

BRIT BALL

The Official Voice of the British Baseball Federation

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The Official Voice
of the
British Baseball
Federation

Issue No 8
November 1993
75p

THE WAY FORWARD.....

What can I do to make the game of baseball grow in my area ?

If this is a question that you have asked yourself, then here are a couple of ideas on how you can go about tackling that issue.

The future of any sport is always in the youth structure that any organisation has and the more attention that organisation gives to its younger players then the quicker and better the quality of the sport will grow.

SCHOOLS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

The British Baseball Federation recognised this when it implemented its Schools Development Programme, and over the next few years, those children who are participating in the programme at present, will begin to make a major impact on the British game.

But who are these Schools Development Officers and where do they come from ?

In the majority of cases, they are connected to an existing team, maybe a coach or a player, however there are a number of SDO's who have actually been appointed by local councils to promote the game.

To become an SDO, you need to gain interest from local schools or other youth organisations and be available to teach children how to play the sport. In exchange for you giving up your time, the BBF will provide you with the necessary equipment and promotional literature to help start up a junior programme in your area.

As well as getting the satisfaction of seeing children enjoying playing the game you love, you also establish

yourself a continuing youth programme and a never ending supply of good players. Anyone who says they are unable to get enough interest isn't trying hard enough. (an advert in my local paper over the summer resulted in over 100 children wanting to play). All of the teams that have a junior programme will readily tell you what benefits they get so make the effort and see what you can achieve. If you have the time then the BBF will support you all the way.

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ENVOY PROGRAMME

If you think your team, senior or junior, could do with some expert help then once again the BBF is there to help you. Every summer, Major League Baseball International send amateur instructors to Europe to teach and live baseball. The Envoy Programme features instructors mainly from college baseball programmes who are available to all BBF teams to assist them in coaching players of all ages. These coaches are available to work five or six days a week in your area either teaching existing players or going into local schools and leisure centres to teach new players.

The Envoys coaching services are free of charge and all you need to do is provide him with a place to sleep and food to eat.

If you are interested in either the SDO Programme or hosting an MLBI Envoy then contact Greg Welch on 0243 671562 for further details.



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0891 884533

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



**WISHING YOU
A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS**

AND A

HAPPY NEW YEAR

FROM ALL AT THE

BRITISH BASEBALL FEDERATION

Kevin Macadam

Ian Smyth

Al Kelly

Gogwell

W. Bell

S.R. Hedderley

J.S. Hootman



NATIONAL REGISTRAR

Applications are invited for the position of National Registrar to the British Baseball Federation. The job entails coordinating the registrations of all BBF teams and players, and the production of player registration cards. The job holder should be familiar with the BBF Bye-Laws and Constitution. He / she is also required to coordinate all BBF insurance policies. The registrar is also required to attend all BBF Council and General Meetings.

All applications should be sent to the British Baseball Federation Head Office by Friday 17 December 1993.

NORTHERN CONFERENCE COORDINATOR

Applications are invited for the position of Northern Conference Coordinator for the British Baseball Federation

The role of the coordinator is to act as a first point of contact, and communicate with all BBF teams within the Northern Conference. He / she should also assist the relevant coordinators for umpiring, scoring and coaching in organising clinics within the conference area. The coordinator should also ensure that ground standards are being met within the conference, in accordance with the BBF Bye-laws. The job holder is also required to represent the Northern Conference teams at BBF Council and General Meetings.

All applications should be sent to the British Baseball Federation Head Office by Friday 17 December 1993.

Dear Kevin

We have now come to the end of what could be described as the most successful year for British Baseball and one we, as a club, have been proud to be a part of.

On behalf of everyone connected with Brighton Baseball Club, I would like to take this opportunity, formal though it may seem, to thank you for all your hard work and efforts during your first year in office. I look forward to working with you in '94 to bring a higher standard of play and professionalism to baseball in Great Britain.

Yours sincerely

Craig Savage, Brighton Baseball Club.

Editor: Thanks Craig, it's nice to be appreciated.

Dear Steve

I want to thank you for your support and above all else your cooperation during the baseball festival. I realize we created a number of problems for you personally and the British Baseball Federation but as always you handled them with great diplomacy and tact.

Regardless, I think the event was a tremendous success towards stimulating the growth of baseball in Great Britain.

Thanks again for your support and keep up the good work.

Sincerely,

Steven B. Baker,

Vice President Game Development, Major League Baseball International Partners

Editor: Thanks to Major League Baseball for giving the sport a boost in our country and for your continued support.

Dear Sirs

I publish the South African Baseball Digest and was wondering if there would be a market for it in your country. I would be grateful if you could let people know of our existence through the pages of Brit-Ball.

If you know of anybody who would be interested in the SA Baseball Digest in the UK then please contact me.

Yours in Baseball

Kevin Cuyler,

PO Box 13374, Northmead 1511, Republic of South Africa.



Dear Kevin,

In response to your article on Pre-War Baseball, I can tell you that there were some very good teams spread around the country. In the North, in the towns of Leeds, Halifax, Oldham and Rochdale there was a semi-professional league made up of good quality Canadians.

In Birmingham there were three leagues consisting of 8 teams in each, 60% of which were Works Teams. Before the War, there were two main trophies, these being the English Amateur Knockout Trophy and the Inter Area Representative Trophy. Two of the best teams of that time were

Blue Boys from Chipping Norton and Durex of Birmingham. The Durex team were in fact the Birmingham Maple Leaf Ice Hockey team and were nearly all Canadian.

When war was declared most of these teams disappeared owing to the players going into the services and after the war they failed to start up again.

During the War a number of US Servicemen were stationed at Lichfield in Staffs and after a year they entered a team into the 8 team league in Birmingham and by then the better of the players not on active service were combined into these teams. The team I played for was Atlens Cross and we had over a thousand spectators at almost every home game. The highlight of baseball came in 1944 when the American Services played the Canadian Services with 14000 spectators at game one at Villa Park and 12000 spectators at the Hawthorns for game two. Both of these games were played for charity with the proceeds going to the Birmingham Lord Mayors Fund.

The best game for spectators was played at White City, London on September 5 1951 when the American Air Force Played the RAF, with the Americans winning 11-6. This game saw four home runs.

At the present time, I have organised baseball at Droitwich, Worcester and although only being in operation for one season, we have a fully equipped squad and can boast a fully swept cut-out diamond plus all facilities. Our team also includes three lads from Droitwich High School with more to follow. Our coaching staff has three ex-England internationals. Baseball will spread owing to TV and especially SKY TV.

Yours truly

Cliff Court, Droitwich Spartans

Dear Steve

A few comments about the French's Baseball Festival at the Oval on October 2/3.

I arranged to take a small party of players from my junior team the Panthers by train for the day out on Saturday. Obviously we were extremely disappointed on arriving at the ground at 10.45 to be told that everything was off. Had I been alone I would have stayed overnight in the hope of seeing a game the following day but with three children in two that was out of the question. I spoke to several people I know from various parts of the country, all accompanying children, and who knows how many others wondering what to do with themselves.

No one can predict what the weather is going to do but could not some provision have been made in the event of cancellation? All of us had money to spend and if there had been souvenirs and goods available we could have gone home with something. Maybe we could have been given the chance to meet the players and the BBF Officials. I am sure the stewards on duty were as fed up as we were so I can excuse their indifference.

Please do not in any way take this to be a complaint as everyone concerned with the promotion deserves applause, but it is important to consider the needs of the fan who often travels some distance at considerable expense to support these events.

Yours

Frank Counce, Preston Bobcats

PS. I wish you hadn't mentioned in Britball about the custard creams. I thought you had kicked that years ago but now I'm back on them.

Dear Brit-Ball

I am writing concerning the "Scourge of British Baseball", i.e. the problem caused by withdrawals, byes etc. leaving clubs without games for weeks on end, to the disappointment of players and spectators alike. How about a "Free Dates" column in Brit-Ball next season so that clubs without games on certain dates could advertise the fact? It would then be up to the clubs concerned to fix up home and away challenge matches or mini-tournaments by mutual contact. This could result in some interesting games between teams from different areas of the country and create a lot of goodwill.

Yours faithfully

Will Cosgrave

Editor: Rest assured Will, things are in hand to eradicate the possibility of forfeits next season. The BBF Board has appointed a Disciplinary Coordinator whose responsibilities will include taking necessary action against clubs who persistently fail to complete their schedule. Also, the new BBF Bye-laws which are soon to be distributed to all clubs, have taken the matter of forfeits very seriously and I am sure this will be welcomed by all teams, because there is nothing worse than having a game cancelled at the last minute.

Dear Kevin

Just a short note of appreciation for keeping me informed on the present state and future ambitions of the Federation. I wish you and everybody connected with the promotion of our great game, good luck for 1994.

As a member of the Gloster Meteors organisation, who were accepted into the Federation, we also add our support for 1994. The highlight of my season was beating the Arun Panthers and shutting out the Bristol Black Sox. My only wish for the development of baseball is that areas around the country that haven't been informed baseball is played in this country should hear about us.

Owing to my job, I am out of the country for three months at a time but when I'm home I will be taking an active part in promoting British Baseball.

Kind Regards

Chris Onions, Gloster Meteors

Editor: Thanks Chris, for your praise. As you well know the BBF Roadshow is available to all BBF teams and is an excellent publicity vehicle for promoting the sport around the country. Once again, next year with the cooperation of local teams, we will be looking to make sure that it travels and attends as many events as possible.

Dear Kevin

Thanks for the Northern Conference plaque, I shall be presenting it to the team at a dinner next month.

I have enclosed a copy of our final statistics and an All-Opponent team. The All-Opponent team is a feature many local leagues in the States use to determine All-Star status. We did it because we thought it's a nice "pat-on-the-back" to opponents who really earned our respect through their playing ability.

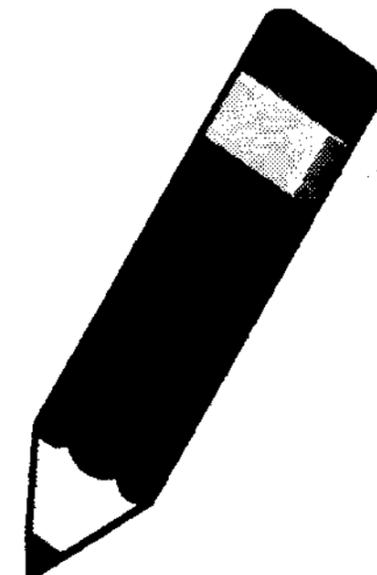
Have a nice off-season Kevin.

Keep on Swingin'

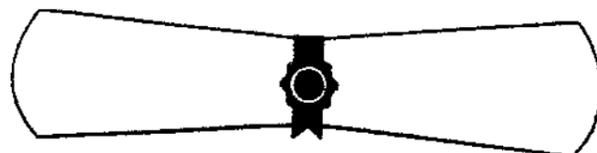
Stan "The Man" Heaps

Menwith Hill Pirates

Editor: Thanks for the stats, Stan, maybe some of the other teams out there could come up with their most feared players. By the way, what's an off-season????



DUNDEE BODGERS!



This is the time of year when clubs are putting away their gear until the spring, except for the more devout or eccentric players who brave the winter to get in some practice. Also at this time, most clubs are holding their annual trophy presentations. So, to get into the spirit of things, I thought I would write about the Dundee Dodgers Awards Presentation.

The "Awards Presentation" is really just an excuse for a night out with the lads, to share dirty jokes, get drunk and be ill all over the pavement (eh Ryan) and not necessarily in that order. We chose Saturday 23 October which also happens to be the same night Toronto Blue Jays won the World Series.

After the meal, we started off with the trophy awards. There are six, which are Batting Champion, Gold Glove (Infield), Gold Glove (Outfield), Rookie of the Year, (Players) Player of the Year and MVP.

Then there are the eight Certificate Awards which are basically players stats, eg Highest RBI, Best Slugger, Most Runs, Most Stolen Bases etc.

Lastly, the Dundee Bodger Awards are presented. These are much feared by the team because they are for silly plays, embarrassing errors and other similar acts connected to the club. A form is sent out to all members who are asked to write down any ideas for Bodger Awards or memorable "experiences" which others would prefer to forget! Last year, there were 13 issued and this year there were 26! You can imagine what kind of season we've had

Examples of this year's are as follows along with a brief explanation where required:

Strike Out King

- This person also got the Power At The Plate Award

Runner Stolen Based In Award

- For stealing an occupied base, resulting in a run scored - bases loaded, other team got confused.

Boldest Base Running Award

- Biggest lead offs but getting picked off

Stealing Home Award

- When catcher has the ball!!!

Best Celebration of Leftfield

Catch Award

- And missing a "cert" double play

Most Nervous Runner

- "I wasn't ready"

The Frank Bruno Award

- For trying to catch a ball with his teeth!!

The Speedy Gonzales Award

- No comment

Most Alert Batter

- "Walk, do you mean me?"

Best Sliding Method

- "Better not dirty my pants"

The Statue of Liberty Award

- For technique and style in outfield

Team Comedian Award

- For humour or playing? Answers on a postcard please.....

NB: The names of the guilty, I mean innocent, have been omitted from this article for survival reasons, namely mine. Altogether, there were 55 suggestions for Bodger Awards this year. Some of those which were not used for some reason, eg of an offensive nature are as follows:

Best Style

Most Fictitious Girlfriend

Bunty Award (for practising bunting in a game)

Gunfight in the Peugeot 309 (with waterpistols)

The Dick Whittington Award (for moving to London and lasting 6 weeks)

For Never Having Any Money In The Pub Award

For Being Barely Able To Speak English In Any Understandable Way

The Yellow Submarine Award - for atrocious singing at a Karaoke

At around 12.30am, when we were chucked out of the function room of the pub, we had a difficult decision - go to a nightclub or go back to Iain's to watch the Blue Jays game. Some chickened out anyway and staggered home. But six of us decided to watch the game and what a game that was! Everyone saw the first three or so innings before falling asleep!

Brian Edwards
Dundee Dodgers

AH-SO!

As this will be the last issue of Brit-Ball before Christmas may I wish all its readers a very happy Christmas and a prosperous, run producing new year. In the last issue I recalled an event that took place in Paris in 1989. I referred at the end of that article to another event involving a certain Japanese TV interview. The story goes something like this.

As the team was warming up for our first game in the "big league" of 'A' group countries for the European Championships I was approached by a Japanese gentleman to ask if I would participate in an interview for Japanese TV. Although my brain was going twenty to the dozen with so much to think about I accepted and was told in broken English that the questions would be:-

1. How have you prepared for the Championships?
2. How do you think you will do in the Championships?
3. Do you think you will win today's game?

Ten minutes later this same Japanese gentleman came over and said that they were ready to film, the camera having been set up just beyond the dug-out area. I trooped over and standing there rather embarrassed the Japanese interviewer asked me "qpowit lakioe mnaski xwlmikt" the producer then called a halt to filming by saying "ah-so, we have forgotten microphone. We sort out and come back". (Pro's these Japanese).



I duly went back to the dug-out watching our players doing their pre-game exercises in centre field and carried on with my many other duties. Fifteen or twenty minutes passed when the Japanese producer came back to say that they were now ready. Unfortunately for me, with all that was going through my mind, I had totally forgotten the order in which the questions were going to be asked and to this day do not know in which order the questions (put in Japanese) were put to me. I have been waiting for Jeremy Beadle to show the film of the interview with the introduction "Listen to what this dip-stick gives as answers to the questions". I would love to see the film again translated into English.

Regular readers will have read in the last issue of Brit-Ball that the GB Senior Winter Training Squad was due to meet for the first time. This it duly did and the squad were subjected to many bio chemical and fitness tests. Lynn Booth, Jonathan Zneimer and Karen Reid from the British Olympic Association came along and talked to the players about physiotherapy, psychology and nutrition.

It was a very demanding day for the players, not withstanding the atrocious weather, that many had to

travel hundreds of miles through to attend. All but two players of those expected turned up and I am sure they went away, not only physically exhausted but mentally fired having to take in so much information.

When the thoughts of the GB coaching staff have been cleared and a synopsis of the information given to us by the BOA experts have been summarised I shall be writing in further issues of Brit Ball on how I believe the information can be used by all clubs and so take a further step in improving the standard of club baseball in Great Britain.



MIKE HARROLD

Major League Baseball

Keep in touch with all the news - without having to spend a small fortune! *Baseball Briefing* taps into the American wire services to bring you all the off-season news - major awards, trade activity etc. Then in March we give unrivalled coverage of Spring Training - before moving into our regular season schedule (box scores and game reports on every game, plus news and statistics).

A cheque/PO for £3.60 made payable to Baseball Briefing - gets you our three off-season issues as they come off the presses (the first carries comprehensive statistics for every player who appeared in the majors in 1993), plus details of how to subscribe for the 1994 season. We also offer **BOOKS, CARDS AND CLOTHING ITEMS.** Please send for our pricelist. For example...

"What I Taught Mom About Baseball" - expected to be available in January, the perfect book for answering your questions about the game of baseball ... great for the beginner, yet with plenty for the more experienced fan ... clear explanation of the rules and traditions of the game, how to score a game and work out statistics - plus an extensive glossary of terms. Order your copy now for just £4.50 including postage and packing.

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MENWITH HILL PIRATES NAME 1993 ALL-OPPONENT TEAM

The Bedford Chicksands Indians and Hull Royals put two players apiece on the 1993 Menwith Hill Pirates All-Opponent team. The Pirates' players, who played 14 Northern Conference and five Knockout Cup games, picked the team. Outfielders Jed Bassey of the Liverpool Tigers and Kevin Slater of the Bedford Chicksands Indians and the Hull Giants/Humberside Mets third baseman Simon Radge were the three unanimous picks.

OUTFIELD STATS AGAINST PIRATES

Bassey(Liverpool Tigers) 2 for 5 and 2 runs
Slater(Bedford Indians) 2 for 4 with a 3 run homer
White(Bedford Indians) 2 for 4 with a double and a triple

INFIELD

Radge(Hull Giants/Mets) 2 for 4 with a double and 2 steals
Etherington(Hull Mets) 3 for 7 with 1 steal
Foster(Hull Royals) 2 for 9 with 3 steals and 2 rbis
McQueen(Barnsley) 1 for 3 with 2 walks

CATCHER

Todd(Hull Royals) 5 for 9 with a double, 3 steals and threw out 4 Pirates

PITCHER

Godsall(Liverpool Trojans) 25 IP, 14 runs, 28 hits, 27 k's(Won 6-3, lost 5-6, lost 0-5)
Shuster(Stevenage Knights) 8 IP, 12 hits, 5 k's(lost 2-12 as defense yielded 7 runs)

Stan Heaps
Menwith Hill Pirates

Say Will,
what if one of those clubhouse jokers
switched some ordinary gloves for your Easton gloves?



Good for a few laughs, right Will?



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BBF COACHING COURSE IN CAMBRIDGE

The BBF in conjunction with the Cambridge Baseball Foundation has arranged a baseball coaching course for Saturday 15 January 1994. The course will take place at Bottisham Village College Sports Hall from 9am to 3pm.

This course is an introduction to baseball and fundamental coaching leading to the BBF Level A Certificate. The cost of the course is £10. To book a place on this course phone Dave Adams on 0223 560708.

If you are interested in becoming a qualified coach then contact Barry Marshall on 0482 226362 or Ian Smythe on 0532 612571 to organise a coaching course in your area. Become qualified and use the resources the Coaching Association has to hand. Contact your local council and see if they have any Sports Development Officers who could either arrange a course or even attend the course and in conjunction with the BBF Schools Development Programme you might have a Junior programme up and running in your area soon.

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL INTERNATIONAL PRESENTS 1994 UMPIRE EXPERIENCE

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Registration fee is \$400 per candidate and must be received by 15 December 1993. Fees include tuition, three meals per day and lodging at Cocoa Expo.

For further details please contact the BBF Head Office.

EXPERIENCED COACH AVAILABLE

My name is Stephen Johnson and I am a former professional athlete currently in my 8th year of coaching baseball. I would like to take a vacation over in England to coach / run some clinics for both juniors and adults. Must include room and board at local hotel.

Please reply to

Stephen Johnson
1807 Forrest Road
Apartment A
Baltimore
Maryland 21234
USA
Tel: 0101 410 665 2596

BASEBALL ON MERSEYSIDE

Although two American Major League teams (Yankees and White Sox) had played an exhibition game at Goodison Park in the Twenties, the first mention of American style Baseball was made in the Liverpool Echo on July 4 1933, when an English code baseball team, the Liverpool Amateurs, challenged a Japanese ship, the Lima Maru, to a game under American rules.

This game drew an "unusually large crowd" and was won by the Japanese 12-9 with three homers separating the sides. However, a year later the Amateurs won the return game. The Japanese pitcher, Sikiyama, must qualify as the first winning pitcher in Liverpool.

A similar game had been played in the early twenties versus a Canadian ship, but there are no records for this game. From this information it would appear that the Liverpool Amateurs were the first British club side to play American Baseball in Liverpool.

On July 20 1933, there appeared the first mention of a proposed American style Baseball league. At this time the game had already established itself in London and had been in being for about eleven years, under the banner of the Anglo-American Baseball Association. Teams such as the London Americans, London Canadians and London Japanese all competed.

On July 11 1933, Mr John Moores (of Littlewoods Pools fame) chaired a meeting of all the baseball fraternity in Liverpool, which at this time, meant English Baseball. At this period there was some dispute among the English ranks as there were two governing bodies, the English Baseball Association and the English Baseball Union.

The meeting was held at the Law Association Rooms, Cook Street, Liverpool. Mr Moores asked for the co-operation of the English Leagues, offering assistance to any who would change codes, or alternatively £100 to have the American code as an additional section in their leagues.

He warned them that should they refuse his offers, he would still go ahead and form an American League without their co-operation. Seven teams from the EBU came forward to accept his offer with Moores already having acquired players and officials from the States and Canada.

On Monday 21 August 1933, the first recorded American rules baseball game played between English teams in Liverpool was played at Priory Road, Liverpool between Liverpool Amateurs and Oakfield Social.

Two days later, at Littlewoods Sports Ground, Picton Road, Liverpool, an exhibition game was played with trained American Rules players. Programmes were made available, describing rules etc. and a broadcast unit described the game as it happened.

A further meeting chaired by Moores in September 1933 laid the foundations for the National Baseball Association.

In their first season in 1934, the NBA had twenty teams competing, many of the players being ex-seamen. Amongst those original teams were the future British Champions, Hatfield.

The first NBA International was played at Bootle Stadium between an NBA Select team and the Edinburgh Americans with the Edinburgh team coming out victors.

By this time, thirty teams were playing in the North West and on June 2 1934 a bona-fide international was played at Edinburgh between Scotland and England with Scotland securing a 24-3 victory. This game drew an attendance of 5300 and the return game a week later in

Liverpool again saw the Scots victorious.

In 1935, a semi-pro league was formed, centred on Manchester, with such teams as Manchester North East, Ashton RUFC and the Blackpool Seagulls. It was said that Ashton ran their rugby team on the proceeds taken by the baseball gates.

Many notable sports personalities were playing baseball at this time including Liverpool footballers, Lance Carr, Nieuwenhuys and Alf Hanson. Rugby League legend Jim Sullivan was with Manchester Blue Sox and of course the immortal Dixie Dean played for the Liverpool Caledonians.

1936 saw the Berlin Olympics in which baseball was played as a non-medal exhibition sport. A US selected college team was sent over to represent the USA and while en route back to the States, they were contacted by Moores who arranged games for them in London. This was to be the same team who came back in 1938 to play England in what is now considered to be the first ever National Amateur Baseball Championship.

Still in 1936, a National Council was formed with John Moores as President. The meeting was held at the Waldorf Hotel in London and the set-up of Semi-Pro leagues was accomplished. The Northern Semi-Pro league was founded in 1936 and comprised of team from Hull, Bradford, Halifax, Oldham, Rochdale, Leeds and Liverpool.

Canadian and American players were brought over and designated to the teams with the inevitable transfer of star players taking place after the first season. The Rochdale team were the only exception as they were a team of Mormon Missionaries, known as the Rochdale Elders.

1937 saw the entry to the Northern League of Ross Kendrick, who was arguably the finest player to play in Britain. Ross went on to be the best pitcher in England, chosen five times to pitch against the US team in 1938 winning 4 games and losing one.

Kendrick moved to the Midlands during the war and

played for several teams ending up with the Bromsgrove Dodgers.

In 1938, Moores brought over the American Olympic team to play a series of five tests versus a chosen side from the Semi-Pro leagues. These tests are now recognised as the first ever Amateur World Championship. Kendrick pitched the first game in Liverpool and won 3-0 striking out 16 along the way. The only loss occurred at Halifax with Liverpool Giants pitcher Al Haley taking the loss.

By the end of 1938 there were 800 teams affiliated to the National Baseball Association.

1939 saw the Amateur World Championships continued in Cuba with many more teams competing. England failed to send a team as the Championships clashed with our season. He did however, present a trophy to be played for and promised that the Championships would return to England in 1940. The trophy stood over four feet high and made of solid silver weighed twenty eight pounds.

Kendrick now with Bradford guided them to the last Pro-League championship and as the war started at the end of the 1939 season, it was like a door had been closed on the game.

A US Servicemens league operated at Goodison Park during the War years, and a few English teams played on but Moores never became involved again. Although there was considerable revival after the War ended and into the fifties, despite being invited several times to become involved again, Mr Moores always declined.

The Pro-Leagues never reformed and so ended a British Baseball era. The story of North West Baseball from then on is a subject for another article.

In closing, it is sad to reflect that Mr Moores lived only a few miles from where I sit right now.....but a million miles away, baseball wise.

Sir John Moores died, aged 97 on Saturday 25 September 1993.

NORMAN WELLS Liverpool Trojans

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BASEBALL PLAYERS COME OUT OF THE CLOSET!

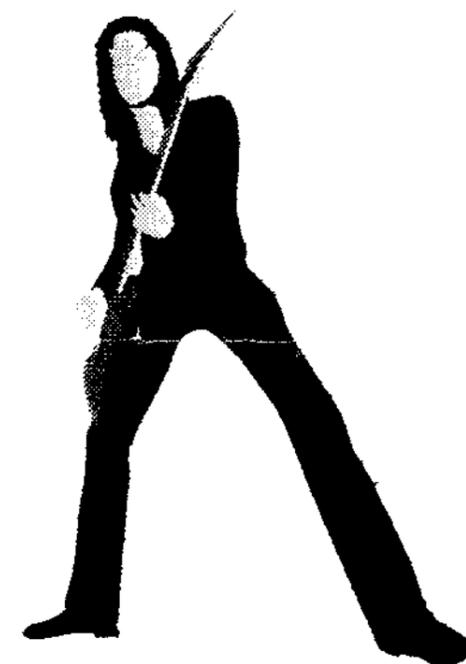
Donald Brochie of the Edinburgh Reivers recently sent me an advert for the Schuh footwear company which incorporated a picture of a Glam Rock group "Gods of Glam" looking resplendent in Doc Martens. Very nice, I thought, but we're a baseball mag not the New Musical Express! However, to my horror, he informs me that not only do these guys play baseball but they are on his team! (I'd have kept it quiet if I was you Don.)

So get down to your local Schuh shop and check out the picture. At the top right - sporting a sickly yellow 20 lace holed Doc Martins, matching laced trousers and silver wig - we have Steve Bradley, their lead singer/rhythm guitarist, renowned philanderer and midnight cowboy. Seated beneath Steve is Simon McGlynn their drummer, dressed in

equally revolting 70's gear. As Don says it's the kind of clothing that most self respecting human beings - that are old enough to have the misfortune of living through the Glam Era with T-Rex, Sweet and other memorable disaster areas - would be more than willing to deny wearing.

But few could forget the effect drenched 28" bags had on the calves - the make-up, ankle-breaking platforms and the atrocious lack of dress sense - amongst other things. Simon joined the Reivers in 1991 and Steve was persuaded by Simon's unfaltering enthusiasm for the game to join the following year. Work commitments have prevented Steve from realising his full potential but he keeps the team amused (Editor-If only you could see this picture you would see why!) whilst Simon has made a breakthrough this season, going 6 for 6 against the Dalriada Demons - line drives at that - having adjusted his swing by adopting a somewhat unconventional batting stance.

Well thank you Donald for setting the ball rolling. Do any of you have an interesting hobby or occupation which perhaps you would like to share with us? Go on, be a devill I know for a fact that a certain Mr Herbert is a dab hand on the old ivories. Over to you Steve!



STATISTICS

NORTHERN CONFERENCE DIVISIONS 1 & 2 ENGLAND

Below are the statistics for the BBF Northern Conference Divisions 1 & 2 England, produced by Clive Maude. The names listed show the top five players in each respective category.

Perhaps you're wondering why your team is not listed - did your team contact send in all your score sheets? Perhaps someone from your club produces something similar. If so, they may be interested in a position with the BBF as a statistician. We're looking for such a person in the Southern Conference. Can you help?

BATTING AVERAGES - DIVISION 1

TEAM	PLAYER	AB	R	H	PO	A	E	2B	3B	HR	SB	SAC	HP	BB	SO	RB1	AVE
PIRATES	K WELLS	19	13	12	6	0	0	2	1	0	3	0	0	5	1	4	632
TIGERS	M KING	30	18	17	5	19	1	5	1	2	8	0	1	4	2	12	567
GIANTS	D CROSS	41	31	23	43	18	9	6	0	2	21	1	0	13	1	13	561
GIANTS	D MOORE	32	22	17	38	6	4	5	0	0	12	1	0	8	3	8	531
ROYALS	R TODD	46	11	22	85	16	8	5	0	0	10	0	1	5	5	9	478

BATTING AVERAGES - DIVISION 2

TEAM	PLAYER	AB	R	H	PO	A	E	2B	3B	HR	SB	SAC	HP	BB	SO	RB1	AVE
DEMONS	A ALLISON	19	11	14	12	5	0	2	0	1	5	1	0	4	3	7	737
DEMONS	L MCKEIGAN	19	11	11	2	3	3	2	0	2	6	1	2	1	1	7	579
DEMONS	P JOHNSON	22	11	12	35	3	0	0	1	0	4	0	0	5	1	10	545
DEMONS	K HINDMARCH	22	8	12	10	6	1	0	0	0	3	2	0	7	1	14	545
DEMONS	S WADE	27	20	14	2	0	1	3	0	1	9	0	0	9	6	10	519

PITCHING - DIVISION 1

TEAM	PITCHER	W	L	S	IP	WP	BK	BB	HP	H	HR	SO	ER	ERA
PIRATES	M ARRILDT	4	0	0	26	1	0	8	0	6	0	35	1	0.34
TROJANS	M GOODSALL	11	1	0	95	9	0	26	2	74	2	134	20	1.89
TIGERS	M KING	2	0	1	16.6	4	0	15	3	16	0	16	5	2.70
TIGERS	R ALGER	3	3	0	44.6	7	0	55	5	40	0	45	17	3.42
ROYALS	A WILTSHIRE	3	4	0	53.6	5	0	25	4	73	3	49	28	4.69

PITCHING - DIVISION 2

TEAM	PITCHER	W	L	S	IP	WP	BK	BB	HP	H	HR	SO	ER	ERA
A's	K KRUSHNER	2	0	0	22	5	1	15	2	20	0	31	6	2.45
BOBCATS	A MILHENCH	2	1	0	27	3	0	20	2	26	1	20	16	5.33
DEMONS	T YARD	3	2	0	41	5	0	31	3	46	0	48	25	5.48
BOBCATS	P SHONE	3	3	0	41.3	8	0	69	2	42	1	47	38	8.27
ROYALS	P COCKS	2	2	0	27.6	21	2	37	2	25	0	21	27	8.78

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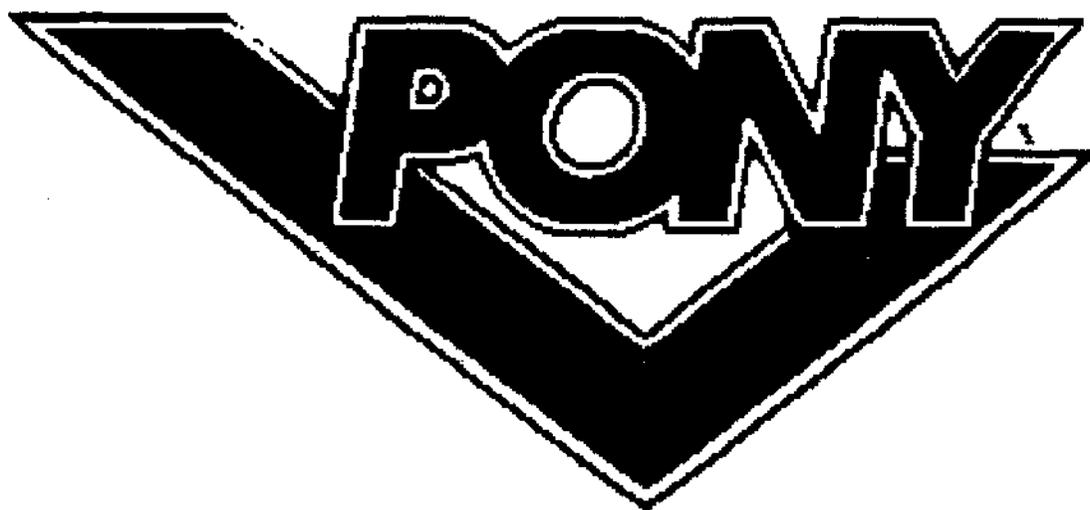
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