

BRIT BALL

The Official Voice of the British Baseball Federation

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British Baseball Federation

The Official Voice
of the
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Issue No 11
February 1994
75p

EIGHT WEEKS TO GO.....

The 1994 season is just eight weeks away and promises to be an exciting one. All the hard work through the winter months will finally be put to the test when over the next few weeks teams begin to come together for pre-season friendlies. I can't wait!

Well, in this month's issue we've plenty to tell you about. Inside you'll find details of the Umpiring Clinic and also interviews from the MLB/BBF Bushey Clinic which I hope you will enjoy as much as I did conducting them. As you can see from the photo, World Series Winner Bert Blyleven, knows a good read when he sees one. You'll also find applications for this year's Major League Baseball Envoy Programme, one of the best ways to

raise the profile of the game in your area.

Also inside is a breakdown of who's in what division and next month I will be making my predictions for '94 (which means the kiss of death for some of you I'm afraid!).

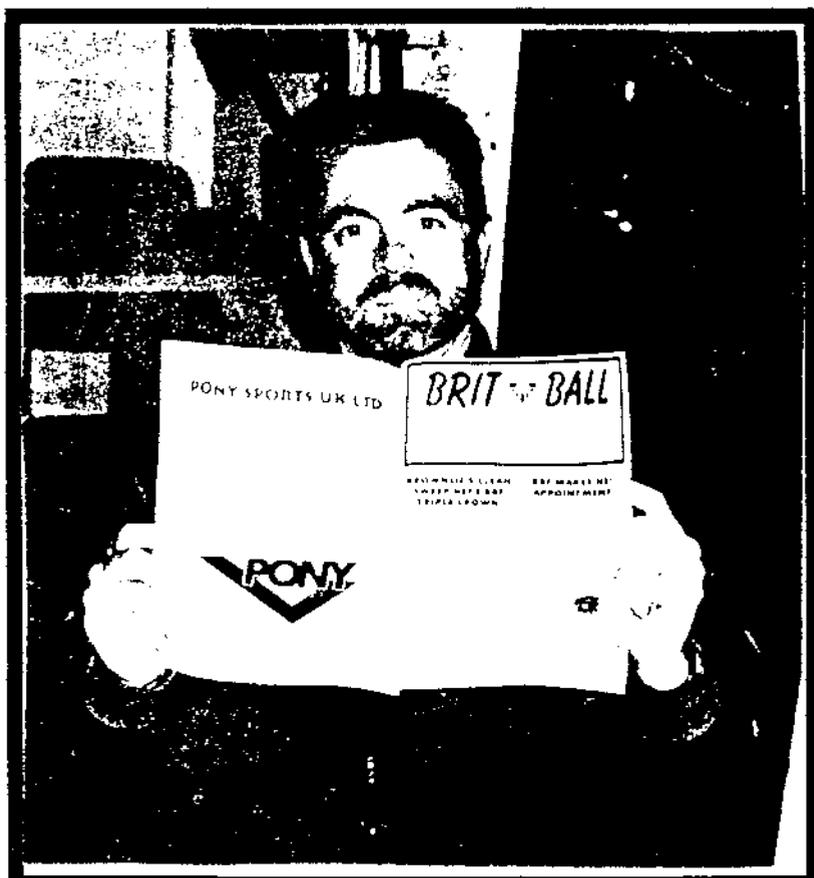
BBF START UNIVERSITY COMPETITION

The BBF have started a University League. Already there are a number of Universities who play baseball and it has been decided that the BBF should try and foster relationships with these Universities and others throughout the country.

In a pilot scheme, the BBF will be encouraging the sport in Universities and will be hoping to organise some

tournaments through the season. The benefits to both parties are enormous. The Universities gain the help from the National Governing Body and in doing so can take advantage of the BBF Coaching courses available. This then raises the awareness of the BBF Schools Development Programme should any of the students qualify as teachers. Also, when the students return home in the summer they can transfer from their University team to their local side thus increasing the strength of existing BBF Teams.

The University of Warwick, University of East Anglia, Bradford University, Hull and Humberside University have all agreed to take part in the pilot and should it prove a success then every University in the country will be targeted. If you know of any University in your area that has a team then please contact BBF Head Office immediately.



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COUNCIL**

BBF / MLBI 1994 ENVOY PROGRAMME

The purpose of the Envoy Programme is to provide the CEBA Federations with continuous instruction in baseball fundamentals, to players and coaches of all ages and levels, over approximately a 2/3 month period.

MLBI desires to continue and expand its support of the BBF Schools Development Programme including; equipment, instruction and learning materials (videos and baseball manuals).

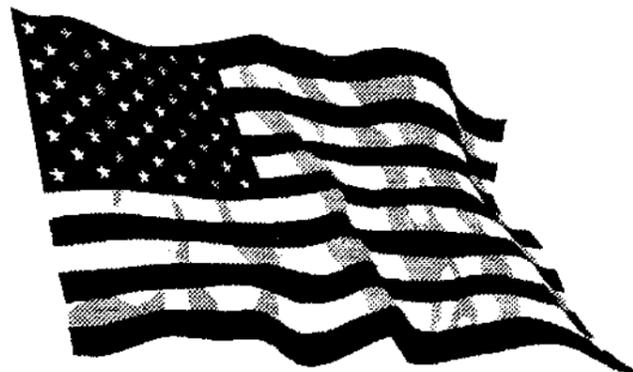
The Envoy instructors' time and efforts will be mainly directed toward the goal of "growing" baseball. In other words, we are attempting to create new players and fans of the game. Host Federations usually want the majority of the work aimed at existing teams and players. However, whilst making every effort to adhere to these wishes, the Envoy instructors will focus their attempt on youth and school teams and will in fact suggest opportunities to reach out to the non-playing / participating youths and adults.

Envoy coaches can be expected to work five or in some cases, six days per week, a minimum of four, and a maximum of eight hours per day. The majority of this time should be on field, in practice, or in clinical situations.

MLBI and Mizuno will provide instructional materials, and some equipment, including baseballs, one bat, four youth gloves, videos, etc. They will also provide all international transportation, as well as any fees (honorarium) due to the coaches. The MLBIP and envoy coaches will provide their own personal accident insurance, public liability, and catastrophic insurance.

BBF HOST TEAM RESPONSIBILITIES

Lodging in a hotel, bed and breakfast, or more likely in an individual home. The Envoy coach must have available his



own bedroom with an adequate supply of linens, blankets and hot water for bathing.

Three meals per day. These meals must meet the requirements of the coaches themselves, ie a vegetarian host family may not impose their personal dietary habits upon their guests.

All local ground transportation by train or auto, if possible, including picking up the Envoy at a central London meeting place, or from his prior hosts' residence, if the Envoy coach is moving between host families.

A certain number of gloves, batting helmets, and other equipment must be provided by the host club. Although the Envoys will bring a certain amount of equipment with them, more will be required to adequately supply school / youth programmes, and "Taster Days" at leisure centres.

A baseball diamond or field preferably with at least foul lines and base lines marked.

Each applicant for an Envoy coach must fill in the enclosed application form and provide a detailed account of how, when and where the Envoy can be best deployed in your area. Applications must be received by 5 March 1994 for selection and final approval by the BBF / MLBIP Coordinating Committee. Successful Host Teams' applications in the past have included partnerships with local sports councils, leisure centres, and youth clubs. Many local councils run half term, Easter break, and summer holiday programmes with extensive sports training. These councils can often be successfully approached for assistance in organisation of baseball training courses, and frequently provide the ground free of charge as well as advertising in the leisure centres and other sports facilities in your area.

The Leisure division (Sport and Play) provide a direct link with your local schools. Sports Council Leisure Directors have been receptive to baseball in many areas because the schools, especially primary schools, welcome sports people to their grounds, especially if they are backed by the National Federation and Major League Baseball. The provision, free of charge, of both coaching, and necessary equipment, is usually enough of an inducement to begin tee-ball, baseball etc at many school grounds.

Local newspapers should also be approached. They will either take your own article and publish it (with a photograph) or alternatively, send a reporter. A picture of a kid with a baseball glove and bat and a few paragraphs about a free "Come and Try" session is usually all you need to drum up interest.

Greg Welch
BBF Youth Director

Name of Senior Club: _____
Contact Name: _____
Address: _____

Tel & Fax No: _____

Name of Junior Club: _____
Contact Name: _____
Address: _____

Tel & Fax No: _____

Name of SDO: _____
Address: _____

Tel & Fax: _____

Ground Address: _____

Description of Ground: _____
(ie changing rooms backstop fencing mound)

Equipment Available: _____

Schedule: _____
(include schools, leisure centres etc where envoy will coach as well as days and times with relevant phone contacts:

Statement: I, _____ (print name)

am financially capable of discharging my duties as an Envoy Host including the feeding, housing, and transportation of the Envoy Coach to all of the above listed appointments, as well as picking him up from London upon arrival.

Signed: _____

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN NO LATER THAN 5 MARCH, 1994 TO:

Greg Welch, 31 Marineside, Bracklesham Bay, West Sussex, PO20 8JJ

Tel: 0243 671562

Fax: 0243 673200

BASEBALL SUMMER CAMP

This year the BBF/MLBI ENVOY programme will include a BASEBALL SUMMER CAMP at The Swattenden Centre, Cranbrook in Kent.

The camp will be from 8 August to 12 August and will cost £85 per adult and £80 per child for accommodation and food.

Coaching in the camp will be provided by Major League Baseball Envoy coaches, and will be available to complete novices and experienced players in the ages 8-12 and 13-15. It will also be an opportunity for British coaches to improve their skills and obtain coaching recognition.

Book yourself and your more experienced team players NOW but keep in mind this will also provide an ideal opportunity to extend your area's school envoy programme by inviting pupils to the summer camp.

The emphasis will be on developing baseball skills but there will also be lots of fun on the Adventure Course and other facilities at the Swattenden Centre.

PLEASE PHONE BOOKINGS NOW
TO ALAN CHELL 0622 744796
OR GREG WELCH 0243 671562.

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Steve Herbert
(El Presidente)
has recently
attended the
CEBA
Congress in
San Marino.

At the meeting the draw was made for the
1994 Senior and Junior Championships.
The results were as follows:

SENIOR B POOL

THE COMPETITION WILL TAKE PLACE
BETWEEN 20 - 28 AUGUST 1994 IN
SLOVENIA

GROUP 1
CZECH REPUBLIC
SWITZERLAND
HUNGARY
POLAND
NORWAY
UKRAINE
BULGARIA

GROUP 2
MOLDAVIA
GREAT BRITAIN
SLOVENIA
CROATIA
SLOVAKIA
GEORGIA
AUSTRIA

JUNIOR A POOL

THE COMPETITION WILL TAKE PLACE
BETWEEN 10 - 17 JULY 1994 IN
HOLLAND

GROUP 1
FRANCE
HOLLAND
GREAT BRITAIN
CZECH REPUBLIC

GROUP 2
CROATIA
SPAIN
BELGIUM
ITALY



1990

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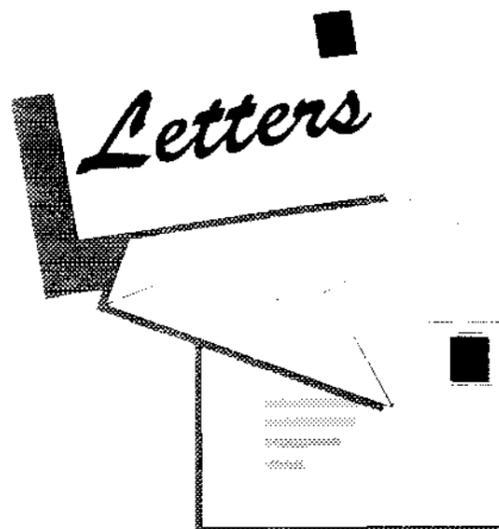
Say Will,
what if one of those clubhouse jokers
switched some ordinary gloves for your Easton gloves?



Good for a few laughs, right Will?



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Dear Members

It is with much sadness, on reading the January issue of Brit-Ball to find that we are losing the services of Mrs Mortimer, BBF Registrar.

I hope the board do not live to regret this as Lena has been the backbone of the registration/affiliation department and was very thorough, particularly when some people tried getting away without registering players.

She has for the past nine years, been a good servant to all, including the BBF Board and was not afraid to cross people who were not conforming to BBF directorship on rules of registration. This sometimes made her unpopular but whenever anyone contacted her they always got a true and honest response. Lets hope we get the same service from her replacement.

Yours faithfully

Hull Mets Baseball Club Executive Committee

Dear Mr Macadam

The Untouchables from Paderborn, Germany are organizing an international baseball tournament over the holiday from May 21-23 1994.

The tournament will be held in Paderborn, a charming city 60 miles east of Dortmund easily accessible by all modes of transport.

We are expecting 5-7 clubs from various European countries to compete with our team.

We are still looking for a top level team to take part in our tournament and if any of your teams are interested then please contact me immediately.

We're looking forward to seeing you and lots of fun in May

Christian Bruckshen
Paderborn Untouchables
Phone: 49 5251 505257

BOLA PITCHING MACHINE FOR SALE

Shane Jarvis of the Totteridge Trailblazers has a pitching machine for sale at a price of £600 ono. The pitching machine is similar to that used with the BBF Roadshow and is lightweight, very portable and is a bargain at the price. If you are interested then contact Shane on 071 722 6368.

LOOKING AHEAD.....

During the coming season, there are a number of high profile games scheduled in the BBF calendar. These include the BBF National Knockout Cup Final and the National Premier League Series. If your club would like to host one of these prestigious events then please contact Head Office. This provides clubs with an excellent chance to promote the sport of baseball in their area.

CALLING ALL UMPIRES

As promised a BBF Umpires Clinic is scheduled to take place on the weekend 19 March - 20 March. The clinic will be held at USIU-E, Bushey, Herts (so bring your winter woolies - Ed) and will cost £10 per person. If you are a BBF Registered Umpire, then the cost will be free of charge. Accommodation is also available at a cost of £10 for the Saturday night.

If you are interested in registering as a BBF Umpire, then please contact either Dick Coombes on 0403 267609 or Kevin Macadam on 0482 643551, who can send you the relevant registration forms. Don't forget the registration fee for umpires for the 1994 season is also free of charge.

The clinic will be run by Andy Konyar, a former professional umpire, who travels the world holding umpires clinics, and Brian Pompili of Little League. This will be an excellent opportunity for new and existing umpires to prepare themselves for the coming season ahead. For those of you that can't make it then do not despair. Remember that this year there will be a roving MLBI Umpire Envoy who will be coming to your neck of the woods sometime during the summer.

1994 UMPIRES CLINIC REGISTRATION FORM

I would like to participate in the 1994 Umpires Clinic

Name

Address

Postcode

Telephone No

Date of Birth

Baseball Team (If applicable)

I enclose the following sum of money:

Clinic

£

£10 or if free of charge, please state BBF Umpire Registration No

Accommodation

£

(£10 for Saturday night)

TOTAL ENCLOSED

£

All cheques should be made payable to:

BRITISH BASEBALL FEDERATION

Please return your completed form and money BY WEDNESDAY 16 MARCH 1994 to:

1994 Umpires Clinic

British Baseball Federation

66 Belvedere Road

Hessle

North Humberside

HU13 9JJ

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT - PART II

MAKING A PLAN

The first thing to realise when setting out to develop baseball in your area, is to realise that nothing happens by accident! Successful projects are 95% planning and 5% action. This article is written to help those of you who are committed to developing baseball and prepared to do whatever it takes to do so, it is no easy ride.

Already you will have established yourself as Mr Baseball in your area and you will be looking for ideas to develop your team, your supporters and perhaps a junior programme. If you are taking a leadership role, spend some time finding out about the skills you will need to develop your leadership potential. Read a few books on leadership and management, how to motivate others and how to delegate responsibilities. (Take a tip - the library is a good place to start any research.)

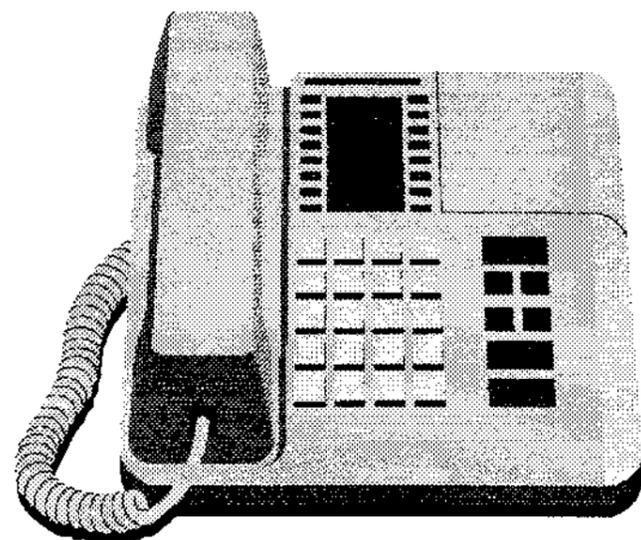
You will need to sit down with paper and pencil and work out what it is you want to achieve, what's in it for YOU, and what are the desired results of any plans you will make.

Building your baseball programme will be enjoyed most if you plan keeping the pursuit of excellence in mind. We cannot all be Premier League winners but we can all achieve personal success if we do our best and it is up to you to motivate your players and supporters to go for it.

Call a meeting, get your team and supporters together and tell them the BBF (or local council, or a potential sponsor, whatever) wants to know the ten most important things they would like to see happen in your area.

Ask them to each write their own list and then you consolidate and discuss them (perhaps in a formal meeting written on a whiteboard) and prioritise the top 5-10 items. Of course the BBF would like to know what you want, but LO and BEHOLD these lists will provide YOU with the framework for a development plan, and of course they are THEIR ideas so they will be ready to work as a team to make it happen. (Let us know about your plan.)

Baseball is a team game, on and off the field. Find out who can help. There are lots of small jobs to be done, but don't frighten them off by saying "will you help", that's much too open ended. Simply say "can you make a few photocopies", "will you phone the council". Keep it simple



and they will grow into the job!

You will find time spent planning very creative and motivating. There are no rights and wrongs, it is an opportunity to let your imagination provide you with ideas - and finally enable you to FOCUS and make DEADLINES for the most important actions to be taken.

RECRUITING

A major component of your immediate plan will be to re-establish your team by calling back last years players and then you will need a SHORT-TERM recruitment plan to find new players, and you should consider developing a LONG-TERM plan such as a junior programme or a local college team etc.

To consolidate existing players:

- * Arrange some formal team meetings, include everybody. Use the meeting to establish a plan for the season (as described above).

- * Establish a planned practice routine, perhaps a few indoor practices, and then outside onto your field.

- * Review last season's individual performance and team performance and establish goals for the coming season.

- * Plan your finances, prepare players for what they will need to pay and spread the payments.

- * Develop game knowledge by having rules discussions and video sessions.

- * Plan a special event in the season. A tournament, an overseas trip, a prizegiving evening etc. Make it exciting to be part of your baseball club.

- * Recruit some of these players to help in your area action plan.

To recruit new players:

Some people believe that if you have something good people will come running to your door to "buy" or "use" it. This simply does NOT happen - if you are excited about baseball you have to let people know, you need to spread the work - it doesn't spread on its own.

- * Contact local newspapers and ask them to run a recruiting article, ask them to take a few action photographs or provide them with some.

- * Visit local schools and colleges and ask them to distribute notices or better still ask to do a brief presentation to the students.

- * Visit local companies and speak to their sport or social club representatives.

- * Visit your local rotary club, chamber of commerce, parish council. Let them know who you are and what you do.

- * Make contact with other sports, share joint promotions and publicity stories.

- * Look at your region and see if establishing a local baseball liaison group, maybe including softball, would enable you to reach objectives, such as local coaching clinic, county funding, county transport etc.

- * Make news, brag about your team, there will be many good points you can build upon.

- * Use big brother where you can, "The British Baseball Federation supports this programme", "After the tremendous success of the Major League Baseball game at the Oval we have decided"

- * Become a prominent person in your community - Mr Baseball.

- * Get to know the reporters on your local media and thank them if they print your articles, they are human and enjoy praise.

All this good publicity will do wonders for your public relations, increase the influence of baseball as a whole and increase your potential for grants and sponsorship. And

that's where this story ends more on SPONSORSHIP next time.

REMEMBER

The BBF is here for YOU. If you would like more information on how to promote your team or perhaps to discuss some new ideas just give me a call - I'll do my best to help. But remember where your team is concerned - don't expect any thanks! Do it for your own satisfaction. Of course the BBF will recognise the success of local administrators but as for your team, they just want to play baseball.

And finally, personal experience has taught me that, not matter how hard you try, there is no guarantee of success. You will need to keep going through all the frustration. I personally keep this in mind "the day I get the BBF on national television it will be just like hitting the ball out of the park"!

Good Luck

Alan Chell

BBF - Public Relations

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**

CRYPTIC QUIZ

Back in the November Issue of Brit-Ball, Will Cosgrave sent in a cryptic quiz compiled from the names of teams around the country. Sorry for the delay and congratulations to Anthony Weakner of the Caterham A's who got 18 correct and wins a years subscription to Brit-Ball.

Will's been at it again and here are a further twenty teams for you to decipher whilst you wile away the hours before the start of the new season.

Can you name these BBF Teams?

1. Lories In New City?
2. Cross Humber To New York?
3. London Pathfinders?
4. Savage Merseyside?
5. Avoiding Medway?
6. Lakeland New-comers?
7. Surrey Unbranded?
8. Tayside Tricksters?
9. Berkshire Arsonists?
10. Midlands Sea Rascals?
11. Sussex Heavens?
12. Yorkshire Walk Out?
13. Avon's Dirty Sox?
14. Manchester Letters?
15. Seaside Stingers?
16. Birds In London?
17. Strathclyde Devils?
18. Humber Sovereigns?
19. Pack Of Londoners?
20. Hertfordshire Chessmen?

The prize this time is a BBF/MLBI T-Shirt from this years Coaching Clinic to the person with the most correct answers. Return your answers to Brit-Ball Cryptic Quiz, 66 Belvedere Road, Hessie, North Humberside, HU13 9JJ.

- 1.
- 2.
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- 18.
- 19.
- 20.

Name:

Address:

1994 BBF League Structures

The 1994 BBF League Structures are as follows. When looking at the schedules you will see that we have taken on board comments and suggestions made by teams all around the country. We have aimed to schedule more games, and group teams together to ease on travel costs.

Promotion and relegation in the Northern and Southern Conferences (ie not the National Premier League) will take the following format; two teams from each division will be either promoted or relegated as applicable. For example if Fulham Flames and Brighton Buccaneers B are the two winners of South Division Three, they will both be promoted to South Division Two!

BBF NATIONAL PREMIER LEAGUE - NORTH

Humberside Mets
Leeds City Royals
Nottingham Hornets
Humberside Warriors
Birmingham Braves
Liverpool Trojans

BBF NATIONAL PREMIER LEAGUE SOUTH

Bedford Chicksands Indians
Brighton Buccaneers
Bristol Black Sox
Essex Arrows
Hounslow Rangers
Crawley Comets

BBF NORTH - ENGLAND DIVISION ONE

Menwith Hill Pirates
Liverpool Tigers
Hull Giants
Hull Royals
Hull Mets
Barnsley Strikers
Stretford A's
Nottingham Pirates
Tamworth Strikers

BBF NORTH - ENGLAND DIVISION TWO

Sheffield Bladerunners
Durham Demons
Leeds City Royals II
Preston Bobcats
Cumbria Lakers
Hessle Astros
Newark Giants
Cleveland Indians
Sileby Vikings

BBF NORTH - SCOTLAND DIVISION ONE

West Lothian Wildcats
Glasgow Comets
Dundee Dodgers
Clyde Valley Knights
Tayside Cobras
Edinburgh Reivers
Dalriada Demons

BBF SOUTH - DIVISION ONE NORTH

Cambridge Monarchs
Gloster Meteors
City Slick Sidewinders
Hemel Red Sox
Reading Royals
Totteridge Trailblazers
Droitwich Spa-Tans

BBF SOUTH - DIVISION ONE SOUTH

Stevenage Knights
Gillingham Dodgers
Croydon Pirates
Tunbridge Wells Royals
Arun Panthers
Hounslow Hawks
Bournemouth B's

BBF SOUTH - DIVISION TWO

Hounslow Falcons
Tiptree Hotspots Rays
Bracknell Blazers
Lashings Sluggers of Maidstone
Guildford Mavericks
Caterham A's
Chichester Kyotes
London Wolves

BBF SOUTH - DIVISION THREE NORTH

Milton Keynes Truckers
Fulham Flames
Waltham Abbey Cardinals
Cambridge Fellows
Norwich Wanderers

BBF SOUTH - DIVISION THREE SOUTH

Eastbourne Aces
Guildford Mudcats
Brighton Buccaneers B
Burgess Hill Red Hats
Gloster Meteors B



British Baseball Federation

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ANGELS HANDS ON IS A HIT!

The 1994 Major League Baseball / BBF Coaching Clinic held at USIU-E, Bushey, at the end of January, once again proved a success.

The introduction of "hands-on" coaching by the clinicians was appreciated by everyone who attended. Young and old alike were taken through the steps of pitching by World Series winner Bert Blyleven and were taught to hit by Sam Suplizio, whose previous students include last years World Series MVP Paul Molitor and Robin Yount. To round things off the California Angels manager, Buck Rodgers, was there to give his thoughts on the game, along with the man who keeps such players as Will Clark and Barry Bonds, fit and healthy for the San Francisco Giants, Mark Letendre. As usual, MLB International's Bill Arce, made sure that everything ran smoothly as well as giving us some words of wisdom. All the clinicians were extremely friendly and always happy to answer any questions no matter how trivial (isn't that right Dave Sharpe!) and a number of us won't forget our evening with Bert and Buck in the hotel which resulted in us posing for pictures wearing Bert's 1987

World Series ring. That was one serious piece of jewelry! All the guests proved on song with their after-dinner speaking at the BBF Banquet and as much as I would like to repeat some of the jokes. I would like to be able to continue to publish Brit-Ball for at least a while longer Suffice to say that I can assure you that if anyone who was at the dinner had to go on a baseball trip with Frank Parker, then I'm sure we would all check our beds first, right lads! Anyhow, in between the coaching sessions, I managed to track down the speakers and asked them some questions about the game of baseball.

Sam Suplizio - Hitting Instructor California Angels

How has today's game changed from when you started playing?

Today's game is more technical with more fundamentals on how you do things. Better teaching techniques, better visual aids, and today's players really are more well coached from when I played 34 years ago. I had a manager who once tried to teach me how to hit. He grabbed the bat, walked up to the plate, he whacked the ball out of the park and said "now you do it." "What did you do?"

What is the best piece of advice you would give to players or managers starting out?

If you are starting learn all you can about every phase of the game of baseball. You have to have the knowledge of what you are doing before you do it, otherwise you will be teaching improperly. You may be showing people the wrong way to do things and you don't want to do that as you get ingrained in bad habits so I would say knowledge is first. Learn all you can about the game of baseball; about hitting, about fielding, throwing, pitching catching and learn about all the fundamentals of all the positions and that knowledge you can then transfer onto the field and the young people.

What have been the high and low points of your career?

The high point of my career was 1982, coaching in the World Series against the St Louis Cardinals, where I was coach for the Milwaukee Brewers, that was the high point. The low point of my career I can honestly tell you is a day I had broken my arm a week before going to New York after being called up to Yankee Stadium in 1956. I slid into second base in Birmingham, Alabama and shattered my right arm, a compound fracture, broken in eight places. And a year later, as my arm was healing, the Dodgers bought my contract and the Yankees came over to play us in an exhibition game. All my former team mates now were in the Major

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Leagues with the Yankess, and I was struggling with an arm that was withered and not doing very well. The day they came to play us a baseball game I sat behind a barracks building and cried for about nine hours, and I remember that day as a low time in my whole life in the game of baseball

What are your plans for the future and would you maybe like to manage in the Majors one day?

Well having managed in the minor leagues and coached in the major leagues quite a bit, I have coached a lot over the years and I have taught a lot over the years and no I don't have any desire to manage in the major leagues. I have a strong desire to continue to teach baseball to kids of all ages, including the major league players. My thrill in sports and in baseball is to teach it. I have had job opportunities to be in the front office of different teams, a scouting director and doing other duties, but I want to teach the game of baseball.

Who do you admire the most and why?

In baseball I admire as much as anyone two individuals. I admire and respect them very much, Robin Yount and Paul Molitor, both of whom I coached in Milwaukee for 14 years and I had Paul Molitor play on my summer college league when he was a collegiate player at the University of Minnesota. I admire the two of them because both of them are not only good athletes but are wonderful citizens off the field. They are great with young people, they set good examples for young people, they give unselfishly of their time, they are always willing to help people. They are two outstanding young athletes as much as that they are wonderful human beings who give themselves in

order to make this world a better place in which to live.

Are there any players that you manage, that you think are exceptional, you can't believe their talent?

I have to say that there are players that I have managed and players that I have signed to contracts that I like and they are exceptional in this way. Their talent is very limited, they are not very athletically gifted, but they make it to the major leagues with a big heart and with limited ability they stay in the major leagues. I'll give you a good example, Randy Ready, he's a player that's not a star but he's been in the big leagues for nine years. He is a utility infielder who can play second base, shortstop, first base, left field, pitcher. Why I like a guy like that is because with limited ability he has made it to the major leagues. What does that tell me? In life there are a lot of people who are not as gifted as others but the victories go to the persistent, the people who stay with it who are quiet, who are dedicated, they will come out on top all the time, and Randy Ready is one of these kind of people.

What do you think to the standard of the British players you have seen and are you quite surprised at the knowledge of the players?

I really am. Yes, I find that they are more advanced than I thought. They ask good questions in the sessions and they are very quick learners as was demonstrated in the batting cage this morning. I am very impressed with the athletic ability of a lot of the British players. I thought the British players would be a little less advanced, but I am finding out that they are more advanced than I thought.

If you were starting out your career, what would you do different?

If I were starting out my career, I would be so happy being able to be involved for 40 years, I don't think I would change anything but I'd hate to have broken my arm. I hated breaking my arm, I would rather have played the big leagues for a few years, just to have that enjoyment, but then again I might not be the teacher that I am today, because I do a pretty good job of the teaching. So I can honestly say that I wouldn't change a thing. Breaking my arm was adversity, I had two ways to go I could get back in and do a job or I could feel sorry for myself for the rest of my life. I feel great that baseball has been great to me. I have a wonderful business in the United States, I am in the insurance and banking business but I have been giving Spring Training for 30 years and I won't change a thing. I have loved every minute of my life and I hope it continues on for another 40 years.

MIKE CARLSON - Major League Baseball

Do you think there will ever be a true World Series?

I think it's inevitable. And I wouldn't be surprised if the first steps toward it were taken in the next Olympics which my guess is in 96 there will be some sort of professional representation in the Olympics.

What are your opinions to there being an All-Star Baseball team in the Olympics?

My guess is that in 96 it will be sort of semi open. It will

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Baseball team in the Olympics?

My guess is that in '96 it will be sort of semi open. It will be a limited arrangement where professional players can play probably minor league players and that being the case, by the next Olympics it will be totally open. The World Championships will become totally open, and once that's done it's only a matter of time before you have a true World Series. Without that I guess the US and the Japanese would play a World Series match within the next ten years, even if the Olympics doesn't happen.

What do you think the clubs in the Major Leagues would think about playing in the Olympics, do you think they would welcome it?

The players certainly do. By and large I know the Players Association does. They are very much in favour of it. The problem with an open rule championship or an open Olympics is when it comes during the middle of a season, you not only have to release the American players but Canadian players, Puerto Rican players, Dominican Republic etc, so we really have to close the whole season down because you could be talking about, if it's a twelve team Olympic tournament which they're working about getting in the future, you could be taking about anywhere from 70 to 100 players leaving the season. So it would really mean having a two week break in the season for players to go and play, but I really think it's inevitable, especially if baseball is going to grow you have to put your best baseball players on show.

BERT BLYLEVEN - California Angels

How has today's game changed from when you started playing?

I think today's game has changed because today's athletes are bigger and stronger. They are taking a lot more pride in their conditioning year round.

What advice would you give to players and managers starting out?

First of all try to find that you make sure all the kids have fun playing the game, learn the rules, play under the rules of whatever the manager wants, realise that he's the boss, have control of the game and make it fun for the kids.

What has been the high and low points of your career so far?

Well the high points are definitely 1979 and 1987 being on World Championship ball clubs. The low points were probably the operations I had to have.

What are your plans for the future. Do you fancy going into managing?

I'm not sure, one day maybe. I think that managing or coaching is

a field that I enjoy and that's what I'm going to try and pursue.

Who do you admire the most and why?

I admire a lot of people, those who like the game of baseball. That enjoy it not only for the competition but just going out on an everyday basis and trying to be the best they can.

Who's the most difficult batter you've had to pitch to?

Sometimes anybody with a hit, but usually the guys like a Wade Boggs, Rod Carew, or Don Mattingley. Guys that are good .300 hitters, that make good contact. The guys who I didn't mind pitching to are like the Reggie Jackson, Mike Schmidt, the guys with a big swing that you might be able to throw a certain pitch in a certain situation. They are so consistent with their strike zone.

How did you feel after you had pitched your no-hitter against the Angels?

It was great, it was probably one of the best feelings I have had, other than probably pitching in the World Series.

What do you think to the standard of the British players you have seen?

I'm very impressed with the pitchers I have seen so far, they are throwing strikes, they seem like good deliveries, they're pretty close to where they are not going to hurt their arms, and that's the main thing. If I can maybe just give the kids a couple of tips that may not put a lot of extra stress on their shoulder, then that's what I'm trying to do.

Which managers do you admire and why?

Well I think that every manager I've had in the big leagues I've always admired because of the position that they are in. I think it's a very demanding position, especially dealing with 25 individuals.

Buck Rogers who is here with us on the trip is a very easy manager to work with. I like Doug Raeder myself because he was a very good manager. Dave Garcia, Tom Kelly with the Minnesota Twins and also Chuck Chandler with the Pirates, because we won with these managers.

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Are you surprised at the knowledge of the British players and how much they know about the game?

Baseball has been here a long time and I think it's a great tribute to a guy like Bill Arce who has brought people back from the States to play the game. I think there have been a lot of people in Great Britain who have always loved the game of baseball. They have just brought that down from generation to generation.

BUCK RODGERS - Manager - California Angels

What made you take up catching?

Well it's a funny story, I was in Junior High School back in Ohio and a grocery store had a contest that whoever got the most box tops got some catching equipment. I wanted that catching equipment so I went out and won it. From then on I was the only kid in the neighbourhood that had the equipment, so I was the catcher.

What advice would you give to any players or managers starting out?

Well I still think it's a great game and I would advise any player to play to be as strong as they can, to learn the game as well as they can, even though you don't get paid on defence, that's the way you get written in the line-up, so I think that's important. If you go along enough, if you know the game enough, then you should manage.

What have been the high points and the low points in your career so far?

I think the high point was when I was in Montreal in 1987. We took a club that was supposed to finish last and we were two games off first place with a week to go in the season. Probably the low point was when we were first place in July in '89 with Montreal and we finished fourth.

Who do you admire most and why?

Well I think that I've always admired George Brett, he's always handled himself like a pro throughout the years. Roger Maris was a man who was misunderstood. He should have been in the Hall of Fame and he's made some enemies in New York. Jim Abbott, he's played for me. He didn't even know he was handicapped until someone told him. That's the kind of guy Jim Abbot is.

Are there any players you have managed who you think are exceptional?

Well I think there are a lot of players I have managed, I think that Larry Walker with the Montreal Expos, Delino De Sheikds, and Marquis Grissom. Jim Abbot, Tim Salmon with the Angels, I have Paul Molitor, Robin Yount with Milwaukee, Cecil Cooper, J T Snow is turning out to be a good player. So I have a lot of great players, Mark Langston, Chuck Finlay, I've had a lot of very good players that I've handled for 11 plus years.

What do you think of the standard of the British players you've seen, and are you surprised at their knowledge?

I think there are some good athletes over here. Sometimes I think the fundamentals that we have are in direct contrast with cricket sometimes and you have to

unlearn some of the fundamentals, especially for the batter.

Are there any players you fancy signing?

Well I haven't seen enough of them here. Well we're going to do some catching tomorrow and I'll look at some of the catchers. I don't think there is anybody that we would sign now but I think there are some young kids who have got the potential.

Which managers do you admire and why?

I think there are a lot of good managers in baseball. The ones that you admire are guys that are competitive all the time, Jim Leyland is one I think does a very good job with the Pirates and has done for a long time. So I think those are the kind of guys, the Tommy Lasorda's they're like an ambassador. So they're some of the fine managers.

What do you think to the league re-alignment?

I think it's overdue, it should have happened 3-5 years ago. But I think that with the club we have it's a very good alignment, the fans will be excited about it. They may not think so now but come September they're going to be very excited about the new alignment.

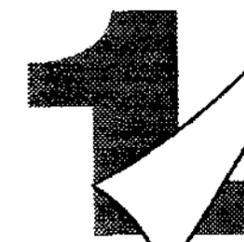
After I had finished interviewing Buck, I asked him if the Angels were due to sign anyone for next season. His reply? Tomorrow, we will be announcing that we have invited Bo Jackson to Spring Training.

I don't believe it, here I am with an exclusive that any journalist in the States would die for but no newspaper in the UK would probably have heard of. Who knows Bo? I can honestly say that this will be a weekend I will never forget. Neither will Wendy! I would have thought that most women would have jumped at the chance to spend a weekend with well over a hundred men but there's no pleasing some people.

Joking apart, many thanks to all the people that made the clinic a success, the clinicians, the Hounslow Baseball Club, Windsor Bears and also to Steve Sinclair for the use of his dictaphone.

Thanks must also go to Gerry Walmsley, Wendy Macadam, and finally Greg Welch and Bill Arce who are responsible for making sure the whole thing happens. If you've never attended the MLB Clinic before, then make sure you don't miss out next year. It's a great opportunity to meet some baseball heroes and to mix with other baseball people from around the country. For those of you who failed to make it this year, start saving for next year's clinic and make a date in your diary '95. Ah well, only 364 days to go.

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