automatic qualification but we are not prevented from qualifying. No additional funding but if we qualify we will get additional funding. In other words it's up to us - we will get out as much as we put in.

Qualification and a stadium were our goals before the bid - and so they

remain. Were we looking for the easy route to the Olympics? It's hard, always has been, and always will be, because we are good enough not just because we are hosts. The Olympic baseball stadiums in Sydney are at Homebush Bay which is 16km or 24 minutes from Sydney city centre, adjacent to the Olympic village with capacities of 10,000 and 4,000 with one field facing North East and the other South South East with distances of 325' down the lines and 410' to straightaway centre.

The first game is on Sunday 17 September and the finals Friday 29 September (rest days 25 and 28 September). Enough said?

Mike Harrold

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# THE 1993 NATIONAL PREMIER LEAGUE SOUTH - through the eyes of an Arrow

What do Essex girls use to catch a baseball? (Put your own obscene answer here .....)

I was highly critical of the new NPL format when it was announced last winter. Having had two years experience of travelling around the country to play the best teams in the nation, I considered it was a backwards step to regionalise our top league. Although I have missed the opportunity of playing the glamour teams like Humberside, Leeds and Nottingham, fortunately the balance and skill level of the teams in the NPL South created an exciting season.

With the experience of NPL play and with long serving player Phil Chesterton giving up first base to concentrate totally on management, the Arrows could have been regarded as one of the favourites for the title this year. This suggestion was quickly dismissed when we dropped our first game of the season to Hounslow Rangers. The Rangers looked well drilled under the guidance of manager Bob Gray and they even had the audacity to slam a home run out of the park off me in the bottom of the first inning of Game 1! We came back to take the second game mainly on the strength of Simon Bowden's pitching (he collected 14 K's in 7 innings). I would like to take this opportunity to request that in future we must avoid scheduling double headers on the opening date of the season. The weather is usually cold and unpredictable and it's too soon to put so much pressure on pitchers.

Our result on the second week of the season possibly cost us the championship (or at least second place). We lost a dramatic game 8-7 to Milton Keynes. The Truckers acquisition of Japanese and American players to bolster their already talented British squad made them a formidable team. The game featured an early season skirmish - four of our players were hit by pitches and the final occasion led to a bench clearing. Fortunately Truckers manager Carl Reynolds had the decency of removing his fireballing Jap hurler before things got any worse.

The Crawley Comets season got off to a poor start and we were lucky to catch them on Week 3 without some of their star players. We used Kevin Pickston, who is slowly converting from an excellent third baseman into a fine pitcher, on the mound and he pitched a 4-hitter in our 14-2 win.

We then faced the undefeated Buccaneers and their notorious Naoki Shiga in Game 1 of our double header in Brighton in Week 4. Although I pitched one of my best games for years (a 6-hitter), Shiga was better.

He had a blistering fastball and a curve that dropped two feet and gave up only 2 hits in a great game that we lost 3-1. Game 2 was a blowout as Brighton hit us all over the park to take it 14-6. At this stage, it looked as if Brighton were destined champions.

Week 5 in Bedford and we had one of our best games all season. Pickston again pitched well, our fielding was good and we started hitting the ball. Although we beat Chicksands 12-9, they had missing a few of their players who would go on to dominate the league.

While we played the Indians, the two undefeated teams, Milton Keynes and Brighton, met and to keep everything tight, they split their double header.

Having now played everyone in the league at least once, the Arrows were 3-4, three games behind the leaders. But we were optimistic that we were still in with a chance.

Unfortunately, June was a disaster. Like most teams, we were hit by injuries and holidays but that's no excuse, we just played bad. We lost to Hounslow, Milton Keynes and then on June 20, Crawley's Mark Mills threw a 2-hitter against us as we went down 12-2. It was the Comets first win of the season. Those results left us second from bottom and out of contention.

The Knock-out Cup intervened just in time and some confidence returned as we beat the spirited Hemel Red Sox 14-4.

The following week we hosted Brighton and the result was a slugfest. The Bucs got off to an early lead but in the blistering heat we finally got to Shiga in the fifth (11 runs on 7 hits including a double and two triples) and knocked him off the mound. Runs were raining in from all directions and we managed to hold on 16-15. The winning run coming from a sac bunt by Tony Matthews following Kevin Pickston's triple.

July 11 was the day we met Carlos Baez of Chicksands. The southpaw came to pitch with the score tied at 5-5 in the fifth. We chose the same inning to debut our new Canadian "signing" Duane Brenna who relieved me. Although neither team could break the deadlock, the Indians bats, in particular Baez, were hotter than ours and they took the lead with 2 runs in the 8th. Chicksands added one in the 9th to win 8-5.

We played Chicksands again the following week in the Cup. Going into the bottom of the 8th it was a 5-5 game. I'd started and had managed to hold the big-hitting Indians reasonably quiet thanks to a flawless performance from my fielders. However by the 8th I was wrecked and started the Chicksands inning by through a big meatball to Tom White who promptly tagged it over the right field fence. This opened the flood gate. Being the only "recognised pitcher" (I use the term loosely) available on the day, our stand-in relievers didn't have a hope. Before the inning was out, Chicksands had put another 10 runs on the board and the game was called (slaughter rule).

We met Hounslow for the last time on July 25. Duane Brenna, who for some unknown reason had been rejected by the Rangers earlier in the season, started and the right-hander with a mean slider pitched superbly through 5. By the time Si Bowden relieved in the 6th, we had a comfortable 12-6 lead. Earlier in the game, our power-hitting centre fielder Kerry Wilshire blasted a drive to deep left field. Hounslow's Peter Edwards followed it back, jumped, snared the ball and went over the fence with it! A truly tremendous catch.

Bowden was slow at getting his stuff together and combined with some

untimely errors, we suffered one of our infamous "bummer" innings. By the bottom of the 8th, Hounslow had tied it up. We added 4 more runs by the time the Rangers came to bat in the 9th. Somehow, amongst some more misplays, we held onto win 16-14.

Batting averages throughout the whole of the team had improved in recent weeks. On the strength of this and the knowledge that Milton Keynes had been dropping games, we were looking forward to our double header on August 1. Also, we were keen to show off our new uniforms. Unfortunately, the Truckers were having some serious "problems" and forfeited both games.

By August 15 Brighton were not the same team we had met earlier in the year. In a game that I think they would admit they played badly, we took it 18-8. Shiga was missing and it was noticeable. (Curiously, Raybould was also missing but nobody noticed!). Brenna went 5 and K'd 9 before Pickston relieved.

At this stage, manager Phil Chesterton started getting his calculator out. He had figured that if Chicksands lose their final 3 games, Brighton win their one remaining game, and we sweep our last 4, there would be a three-way tie at the top of the NPL South (all of us on 12-8). Two of our remaining games were a double header at Chicksands so we had some control over our fate. If this worked out, the Arrows would take the title on the rule that we had the best record against the other two teams. Exciting stuff, eh?

We met Chicksands on August 29. The games were played at Stevenage and we quickly discovered the short home run fence. Baez started Game 1. We scored twice in the first. Bowden started for us. Chicksands immediately tied it when White poked a 2-run shot over right field. In the horrifying second, the Indians added 8. By the 3rd, Bowden had been relieved by Pickston. Baez had put 2 more out of the park, and we were out of the game. There was some late excitement when Arrows right fielder Al Langer blasted a grand slam homer over centre field in the 7th. It was too late. We lost 16-8 and our championship hopes were over.

I started Game 2 but retired injured in the second inning (not before Baez had put another one in the trees beyond the right field fence). Brenna relieved and struggled against the mighty Indians attack. It must be said, we also hit well but left too many on base and made one too many errors. Chicksands took Game 2 18-10.

Our rescheduled double header against Crawley was played on September 5. The Comets had improved in the second half of the season but were stuck in last place and now forced to play the Bristol Black Sox in a play-off for a spot in next year's NPL. Both teams had several regulars missing. Brenna got the call to start Game 1 and Crawley came out firing. Some timely hits and some dreadful errors (including an easy ground ball through my legs at shortstop) saw them quickly put 5 on the board in the first. We came back with 2 in the first and took the game with 7 runs in the second. Bowden relieved in the 5th and we ran out 13-6 winners.

Simon, a tall left-hander and former GB pitcher, was in majestic form and stayed in to start Game 2. It was a tight game until the 4th when we added 4 runs. By the top of the 7th, we were 11-2 up. At this point Bowden was forced to retire (doubleheader pitching restrictions) and Chesterton had to go to his shaky bullpen. The result was another "bummer" inning. What seemed like an easy victory ended in a nail-biting 11-10 win for us. One thing is for sure, when we have a bad inning, we have a bad inning!

So, we finished the season 10-10, tied for third place. Chicksands were the deserving champions. Both Milton Keynes and Brighton slipped badly in the second half otherwise they would have given the Indians a closer race. Hounslow, like us, had some very good games and some poor ones. After a dreadful start, Crawley came on strong and should be back next year.

As an Arrow with many years behind me now, I'd say the '93 team was the best ever. We had 13-14 players at virtually every game (I've never spent so much time on the bench which must be a good thing

for the team!). We supported each other well, there was a good spirit through most of the year and a lot of that has to go down to the guidance of the manager (grovel) and the attitude of the players.

I'll finish by briefly referring to two areas we (the BBF) need to look at before next year. First the foreign player rule. It was great having Chicksands in our league and we enjoyed playing them but they do have the distinct advantage over us British teams. If we are going to continue being restricted to four non-UK nationals per game (which I think is a good rule), then teams who cannot adhere to it should play on a guest basis (they are not entitled to BBF trophies). That was the rule in 1992 and it was Chicksands who suggested it. Why was it changed?

Secondly, we must introduce a plan to encourage and develop more umpires. We say it every year but nothing is done. I was pleased to read Steve Herbert's comments in the last issue of Bntball where he suggested that every team next year must supply and train an umpire. However, this does smack of using the whip to cure the problem. I would prefer to use a carrot. If we have funds available from the Sports Council, let's use some of it to produce umpiring clinics and provide volunteers who attend with appropriate equipment. Let's set up a system where expenses' payments are made before the game takes place. Let's give additional financial rewards to those who are prepared to work a targetted number of games. We gotta find more boys in blue. NOTE: NPL teams, by virtue of their status, should have a recognised, independent umpire at all of their games. The total number of BBF assigned umpires who attended Arrows home games this season amounted to 0 (zero).

Finally, finally. Many thanks to all of the teams in the NPL South for making it an enjoyable year. I look forward to seeing you all again in '94.

Paul Raybould  
Essex Arrows

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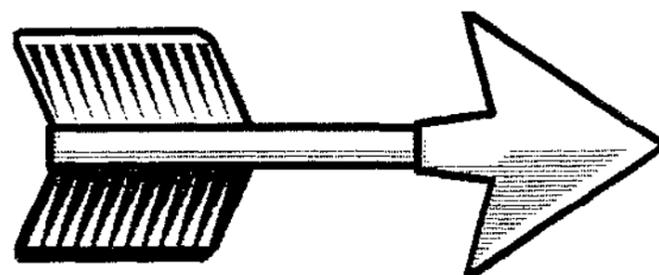
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# THE LONDON TOURNAMENT

## 11-12 SEPTEMBER 1993

Third Division Southern Conference newcomers, the London Wolves staged their inaugural annual invitational 8 team tournament at Roundshaw Park, Sutton in September. Publicity for the event was admirably provided by Carlton Television's 'Big City' programme on the Thursday before the event, with celebrity, Gordon Kennedy providing an up-beat presentation of what the public could expect to see. The Wolves and their friends, the Croydon Pirates played an exhibition game to provide Gordon with appropriate stage props and a back drop to the programme. Sponsorship was obtained from General Portfolio Financial Planning Services, whose generosity helped offset the considerable financial burden that comes with staging a tournament of this magnitude. Tournament Director, Neil McLeod was optimistic about all 20 games being played, and he, like many others were not to be disappointed. Saturday proved to be an extremely memorable day with all 12 games on the 2 excellently prepared baseball diamonds getting underway almost on time!

Teams participating were Fulham Flames, Guildford Mavericks, Bracknell Blazers, Caterham A's, Lashings Sluggers of Maidstone, Croydon Pirates, Hounslow All Stars and hosts London Wolves. Teams were divided into 2 leagues, with each team playing 3 games on Saturday. The Pirates, All Stars, Wolves and Sluggers earned the right to fight it out for the top 4 places on Sunday with the Pirates pitted against the Sluggers, and hosts London Wolves having to face the might of the All Stars, Hounslow's Premier League team, the Rangers making up the nucleus of the squad.

In the first semi-final Lashings Sluggers went down 9-5 to the Pirates, succumbing to the pitching talent of veteran, Eric Petrie and Rob Mason, who combined to keep the Sluggers bats quiet. Pirate's offence finally exploded in the fourth inning, with 4 runs being scored. Rookie Ben Nuttall had 4 walks and scored 2 runs, with the inimitable Eric Petrie and team mate Mick Addley adding 4 more between them.

In the other semi-final, newcomers the Wolves faced a more experienced All Stars outfit, who proved too strong for their hosts, nailing them with numerous squeeze plays in the mud of a rain sodden Sunday afternoon. 20-2 did not seem to be an appropriate scoreline for such an important game, but the loss of Coach McLeod through his involvement with the organising of the tournament meant that the Wolves were bound to suffer sooner or later, and suffer they did.

That left the Pirates and the All Stars to fight it out for the coveted London Cup. There was some doubt about whether the game should go ahead, with torrential rain causing severe flooding to the dirt infield of Roundshaws 'premier' baseball diamond. That didn't deter the teams or the organisers for that matter, as their joint efforts to clear the field of numerous pools of muddy water started to have

an affect. The game was given the green light after two sizzling and tantalising pep talks from each manager, and the game got underway. Most onlookers expected the All Stars to triumph over the lesser experienced Pirates side. However, the form books were completely overturned by a swashbuckling team with guns ablazing, searching for the spoils of a ship slowly sinking in the guise of a drenched and beleaguered All Stars outfit. The Pirates simply rose to the occasion and had the bigger heart to go out and win the prize. The All Stars did not, amazingly going down 16-2!

Pirate veteran, Eric Petrie, received player of the tournament award, well deserved after his sterling all round pitching and offensive performances in the 5 Pirate wins. The little touches off the field of play helped to make the tournament weekend a really wonderful time for all. Baseball is nothing without the stalwart heroes who make such an event tick with minimal alarm bells sounding. Tournament helpers, Jan, Sam, Dawn, Anne, Ken, Jack, Simeon, Clem, Dave, Joe, Phil, Adam, Paul, Laura, Gary John, Karl, Renee and all the others that helped in the smooth running of the event deserve a big thank you from us all.

It was with regret that one of the tournament players sustained an horrific injury to his face, with 40 stitches needed to put matters right. He dived head first into the corner stacion of a bench seat. Steve Jarnet, catcher for the Fulham Flames, deserves a special mention. His courageous attempt at making a diving catch beyond foul territory might be considered by some to have been a foolhardy thing to do. I don't. His effort epitomises what the game is all about. Steve has guts, and all he was trying to do was make a crucial out which might have changed the complexion of a close game between 2 sides destined to finish near the bottom of the tournament ladder. The fact that the Bracknell Blazers player would not have been out was not the point here. Steve's commitment was. We all wish Steve the very best on his road to recovery and hope to see his ugly mush out there in the not too distant future, with the same bottle and enthusiasm!

Neil McLeod  
Tournament Director

## Thank-you

*I would like to thank everyone at the London Tournament who helped me after my accident at the tournament. A special thank-you must go to St John's Ambulance, Neil McLeod and especially Mark Salton.  
Thanks everyone  
Steve Jarnet*

POSITION	TEAM	WON	LOST
1	Croydon Pirates	5	0
2	Hounslow All Stars	4	1
3	Lashings Sluggers of Maidstone	3	2
4	London Wolves	2	3
Joint 5	Caterham A's	2	2
Joint 5	Bracknell Blazers	2	2
7	Guildford Mavericks	1	4
8	Fulham Flames	0	5

Dear Editor

I feel I have to write to answer some of the opinions expressed in Mr Herbert's column of last month's Brit-Ball. In his section he makes the comment "I think a few ejections may be necessary". That may be his opinion. It is not however the opinion of myself or any individual who has been or will be tutored in umpiring. No umpire should ever go into a game 'looking' to make an ejection for any reason.

Now, let's look at the matter of indiscipline towards umpires. To remove players from games, when necessary, is not enough. There must be some follow-up and backing from the BBF Executive. Suspensions or fines, etc. must be enforced.

In past years I have ejected three individuals from games, reported one club official, and forwarded at least twelve other umpires ejection reports all concerning BBF nationally controlled games. Not one of these individuals have been penalised by the Federation. During the same period of time I have ejected two people from games in international competitions under the auspices of CEBA. Both these individuals received automatic one game bans.

The result: every game under CEBA is controlled by qualified umpires who are respected by the players and coaches, and game - are games under the BBF's control?

The conclusion in mine and the umpires association's opinions is clear - stop wringing Mr Herbert about not enough ejections, but act with more guts on those that are made.

Gary Mortimer, CEBA Umpire

*Editor: Thanks for your opinions Gary. As you will also see from last month's Brit-Ball we have already taken steps to rectify this situation, by advertising the position of Disciplinary Coordinator. If anyone else has a view on umpiring, then please write in to Brit-Ball.*

Dear Brit-Ball

I would like to commend all BBF officials, clubs, managers, players and umpires who have fulfilled their obligations in a season marred by non-starters, mid season withdrawals and a divisions defection to "independent" status. It is to be really regretted the latter could not wait until the season ended so that any grievances could be resolved. Having watched many BBF and NLB games over the last two years it does not seem to me that "going it alone" solves the problems mentioned above; in fact NLB's crowded scheduling with hardly any make-up dates has caused much late season congestion of games, a problem which the BBF has largely avoided. Hopefully BBF members will make known any problems this autumn and continue to "bat for British Baseball" and represent the BBF again next season.

On the vexed question of withdrawals - how about if every club advertised in the local newspapers for players, new or experienced, to ensure a large enough squad to see them through next season? Any surplus could be directed to other teams who do not meet a good response. Also, could not the BBF write to non-active former contacts of defunct teams to see if they could be encouraged to re-form? Perhaps interest could be revived in former playing areas by this means.

Yours faithfully, Will Cosgrave

*Editor: Some interesting ideas there Will, keep them coming.*

Dear Brit-Ball

I have just read your recent publication (issue no 3) and on reading Doreen Megson's "Words of Wisdom", I thought I would write to you and enlighten you and your readers a little further on the history of baseball in England. I am presently studying for a Sports and Recreation degree at Staffordshire University, and having been to visit my brother residing in Toronto, Canada in 1991, I fell in love with baseball, or more accurately the Blue Jays.

My interest in baseball has not waned, and in fact I am presently gathering information on the history of baseball in this country, for a third year dissertation project. I can tell you that indeed baseball has been played in this country since prior to the Second World War and as many as 5000 spectators would turn out to see Derby Baseball Club play at the Baseball Ground (the very same one Derby Football Club play on!).

The first American baseball team tour of Great Britain took place in 1874!!! But it was not until a second tour in 1888/89 by teams led by A.G Spalding (he of the "sports products" fame) that the first league was set up in England - which was in fact a "professional league" consisting

of four teams, all of which had "footballing" backgrounds. Two more tours, in 1913 and 1924 by the New York Giants, were also received with mixed appeal, and the game never really did catch on the way the American promoters had hoped.

Anyone reading your fanzine who knows of any information that may be helpful, or indeed, the history of establishment of their own clubs (even if it is just dates) would be gratefully received at the address below. Looking forward to any correspondence.

Yours faithfully  
Daniel Bloyce, 215 Hampden Way  
Southgate, London, N14 7NA, Tel: 081 368 0250  
*Editor: Thanks for this information Daniel. Perhaps for future issues of Brit-Ball you could write some*

*articles on the history of baseball for us.*

Dear Kevin

I feel that I should draw the attention of the BBF to the death of Sir John Moores on Saturday 25 September 1993.

Sir John was the person who first introduced baseball to the North, and was the founder of the National Baseball Association, also forming the pre-war semi-pro leagues.

I have enclosed details of a research that I made some years ago, taken from the Liverpool Records Office.

In my collection of newspaper cuttings I have a cartoon of Sir John Moores under the caption of "Mr John Moores, Founder and President of the National Baseball Association."

I also have a photocopy of a newspaper picture of the first World Amateur Baseball Trophy, presented by John Moores.

Because John Moores was so instrumental in introducing our game to the North, I feel that the BBF should let his be know to all members. Yours in Sport, Norman Wells, Liverpool Trojans

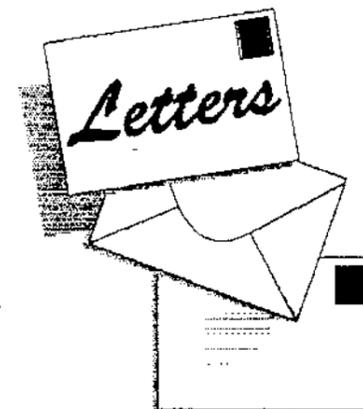
*Editor: Thanks Norman for letting us know about the sad death of Sir John Moores. Look out in a future issue of Britball for a more extensive report on the history of baseball in Merseyside.*

Dear Steve

On behalf of everyone at MLBI, I want to thank you for all your cooperation during the French's Baseball Festival. We very much appreciated your grace in handling the cancellation of Sundays game so positively. As you saw on Sunday, the teams did not have any batting practice on the field and the ground crew needed the full time until noon to counteract the effects of the rain, so we are especially grateful to you.

I would like to complement you also on the interviews you gave to the media on Sunday. I thought that you made an eloquent spokesman for the game of baseball as well as the BBF. We hope that the Humberside Mets and the Bedford Chicksands Indians feel that the exposure they received will balance off the loss of the third game, and that the benefit to the BBF of the festival will be lasting. Once again, thanks.

Best Regards, Mike Carlson, MLBI



# GREAT BRITIAN V NPL ALL STARS

Being the sort of manager I am, I go into every single game wanting to win. The GB v NPL game was no different. I always want to be a winner, but part of me was hoping the NPL team would put one over us.

I am always on the look out for new talented players and the GB v NPL game was an opportunity for those not currently in mind or those passed over or those who are ex GB squad members to prove a point in a way I could not lose, (apart from pride).

I had warned the GB players before the game that starting now, some (or all) were playing for their international futures. No-one in any squad should take their place for granted.

Craig Savage, manager of the NPL side had, quite rightly, included some non-nationals in his squad. I think Craig did a good job with his team selections on the day, mixing his national and non-nationals and making lots of changes.

It turned out to be a great game of baseball. Leading 4-1 at the death I felt quite comfortable but errors and some good offensive work from Craig's team soon put paid to that. I ended up scrambling for a vital run

to send the game into extra inning. GB came out on top but it should have given the GB squad a sharp lesson. So, well done the NPL team and Craig.



Mike Harrold  
National Teams  
Manager

## THURSTON EJECTED AS NPL ALL-STARS PUSH GB TO THE LIMIT

Sunday 12th September saw the first Great Britain v National Premier League fixture and what a game it proved to be with the game going to extra innings and a player ejected!

GB took a one run lead in the second inning through Pete Edwards as the pitchers from both sides, Godsall for GB and Baez for NPL dominated through the early stages of the game. The All-Stars levelled the score in the fourth when Radge came home but GB added one run in the seventh and two in the eighth to practically seal the victory.

However, the All-Star team under the guidance of Brighton Buccaneers manager Craig Savage, rallied with four runs in the top of the ninth to take a 5-4 lead. Great Britain fought back with the tying run from Rob Norris to take the game into extra innings. With two outs in the bottom of the ninth All-Star pitcher Tom White hit GB's Brian Thurston with a pitch which resulted in Thurston being ejected from the game after threatening White with the bat in an incident that marred a great game. In the tenth inning, GB's Frank Parker scored the winning run after a single by Neil Read.

For Great Britain, Neil Read went 2 for 6 with 3 rbis and Ray Brownlie went 2 for 3. Pete Edwards scored two runs. Darren Butler took the win as he pitched three innings giving up only one hit and striking out four.

For the All-Stars, Indians Carlos Beez and Tom White went 4 for 5 and 3 for 5 respectively. Leeds City Royals Rob Lopez pitched two innings of no hit ball and Crawley's Mark Mills took the loss in a game which proved a nightmare for scorer Lynn Marshall with seventeen changes for the All-Stars. EDITOR: The game proved to be a good exercise for both teams and I would like to thank Craig Savage on behalf of all the members of the NPL Squad on doing a great job.

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Listed below are the 1993 trophy winners for their respective conferences and divisions. The final league standings, along with reports and statistics from throughout the season will appear in the November issue of Brit-Ball.

Congratulations to the following:

### Southern Conference

National Premier League South - Winners  
Bedford Chicksands Indians

National Premier League South - Runners-up  
Brighton Buccaneers

Southern Conference Winners  
Bristol Black Sox

Southern Conference Runners-up  
Arun Panthers

Division One South - East - Winners  
Arun Panthers

Division One South - East - Runners-up  
Gillingham Dodgers

Division One South - West - Winners  
Bristol Black Sox

Division One South - West - Runners-up  
City Slick Sidewinders

Division Two South - Winners  
Reading Royals

Division Two South - Runners Up  
Hounslow Hawks

Division Three South - Winners  
Tiptree Hot Sports Rays

Division Three South - Runners Up  
London Wolves

### Northern Conference

National Premier League North - Winners  
Humberside Mets

National Premier League North - Runners-up  
Leeds City Royals

Division One North - England - Winners  
Liverpool Trojans

Division One North - England - Runners-up  
Menwith Hill Pirates

Division One North - Scotland - Winners  
West Lothian Wildcats

Division One North - Scotland - Runners-up  
Glasgow Comets

Division Two North - England - Winners  
Stretford A's

Division Two North - England - Runners-up  
Durham Demons / Leeds City Royals II /  
Preston Bobcats

Good luck to everyone for the 1994 season.

Kevin Macadam  
Competitions Director

## METS COME OUT TOP IN KNOCKOUT CUP SLUGFEST

Bedford Chicksands Indians v Humberside Mets

The 1993 BBF National Knockout Cup Final was hosted by Hounslow Baseball Club at Feltham Arenas, Feltham in Middlesex.

In a game expected to be dominated by pitchers, it promptly turned into a slugfest from the off.

Mets took a 3-0 lead in the bottom of the first, with both teams adding another run each in the second to give Mets a 4-1 lead. In the top of the third, however, the Indians regained the lead as they scored 5 runs, including a shot from Carlos Baez who crashed a 3 run homer over the right field fence, to put the Indians 6-4 in front.

When Mets came to bat in the bottom of the inning, Andy Peacock proved that anything Baez could do, he could do better, and promptly sent a ball over centre field to score another 3 run homer, which immediately put the Mets back in from 7-5.

Humberside added 2 more in the fourth, whilst the Indians pulled 2 back in the fifth to take the score to 9-7.

Mets then stepped up a gear and in the sixth and seventh innings scored another 5 runs to put the game practically out of reach for Bedford. With the score standing at 14-8 the Indians threatened with two runs in the top of the ninth before Joe Thompson flied out for the Indians to end the game. Mike Thurston went the distance, striking out nine for the win.

Mets Neil Read went 3 for 4 with 3 runs, Frank Parker 4 for 5 with 3 runs and Andy Peacock 3 for 5 with 4 RBIs. Mets pulled off two double plays. Indians Jon Ebrechts went 3 for 5 with 2 runs, Carlos Baez went 2 for 5 with 3 runs and Brandon Bibler 2 for 4 with 3 runs. Hans Steele also hit a triple.

Thanks to Hounslow for organising a brilliant day, the burgers, the bar and even the crowd with their rendition of the Atlanta Braves chop led by none other than James 'where's Lisa' Marshall - try and book the weather next time lads!



## METS AND INDIANS SHARE TOP HONOURS

Whilst the groundsman at the Oval struggled to get their ground fit for the professionals, the Birmingham Brewers succeeded in ensuring that the National Premier League Series took place at their Brandwood Park Ground in Kings Heath, Birmingham.

The Lord Mayor of Birmingham opened the proceedings, wishing the

teams the best of luck and throwing the first pitch - and it was a strike! The Mets and the Indians had both stormed their respective divisions and the first two games of the National Premier League Series lived up to all expectations.

In Game 1, Brian Thurston pitched a seven inning 3 hit shut out. Mets opened the scoring when Gavin Marshall crossed home plate in the third. They added to their score in the sixth when all alert Frank Parker stole home from third after the Indians catcher Brad Stocks failed to call time when he went to talk to his pitcher. Neil Read scored the other run. Phil Thurston went 3 for 3 with and RBI, whilst Carlos Baez for the Indians suffered his second straight defeat at the hands of the Mets.

In Game 2, Chuck Chandler took to the mound for the Indians, and although he appeared to be slower than Baez the Mets batters struggled to get him away. The Indians, through Tom White, opened the scoring in the first and held a 1 - 0 lead until the sixth when Andy Maltby and Simon Radge put the Mets 2-1 in front in the top of the inning. When the Indians came to bat they immediately replied with Brad Stocks and Tom White both scoring to regain a 3-2 lead, eventually shutting out the Mets in the top of the seventh to take the Game. Mets Brian Thurston went 2 for 3 whilst the Indians Tom White went 3 for 3. Chandler took the win and Mike Thurston the loss.

The Brewers and Birmingham Council had done a tremendous job in preparing the ground and our thanks must go to them for hosting the event.

## ... AND ON TO THE OVAL

A crowd of 5,190 turned out on a glorious, sunny Sunday to witness the New York Mets take on the Boston Red Sox at the Foster's Oval. Following a torrential downpour on Saturday 2 October, which resulted in game one of the festival being cancelled, the Mets and the Red Sox finally locked horns with the Mets running out 8-3 winners.

The rain-out the day before meant that the proposed schedule had to be revised resulting in the BBF National Premier League Series final game being cancelled. Many people turned up early to see the deciding game between the top teams teams in the UK. Humberside Mets and the Bedford Chicksands Indians only to be disappointed.

They were however compensated in some way by the great atmosphere that surrounded the festival.

The minor league players were easily approachable and autograph hunters had a field day as they mingled and chatted with the future stars. The festival got underway in earnest with a paper plane throwing competition which resulted in at least five people walking away with trips to the USA, after their plane landed on a designated place.

Next came the home run derby, pitting the skills of cricket stars 'Syd' Lawrence and Alec Stewart against the Minor League players. Whilst Stewart seemed to struggle, Lawrence launched three balls over the fence and it looked as though an upset might be on the cards. However, Mets Alan Zinter sent a ball sailing out of the ground and a woman diving back inside her window as he cannoned one off of a block of flats in right field to win the derby and bring the crowd to their feet.

The game, as they go, turned out to be a bit one-sided in New York's favour and without a three run homer for the Mets later on would not have been that exciting. However, that home run, the derby before hand, the ball-park organist and the antics of the Pittsburgh Parrott, all combined to make it a day to remember for every one who went.

# NOTICEBOARD

Plan ahead for next year with the BBF Roadshow. Are there any festivals or shows in your local area to which you could take the Roadshow along. It's an easy way of making money for your club. Book early to avoid disappointment. Call Barry Mayfield on 081 751 3080

Now's the time to pack all your baseball gear away for the winter. But before you do so, does anyone have anything they want to sell - gloves, bats etc. There are several new teams dotted around the country who are desperate for equipment, but cannot afford brand new things. How about selling them some of your unwanted items. Write in to Brit-Ball Classifieds and make some money ready for your 1994 affiliation fees!

Don't forget that important date for your diary: The British Baseball Federation Annual General Meeting - Sunday 5 December 1993 at Fox Hollies Sports Centre, Acocks Green, Birmingham. The meeting will commence at 1.00pm sharp and all are welcome to attend. Voting and participation will be limited to eligible members as per the BBF Constitution and Bye-laws.

We have a supply of BBF pin badges available to clubs. If you would like some for your club, they can be purchased from Head Office at a cost of £1.50 each. Please make cheques payable to the British Baseball Federation.

Your contributions are needed for the next few issues of Brit-Ball. I'm sure you've all read Essex Arrows review of their season in this issue - why not write in and tell everyone about yours. Presentation nights are looming. Let us know what happens and who won what in your club.

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