

BRIT BALL

The Official Voice of the British Baseball Federation

Made available online by Project COBB
(the Project for the Chronicling of British Baseball)

<http://www.projectcobb.org.uk/brit-ball.html>

With kind permission from the BBF Board



BRIT BALL

British Baseball Federation

The Official Voice
of the
British Baseball
Federation

Issue No 10
January 1994
75p

BROWNLIE'S CLEAN SWEEP NETS BBF TRIPLE CROWN

Great Britain International and Leeds City Royals Manager, Ray Brownlie, made a clean sweep of the player awards at this year's BBF Annual General Meeting.

Ray won the Sonny Goings Pitching Award, the Gridiron Sports Batting Award and also the Benson Majestic Golden Glove Award. At present, Ray is in training for the forthcoming season, where he will take over the position of manager, at top National Premier League outfit, Leeds City Royals.

Along with the other members of the Great Britain winter training squad, Ray is undergoing a strict regime of healthy eating and physical fitness, in preparation for Great Britain's participation in the European Championships in Slovenia later this year, where they will aim to attain Group A status.

Ray is at present making plans for the 1994 season and it looks like Leeds City Royals will mean business in '94.

Other award winners were Paul Halsey who won the Majestic Trophies Sportsmanship Award for his work in organising the 1993 National Knockout Cup Final. Peter Dyer of the Kirkby Braves won the Wembley Trophies Coaching Award for his work in the Kirkby area of Liverpool. Ian Hart won the Norman Houghton Umpires Award. The Brian Holland Trophy went to Peter Cooke and the BBF President's Award went to Hounslow's Barry Mayfield who has done a tremendous amount of work for the furtherment of British Baseball since he has been involved in the sport both for his own club and the BBF.

BBF MAKES NEW APPOINTMENTS

The BBF Board recently decided to place all non-executive appointments on 4 year contracts. This now gives the membership an opportunity to apply for a position within the BBF, as and when the position is advertised.

This resulted in the National Registrar and Northern Conference Coordinator positions being advertised and subsequently Paul Raybould and Nigel Moss have been appointed in the respective positions.

Lena Mortimer, the National Registrar for the past eight years, has been the lynchpin of the BBF registration system and has devoted unmeasurable amounts of her unpaid time to what can only be described as a very responsible job, ensuring that every BBF player is correctly registered and insured.

On behalf of the membership, I would like to wish Lena all the best for the future.

Nigel Moss replaces Barry Marshall who has resigned to concentrate on his International coaching duties and once again thanks to Barry Marshall for all his hard work.



BBF HOTLINE
0891 884533

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

WHO'S ON FIRST. WHAT'S ON SECOND.....

Club coaches and managers rarely have large numbers of players on their roster to choose the starting line-up or from which to make changes during a game.

We all sit and watch the television and see managers of Major League Teams make pitching changes, defensive and offensive changes. We drool over the fact that a MLB manager can bring in a left handed batter to face a left handed pitcher. Bring in a pinch hitter late in the game. Even choosing the starting line-up from players in form or in the text book batting order is a luxury not afforded to the average manager in UK baseball.

We all have our weak hitters to try to 'hide' in the batting order. But it always happens. A weak hitter comes up to the plate with runners on 1st or 2nd and one out. Even a .400 hitter will fail 60% of the time so what chance has a .200 hitter got, by dint of statistics he will fail 80% of times at bat. But with runners on, will he tighten in the box and choke it and become a .000 or .100 hitter particularly if he falls behind in the count. How many coaches stand in the coaching box and dare not offer a signal, but just pray it's 'his lucky day', only to see him strike out.

A familiar story I would guess. So why not do something else. Improve the odds in your favour. Here are some special plays to increase the odds in your favour and improve the scoring chances.

With runners on 1st and 2nd, with one out, and a weak hitter at the plate :-

The runner at first takes his usual lead and, on the pitchers delivery to the plate, takes off at full speed for second.

But, on his sixth step, he pivots and runs full speed back toward first - watching the catchers throwing hand.

Rules for the runner at first:

1. Run at full speed.
2. Don't hesitate or stop running.
3. After you stop and start back to first watch for two things happening:

4. (1): If the catcher does not throw the ball you must return to first base. If the catcher throws behind you ie. to first base, turn and head for second at full speed.

5. (2): When heading for second, go for the bag if you don't see the ball in front of you. If you do see the ball out in front of you, get into a run down and don't give up.

Rules for the runner at second:

1. Take your normal lead and steal to third if the catcher throws to first.

2. Look for the third base coach's signal to slide or round third - based on whether the first baseman has thrown to third or not.

Can you see what this play sets up. Without the weak batter having to do anything if the catcher throws to first we have put the ball into play and could force a throwing or fielding error. Even if no error is made the first baseman now has the ball on an empty base. If he holds the ball we will now have runners on 2nd and 3rd. If he throws to 2nd, he now increases the chances of a throwing or fielding error.

Even if there is no error and the second baseman has the ball it will not matter. The runner from first, if he is doing his job properly, should now be back at first or heading for a run-down. The first baseman may have thrown the ball to third. Again, but even more so there may be a throwing or fielding error. If there is a throwing error, an overthrow, our runner now on third will score a run. If the second baseman has the ball and throws it to third, the lead runner can again steal home to score, two more throws for errors to occur.

With practice, this one simple play situation will increase your odds of producing a successful time at bat for the weak hitter to nearer 85%. The objective of all hitters must be to put the ball into play. Here we could achieve that without having to make contact. Drill your runners.

M.S. HARROLD
GB MANAGER

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.

**BASEBALL BRIEFING, 2 Drury Close,
Waltham, GRIMSBY DN37 0XP**

CALLING ALL SCOTSMEN!

Did you know that if you were born in Scotland, then you may be eligible to play for the Scottish National Team.

If you are interested in representing your country in a game against an all England squad, then please contact Brian Parker, the Scotland Team Manager on 0738 34069.

CALIFORNIAN TEAM SET TO COME TO THE UK

Cam Stephens, one of the MLB Envoys from last summer, will be bringing over two teams of 18 year old players to play some games later this year. The teams will be competing in the Birmingham Tournament and the Crawley Tournament during the month of August and will also be available to do coaching clinics should teams wish.

If you are interested in either playing a friendly game against them or having a coaching clinic in your area then please contact me at Head Office on 0482 643551 and I will give you further details.

BBF YOUTH TOURNAMENT COORDINATOR

Applications are invited both in the Northern and Southern Conferences for two people to assist the BBF Competitions Director. The job entails organising junior tournaments for the BBF registered junior teams and liaising with the BBF Competitions Director.

All application should be sent to the British Baseball Federation Head Office by Monday 31 January 1994.

BOOMING BASEBALL

(1890 - 1900) The History
of Baseball in Britain
by Daniel J Bloyce
(Staffordshire University)

Baseball never has and probably never will reach the proportions of popularity that soccer and cricket receive in Britain, but for a minority sport, it was successfully established in 1889, and remains so today.

Therefore, it could be said that the second baseball tour by American sides (led by A G Spalding in 1889 - see November issue of Britball), was successful in some way, if not in quite the epic proportions the ambitious Mr Spalding may have hoped.

Spalding (1911) himself does not even acknowledge the relative success that his tour in 1889 did actually have, suggesting that it was not until "1903 that regular Baseball clubs began to be organised in England" (1). However, many English people saw their first game of baseball with the invitation of the National Baseball League and its four "professional" teams (Aston Villa, Derby, Preston North End and Stoke).

In fact, baseball games were drawing thousands of spectators, and matches between Preston North End and Derby would attract upwardly of 5,000, a similar amount would turn out to watch the two sides play soccer at which Preston were national champions. So it would seem that everything augered well for the future of baseball in England.

However, despite the apparent popularity of baseball, it received little other than slating reports from the nations press at the time:

"The baseball business is being 'boomed' with a vigour which is a little too obviously artificial for the average Englishman. The phlegmatic Briton does not care to have a pastime which has a considerable amount of the

advertising element about it foisted upon him, and it is more than probably that the baseball people will regret somewhat rash expenditure of cash which is at present going on" (2).

Crowds attending were steadily increasing as the season went on, despite again the lack of positive press reports, and Derby were leading the way, closely followed by Aston Villa and Preston, with Stoke thoroughly entrenched at the bottom.

Unfortunately though an incident marred this impressive start when Derby were thrown out of the league, for alleged breaches of the rules. They continued to play their exceptional American pitcher Reidenback even after work was given that they would withdraw him against the weaker sides of Stoke and Preston, because he was considered too good. The matter was reported, somewhat with tongue in cheek, "the small and unimportant body with the pretentious title of the National Baseball League are just passing through a crisis" (3). Comparisons were drawn with cricket, suggesting that if W G Grace were to be withdrawn from Warwickshire Cricket team for being too good, that the sport would indeed come for ridicule, as baseball had done.

"That the hitch should have taken place during the first season the game has been played in this country is to be regretted, for it requires perfect unanimity to ensure the success of the American game in this country" (4).

The League continued as a three way contest for the remaining month of the season, resulting in Aston Villa winning the League. In the same season, Preston North End Amateurs beat Birmingham Amateurs (42-15 and 42-7) to win the inaugural Baseball Association of GB and Ireland Cup.

The professional League collapsed after this initial year, but throughout 1891, and in 1892 a national competition was revived, albeit on an amateur basis.

The creation of a weekly sports journal entitled "English Sports" in 1892 rallied to the cause of Baseball in this country, with a regular feature, "Baseball Gossip". This undoubtedly helped raise the profile of the game, and surely led to its growth at that time. The North-east of England and London soon became prominent areas of importance for baseball teams,

and particularly in centres renowned for their football. In 1893 the National Baseball Association was formally incorporated. The positive coverage baseball was at last receiving, in English Sports, clearly had a positive effect on the game's promotion in this country, at the expense of cricket.

Baseball still, of course, had its scathing critics, but though involved in the game continued to play, and it was growing



Office.

Eighteen clubs competed for the Cleveland District League, and over twenty clubs were competing in the Derby area. Many of the newer clubs were set up by American companies based in England, especially for their workers, but there was a significant increase in the number of football clubs putting forward baseball teams for the summer season.

The increasing number of baseball teams coming out of established footballing areas, and more specifically the teams themselves, was due to the fact that baseball was, at this time a profitable venture, and often the football clubs would be forced into having a ball club as well, to keep revenues up over the summer. Of the more famous clubs that had baseball teams are Derby (who still play their football on the very same Baseball Ground), Woolwich Arsenal, Tottenham Hotspurs, Nottingham Forest, Leicester

at a very steady pace, especially as has already been mentioned, in the North-east and perhaps more importantly in the capital, where a brand new baseball park, in Balham, was reserved in 1894, for the five new clubs in the area - the Thespians, the Remingtons (Typewriter company), Dewar (distillers), "J's", Electrics and the Clapham Post

City and Crystal Palace, to name but a few. Still, however, baseball appeared to be going unnoticed, despite this apparent success, through a large majority of the national and local press. Which again prompted comments from the every supportive English Sports: "lots of good baseball goes unreported up North. A single game that draws more spectators than all the cricket matches put together over a wide district, is ignored, or dealt with in a couple of lines, while other affairs seen by two men and a boy take up half a column. Rich, isn't it?" (5).

The demise of this apparently soul supporting publication, early in 1895, made the problem of promoting baseball that much harder for its exponents. Yet in an article written by James Wilson for The Strand magazine in 1898, it appears that baseball was still growing, and even booming particularly again in the North and London. Crystal Palace had become the most popular team in the country, with upwards of 10,000 spectators drawn to certain matches. By 1900 baseball had, it could be argued, reached its peak.

Next month - two more American tours, in 1915 and 1924 - to promote baseball in this country!! Why were these tours necessary? Were they?

References

- (1) A G Spalding, America's National Game. Ast Ed. University of Nebraska Press (1911)
- (2) The Birmingham Daily Post, 16 June 1890, P5
- (3) The Birmingham Daily Post, 11 August 1890, P5
- (4) The Sportsman (London), 11 August 1890, P1
- (5) English Sports (London), 15 August 1894, Vol 3, No 118, P190



THE BRITISH BASEBALL FEDERATION 1994 HANDBOOK

Contains all the 1994 fixtures and team contacts for British Baseball

Please send me a copy of the British Baseball Federation 1994 Handbook
I enclose a cheque / Postal Order for £3.50

Name

Address

Postcode

Return to: 66 Belvedere Road, Hessle, North Humberside, HU13 9JJ

EUROPEAN TOURNAMENTS

If any team is interested in competing in the following tournaments, please contact the BBF Head Office, and we will contact the French Baseball Federation on your behalf.

International Juvenile Tournament

Bron, France
21, 22, 23 May

International Tournament

Paimpol, France
21, 22, 23 May



If any teams are interested in holding a Scoring or Coaching course in their area, then the relevant associations are more than willing to travel down to you. All you need to do is get about a dozen people interested in attending, contact us, and we'll go from there.

Qualifications in both scoring and coaching are available as a result of these courses.

Watch this space for details of the next Umpiring Course.

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT - PART 1

Public Relations has the responsibility to keep our sport in the public eye, to plan opportunities to attract attention, to ensure the right image is developed and equally important to ensure you, the members, have detailed information about what the Federation is doing. In short, communication between the public, the Board and the members.

Involvement in sport takes four distinct steps, first the creation of interest, an awareness. This awareness creates a desire to find out more, knowledge. Knowledge creates a desire to participate which needs an opportunity, to play. Participation needs a structure for achievement, challenge and recognition. It is up to all of us, the participants in baseball, to meet these needs.

The British Baseball Federation is the governing body for baseball in Britain. It is our responsibility to provide the link between local activity and national opportunities, the challenge. On your behalf, we maintain international links and ensure British baseball is represented in National, European and worldwide competitions and administrative activity.

We are nothing without YOU, the players and administrators all over Britain. It is you who keep the game alive and it is you who create the activity, the awareness, the knowledge and the opportunity, which is the only source of the growth in numbers and skill needed for baseball's development.

When you become involved in an activity you become an ambassador for that activity. Baseball's popularity and reputation will rise or fall by the action of each and every individual. You will therefore naturally develop a desire to do your best to ensure baseball maintains a good reputation and a secure future. Over the next 12 months I will be offering you some ideas you may like to use to expand your activities and develop baseball in your area. I would also like to hear from you about your activities so we can share their success or failure.

Keep in mind, in your area, you're the boss, you are Mr Baseball, and that means you take responsibility for the growth of baseball in your area, and you will reap the benefits of your success.

Fund-raising is a perennial problem so I'll leave you this time with a fund-raising plan you could use right now to swell your clubs coffers.

VIDEO BUCKS

First get 10 volunteers, probably from your team. Ask each volunteer to invite three groups of 5-10 people to video shows at their homes, and charge each person £1. (This brings in about £150 from 30 shows).

Follow this up by asking at least two of the guests to host

another group of 5-10 people, and charge each person £1. (This brings in about £300 from 60 shows).

Then repeat the previous step. (This will bring in about £600 from 120 shows). By now you will be exhausted but you should have raised nearly £1000!

You can use your ingenuity as to the videos

(you will need quite a few), remember it's for a good cause and £1 per person is cheap for a fun evening. You are not restricted to video's, you can extend the idea by recording 6 horse races from the TV and running club gambling evenings.

Let me know how you get on.

Alan Choll

BBF Public Relations Officer



SPORTSPAGES!

THE SPECIALIST SPORTS BOOKSHOP

Britain's best sports bookshop with the largest range of books on baseball in Europe.

(and American football, and basketball and cricket and football and . . .)

Sportspages
Caxton Walk
94-96 Charing Cross Road
London WC2H 0JG

Telephone: 071 240 9604
Fax: 071 836 0104
9.30 - 7.00 Monday - Saturday

*50 yards north of Cambridge Circus,
just off Charing Cross Road*

Credit Cards, Mail Order

PLAY BALL!

COPYRIGHT WILL COSGRAVE 1994

One of our regular contributors, Will Cosgrave, has this month sent in a baseball card game that he has devised.

"Play Ball" is a fast moving, easy to learn card game, where the four suits represent the players teams. The cards have a run score value which decides the matches with the object being to win the most matches and the pennant.

GAME EQUIPMENT

Four bored baseball players and a standard pack of 52 playing cards.

GAME DURATION

Approximately 15 minutes.

CARD RUN SCORE VALUES

King = 13 Queen = 12 Jack = 11
10 - 2 Cards = Face Value Ace = 1

RULES

1. The four players cut the pack with the player cutting the lowest scoring card becoming the dealer. The dealer shuffles the pack and deals the cards clockwise round the table until each player has six cards. The remaining cards are placed face down in the centre of the table forming the STOCK.
2. Each player chooses a different home team suit.
3. A player must never lead his HOME TEAM cards in a MATCH. Other suits are his ROAD TRIP cards and must always be led in a MATCH.
4. The rotation of play is Spades, Hearts, Diamonds, Clubs.
5. a) Play commences with SPADES playing a Road Trip card face up on the table, stating the RUN SCORE e.g. "Eleven". SPADES then draws the top card of the STOCK in replacement. The suit of the card that SPADES leads determines his MATCH opponent.
b) The player who represents the suit that has been laid by SPADES must respond by playing a card of the same suit,

stating its RUN SCORE, and then draw a replacement card from the STOCK.

c) The player who lays the highest card wins the MATCH and takes both cards and places them neatly to his left. Subsequent matches won must be placed to overlap these cards so a running count is kept of matches won.

d) If the MATCH opponent is unable to follow suit he is SHUTOUT. The MATCH opponent must then discard an ROAD TRIP card of his choice from his hand, ignore its value and state "nothing" and then draw a replacement from the stock. The SPADES player wins the MATCH and takes the cards.



6. The TURN OF PLAY then passes to the HEARTS player whose match is decided in the same way as in RULE 5 (a-d).

7. The TURN OF PLAY then passes to the DIAMONDS player whose match is decided in the same way as in RULE 5 (a-d).

8. The TURN OF PLAY then passes to the CLUBS player whose match is decided in the same way as in RULE 5 (a-d).

9. TURN OF PLAY continues in clock-wise rotation with MATCHES being decided by RULE 5 (a-d).

NOTE: If player holds only HOME TEAM cards on his TURN OF PLAY, he must discard a card face down to the bottom of the STOCK and draw the top card in replacement.

i) If he draws a ROAD TRIP card he must lead it.

ii) If another HOME TEAM card is drawn he must state "No Play", and TURN OF PLAY passes to the next player.

10. a) When the STOCK is exhausted, play continues with the cards left in hand. This part of the game is called the SHOWDOWN. During the SHOWDOWN, cards held by players may vary in number due to several players playing the same opponent(s).

b) When a player runs out of cards his schedule is completed and the remaining players carry on.

c) If a player at his TURN OF PLAY holds only HOME TEAM and/or cards of an opponent who has completed their schedule, he must state "No Play" and the TURN passes to the next player.

11. The SEASON ends when

a) All the players run out of cards

b) Only one player is left with unplayed cards

c) All the remaining players state "No Play" on consecutive TURNS OF PLAY.

12. When the SEASON is ended, unplayable cards are discarded face up on the table and are considered "dead".

(If a legal play is overlooked the player(s) concerned forfeit one MATCH win for each missed play).

13. The player who wins most MATCHES is the LEAGUE CHAMPION. Should two or more players have equal wins, the player with the most wins in "suit" (i.e. MATCH results with identical suits) takes precedence on the tie-breaker rule. (A player not involved in the tie should check the MATCH results to avoid disputes).

If still tied, the lowest RUN SCORE count (aggregate) in TIE-BREAK cards take precedence.

STRATEGY

"PLAY BALL" follows the principles of most trick taking games, that is to win MATCHES with low cards when able, to save higher cards for later. When unable to win MATCHES, play lowest possible cards. On your TURN, take account of the MATCHES won by each player before deciding your MATCH opponent. Particular careful play is needed in the SHOWDOWN if you are to win the LEAGUE. NOW YOU KNOW THE RULES, "PLAY BALL!"

VARIANTS

Three player game = 39 card pack (remove CLUBS suit),

playing order SPADES, HEARTS, DIAMONDS(dealer). Deal only 5 cards to each player

Two player game each player has two HOME TEAMS; BLACKS(SPADES/CLUBS) non-dealer, REDS (HEARTS, DIAMONDS) dealer.

a) Players must lead ROAD TRIP cards (opponent's colours).

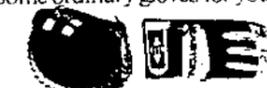
b) Opponent must follow suit if possible, if unable then he must play card of the same colour. Higher card wins MATCH in both cases. If tied (e.g. 6-6 opponent wins in EXTRA INNINGS (i.e. second player). If opponent holds no cards of the same colour he must discard a card of opposite colour (his ROAD TRIP cards). The result is a SHUTOUT win for the player who led the first card. All other rules as in four player game.

P.S. If any group starts to "PLAY BALL" regularly, can they write and let Will know!

WILL COSGRAVE

36 Shelford,
Burritt Road,
Kingston
Surrey
KT1 3HR

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



Good for a few laughs, right Will?



High Performance Sports Equipment **EASTON**

OBITUARY - VIC 'CASEY' BEACH

It is with much regret that I have to report on the death of Vic Beach, aged 89, peacefully on 27 December 1993. Vic was known to me as a member of the Old Timers Baseball Club, which he joined as a non playing member in 1989. Although I was unfortunate in never actually meeting Vic, I spoke with him frequently over the telephone, regarding information on baseball in general and the 'old days' in particular. He was, without doubt, in love with baseball and instrumental in putting baseball on the map in the Bournemouth area, his memory however will live on, as long as baseball is played in Bournemouth. Following is a tribute to Vic, compiled by Pat Hunter, who played on Vic's team and who in 1986, along with Ian and Jan McLeod re-established baseball in Bournemouth. Barry Mayfield
Old Timers Baseball Club

A TRIBUTE TO VIC 'CASEY' BEACH

I first bumped into Vic Beach in Post Office Road, Bournemouth in 1947. We were both engaged in purchasing ex US Army sports equipment, for our respective teams. As it turned out, neither of us knew of the others existence and I agreed, on Vic's suggestion, to merge my rag-tag

embryonic Parkstone Indians with his fledgling Bournemouth Cubs. Little did I realise I was entering a phase of my life of which I still hold fondest memories. Under Vic's dynamic energy and tutelage, the Bournemouth Cubs and a second team the Bees, rapidly 'shook down' and became teams to be reckoned with. I recall that Vic had close ties with Wrigley Field and the Chicago Cubs and thanks to Vic we featured several times in the Chicago Cubs fan newspaper. Through the 1947 - 1953 period the club played against many British and American service teams, as well as such well known British league clubs as Fondue, Hornsey, TBM, Eltham, Mitcham, Wokingham etc. 1953 saw the demise of the club due to large numbers of players being conscripted for their National Service and on their return to civilian life they became so widely scattered that it became impossible to re-establish the club at that time.

On the social side of the club, I recall with nostalgia the great family gatherings we had. Vic would entertain us with his wonderful voice, singing in Italian, he belonged to the local operatic society I believe. Invariably Vic would be accompanied by Eddie Cobelli, our erstwhile second baseman, on the accordion. In the mid eighties, whilst reforming the Bees, I sought and was freely given, much advice, expertise and support by Vic, so his influence is still within the current Bournemouth Bees. In conclusion, I had the great honour of knowing Vic 'Casey' Beach, as one of lifes greats, both in and out of baseball. 'Batter up Casey'.

Dear Sirs

I am looking for a position as a head coach / manager, or as a player for one of your teams for the 1994 season, and future opportunities.

I am an American with extensive experience of coaching and playing in the higher levels of baseball.

I can be contacted at the Mediolanum Baseball Office, Milan, Italy, Fax No 39258303315, or at my home: via Trento #67, Cologno Monzese, (MI) 20093, Italy, Phone 392 2535715.

Thank you
Tom McCoy

Dear Kevin

Further to the 1993 AGM in Birmingham, below are a few words which I didn't get to tell you, which I would like to be put in Britball.

I was most impressed by the standard and professionalism of the following people: Greg Welch has done a great job with the kids programme; Keith Peskett doesn't let the disappointments trying to gain that big sponsor get him down, Ian Smyth has done a great job balancing the books; and what can I say about the job that you do. I must admit I was unsure when I learnt that Steve Herbert was going to head the BBF, as I thought that he wasn't our man. But I was so wrong. Steve is a true professional and I believe things can only get better.

All of you love this game as much as I do, and we can only make it better. Baseball can give you a trying time at moments, but baseball never lets you down. The British Baseball Federation is truly yours and mine because we all make it work.

I shall be holidaying in Toronto from the 26 December to 27 January, getting back in time for the Bushey Clinic. Knowing that the BBF is up and running with a great Board and Federation means that we are finally on the path to success.

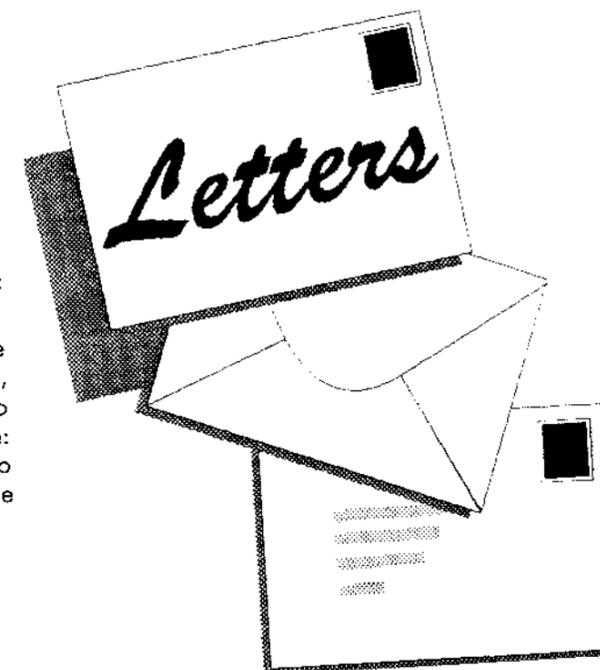
Wishing you and the Federation a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and a great baseball season to come.
Yours in sport

Raymond Brownlie
Great Britain International
Leeds City Royals Manager

Dear Brit-Ball

Hello, I wrote to you a couple of months ago and only one team called. When you have space I would like to put an ad in every month.

My name is Stephen Johnson, 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 - youth to adult. My stay with you must include room and board at local hotel.

If you are interested, please contact me at 1807 Forrest Road, Apartment A, Baltimore, Maryland 21234, USA. Tel: 410 665 2596.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Regards
Stephen Johnson

Dear Friend

The sport club DIAMOND, send you its greetings and wants you to be informed of its origins, purpose, and current status.

The club was formed at the

beginning of 1992 as an independent registered sports organisation. At the present time we have over 250 people involved in our baseball and softball programs. We have six divisional categories: senior women's softball, senior men's baseball, teenage boy's baseball, teenage girl's baseball; teenage girl's softball, boy's baseball and junior boy's baseball. The club's base is situated in the city of Donetsk, Ukraine, with a population of 1.5 million people. In this past season of 1993, our senior women's softball team competed in a league with 6 different teams representing the major cities of the Ukraine. Our team was crowned the champion team of the Ukraine, and we were awarded the "1993 Ukrainian Cup". In becoming the champion team, we have also earned the right to compete in the "European Champions Cup".

By the decision of the "Ukrainian Baseball / Softball Federation", the "Sport Club Diamond"'s senior women's softball team, has been granted the status of the "Base Team" for the formation of the Ukrainian national senior women's softball team! Our senior women's softball team will compete in the World Championship of softball in Canada. As well our junior girl's softball team will compete in the European championship.

At this point, we are interested in extending our friendship and baseball / softball with your federation and clubs of your country. We would be privileged to arrange friendly games, and tournaments in our countries, as well as some commercial exhibitions.

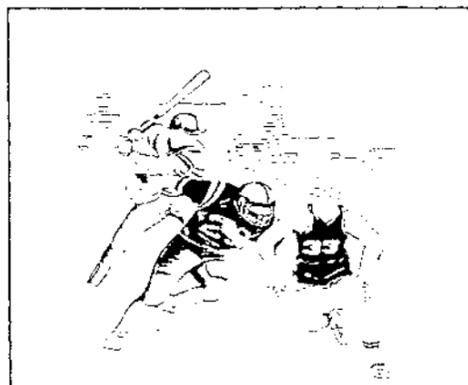
Sincerely yours

Maxim R Lazebnik
President, Diamond Baseball Club
23 Shevchenko blvd, Donetsk, Ukraine, 340017
Tel: 622 902567 Fax: 622 956468



DENVER ATHLETICS LTD.

76 Sluice Road • Denver • Downham Market • Norfolk PE38 0DZ • England
Telephone 0366 384603 • Fax: 0366 384009



Markwort® Baseball & Softball

Send for our 1992 Catalogue of Baseball Equipment and Uniforms. Mail Order service available. Competitive prices, quality products.

PONY SPORTS UK LTD

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

As worn by the most feared and ruthless hitman in America

CECIL FIELDER 'ONLY WEARS PONY'
(most home runs 1990-92)



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