

BRIT BALL

The Official Voice of the British Baseball Federation

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BALL

British Baseball Federation

The Official Voice
of the
British Baseball
Federation

Issue No 15
June 1994
75p

MLBI ENVOYS

Eight Major League Baseball Envoys have arrived in the UK, and are staying with the following teams:

- Ted Novio - Hesse Astros
- Ralph Rago - Dundee Dodgers and Leeds City Royals
- Dominic Pedretti - Arun Panthers
- Matt Vaughn - Arun Panthers
- Scott Dwyer - Birmingham Braves
- Joel Magrane - Brighton Buccaneers
- Rob Mileski - Lashings Sluggers of Maidstone
- Stan Luketich - Chichester Kyotes

The envoys provide invaluable expertise to both senior and junior teams alike. If you meet them during any of your games during the summer, have a chat with them, make them welcome, and most of all make use of their knowledge and expertise. Obviously a few of them have their work cut out with some of the BBF teams, but they'll have fun.

If you have an envoy in your area, let us know how they get on, or ask them to write an article on their stay for a future issue of Brit-Ball. Please remember they are not eligible to play in BBF leagues and competitions.

Thanks once again to Major League Baseball International for organising the envoy programme, but some equipment for them to use would be helpful!

BBF HEAD OFFICE

BBF Head Office has a new fax number: 0482 640224. For those of you who have tried faxing before, but could only get the answer machine, your problems have been solved, we now have a dedicated fax line.

Please take note of the details on page three, regarding telephone re-direction whilst we are on holiday.

Keep in touch with what's happening
in British Baseball, call the
British Baseball Federation Hotline.



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NORTH WEST LITTLE LEAGUE OPENING SEASON

The North West Little League is a coming together of Junior teams in the North West of England. The six teams in this first year are a combination of long established teams and newly formed units.
The league was drawn up at a meeting in Southport in

February. This meeting established various ground rules and helped to identify common problems which both new and established junior baseball teams would face over the coming season.

Teams represented and thus taking part in the 1994 programme are:

Kirkby Braves (Merseyside) Peter Dyer
Preston Panthers (Preston) Frank Counce
Cartmel Valley Lions (Cumbria) Ted Feron
Trafford Saints (Manchester) Arthur Kendall
West Houghton (Bolton) Ron Stidham
Warriors (Houghton Bears)
Hold Family RC (Crosby) Mal Hudson

On the agenda and principle areas for discussion were:

1. The creation of a structured league giving all teams one away and one home game during the season. A mid season tournament for all teams.
2. Regulations governing these matches in keeping with basic Little League rules.
3. Criteria for players eligible. This being an age range from 8 to 15 years.
4. The future pattern for older players. In a future article, we will go into more detail as to what decisions were arrived at and whether these proved successful in the light of experience during the first North West Little League Season.

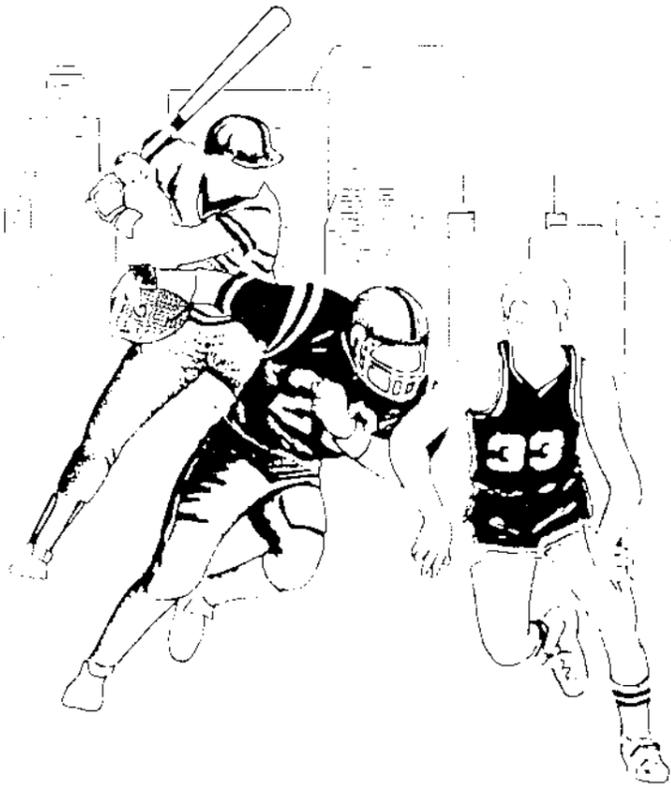


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RESULTS OF THE OPENING ROUND OF NORTH WEST LITTLE LEAGUE

First matches played during May.

Preston Panthers 22 Cartmel Valley Lions 8

Trafford Saints 6 Holy Family RC 3

Kirkby Braves 4 Holy Family RC 5

Trafford Saints 7 Houghton Bears 6

Bolton Bears 5 Trafford Saints 7

Peter Dyer

President North West Little League

IT'S HOLIDAY TIME!

Please note the BBF Head Office will be closed from Friday 17 June until Monday 11 July inclusive.

During this period all telephone calls will be transferred to Keith Peskett. Faxes should be sent direct to Keith on 0243 861031.

If you have any problems or queries, please contact the relevant coordinator as listed below:

National Premier League Conference

Coordinator

Gerry Walmsley - 0954 782495

Northern Conference Coordinator

Nigel Moss - 0532 742668

Southern Conference Coordinator

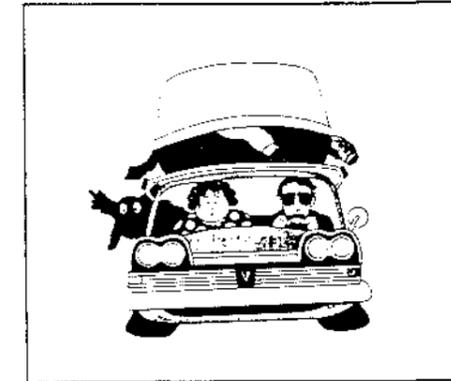
Dennis Noades - 0908 562066

National Registrar

Paul Raybould - 0494 451082

Disciplinary Coordinator

Bill Hamilton - 081 891 1809



Umpires Coordinator

Dick Coombes - 0403 267609

Scorers Association

Peter Cooke - 0482 802583

Full addresses for all of the above can be found in the 1994 British Baseball Federation Handbook.

Game Results

For the above period all game results should be telephoned through to

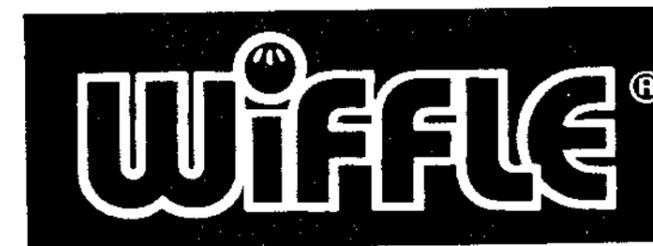
Gary Roberts

021 503 0967

Gary will be updating the BBF Hotline during my absence. National Premier League Teams should also pass on their results to Alan Cheil as usual.

Articles for Brit-Ball should still be sent to the BBF Head Office.

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PRE-SEASON CONSTRUCTION OF THE PITCHERS MOUND

This is probably your number one priority item which it comes to game performance as well as daily maintenance. The pitching area comes into play on every pitch and needs to be built and maintained with that in mind. For the British game of baseball to rank high for the athletes a quality mound is foremost in your plans.

Let's look at some of the important areas in the construction phase of a quality mound.

1. If your maintenance program is consistent and of quality, then a four sided rubber would be your best long term purchase. If maintenance is a problem then a two-tiered rubber should be used to avoid excessive damage.

2. Your rubber is measured 10 inches in height from home plate with the use of a transit. Of course, this is the standard Major League measurement and groundskeepers should attempt to be as accurate as they possibly can, but we all know this varies from field to field.

3. The table behind the rubber should be wide enough to allow any pitcher sufficient balance when going through their full windup. If your mound area is a full 18" diameter then a 2' x 5' table would be the recommendation. You can adjust your table accordingly by the diameter of your mound and your maintenance schedule.

4. The high stress areas in front of the rubber and the landing area of the lead and follow through foot need to be reinforced with a heavy packing clay to avoid excessive holes or wear areas.

5. To finish your mound cover with approximately 1/2" of light mound mix which has a mixture of sand, Turface and native soil which will aid in water absorption and easy dragging.

The pitching mound needs to be worked on a regular schedule and definitely between games of a double header. Try not to allow your wear areas to get more than 1" deep or you are going to have to perform reconstruction maintenance to return to the original condition.

Between Game Care:

1. Sweep out excess clay and surface product from stride and rubber area.

2. Lightly water, add extra packing clay and use a square nose spade to dice into smaller pieces.

3. Heavily tamp new packing clay to a level of 1/2" below the surface of the mound.

4. Lightly water if water is available to keep dust from blowing and if weather schedule permits.

5. Make available equipment, supplies and materials if weather problems arise during the game.

6. Encourage taping mound and home plate when the game ends to prevent future games from being rained out



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or hampered because of excessive water.

I'm hoping through this series of articles, leagues will be able to train and prepare coaches and volunteers to handle grounds maintenance just like they handle their team drills and team discipline. There's nothing worse than showing up to play a game and finding that last night's staff didn't (a) clean up their field or (b) did the clean-up incorrectly and now it effects your game as well as a couple more games after that.

Let's attempt to pool our knowledge and develop a strong feeling for a consistent maintenance program. Remember "Walk before you run", in this part of your program so you don't make a mistake that effects the outcome of many games or harm or injure a player.

Floyd Perry

Next Article: Rebuilding Your Home Plate Area

About the author: Floyd Perry was a high school and college coach in Orlando Florida for 20 years as well as the Director of Baseball at Boardwalk and Baseball. He just completed fifty grounds maintenance workshops and seminars around the country during 1993. His video series, the ABC's of Ground Maintenance Baseball and Softball is now available on the market.

THE BRITISH BASEBALL FEDERATION

1994 HANDBOOK

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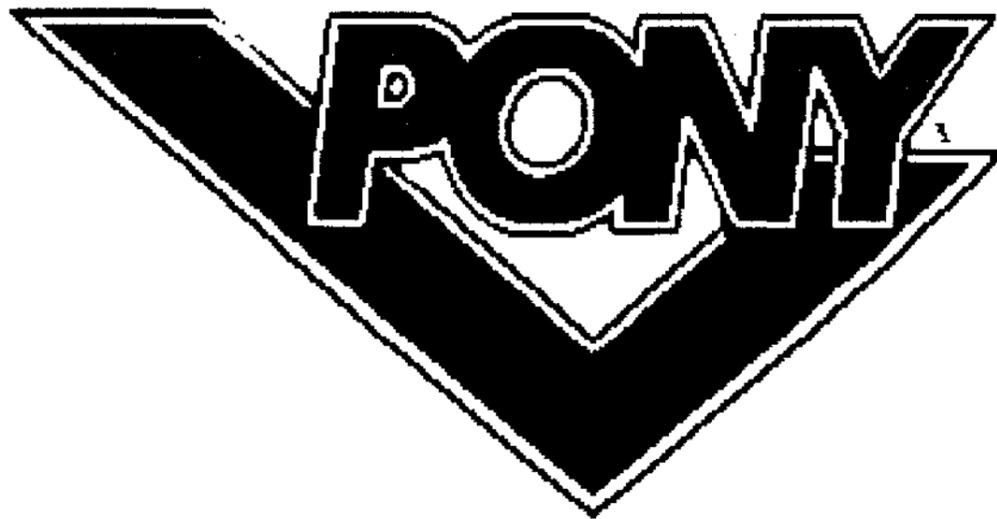
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RESULTS

MAY 8TH

National Premier League - North

Nottingham Hornets 3 Humberside Mets 5

Mike Stephenson took his third win of the season with team-mate Mark Vickers going two for three. For the Hornets, Gary Sewell went two for two.

Nottingham Hornets 7 Humberside Mets 5

This game was called in the fifth inning when Mets refused to take the field following a judgement call by the umpire.

Birmingham Braves 12 Humberside Warriors 2

Birmingham Braves 11 Humberside Warriors 7

Leeds City Royals 13 Liverpool Trojans 11

Ray Brownlie notched up the win for the Royals to blow the title race wide open hitting two home runs into the bargain.

Leeds City Royals 22 Liverpool Trojans 17

Gavin Marshall took the win for Leeds as they swept Liverpool.

National Premier League - South

Crawley Comets 21 Bristol Black Sox 3

Crawley Comets 9 Bristol Black Sox 6

Essex Arrows 4 Brighton Buccaneers 5

In the third inning, errors by Essex allowed Brighton to score four runs with Brighton adding another run in the fifth. Marty Langlois took the win for Brighton.

Essex Arrows 6 Brighton Buccaneers 5

Simon Bowden came on in relief to take the win in the second game of a doubleheader.

Bedford Chicksands Indians 18 Hounslow Rangers 22

Hounslow came out on top in a slugfest.

Northern Conference Division One - England

Menwith Hill Pirates 21 Hull Giants 3

Matt Arrildt pitched a two hitter over five innings striking out eleven whilst offensively for the Pirates, Ken Wells hit two doubles. Giants Andy Cox hit a two run double.

Northern Conference Division One - Scotland

Dundee Dodgers 23 Clyde Valley Knights 12

Brian Farkas took the win and also hit a three run homer. The first home run for the Dodgers since 1991. To say Dundee were happy is an understatement!

Southern Conference Division One

Hounslow Hawks 16 Droitwich Spa-Tans 19

The Spa-Tans led until the sixth when the Hawks went ahead 12-11. The scores were tied at 16-16 and then in the top of the tenth Spa-Tans took a three run lead which they held on to win. Highlights of the game were a shoestring catch by Sirieon Maas in the eighth inning and an inside the park home run by Briggs of Droitwich in the tenth inning. Hopkins took the win for Droitwich.

Southern Conference Division Two

Caterham A's 9 Chichester Kyotes 0

Bracknell Blazers 6 London Wolves 12

The Wolves continued their great start to the season with their third win with Dan Mercer and Steve Burn combining on the mound. Offensively, the Wolves did well with Burn going three for five with three runs and four rbis, Sandip Patel two for four with two runs, Jimmy Clapham two for three with three runs and Neil McLeod two for three with two runs. The score might have been greater but for an outstanding display by the Blazers centrefielder.

Southern Conference Division Three

Fulham Flames 14 Norwich Wanderers 24

Burgess Hill Red Hats P Eastbourne Aces P

Gloster Meteors B 52 Guildford Mudcats 9

Shaun Perry and Atherton both homered for the Meteors

BBF National Knockout Cup Round One

Milton Keynes Truckers 5 Arun Panthers 28

Nottingham Pirates 14 Tamworth Strykers 13

The Pirates edged yet another game in ten innings with Mark Sharp starting for Nottingham as Tamworth found it difficult to get to grips with his pitching.

Croydon Pirates 11 Lashings Sluggers 0

Darren Ward took the win for Croydon.

Tayside Cobras 44 West Lothian Wildcats 5

Stretford A's 15 Glasgow Comets 17

Willy Tulloch took the win for the Comets in a game which saw them pull back a ten run deficit.

Hull Royals 6 Cambridge Monarchs 15

Gloster Meteors 15 Tiptree Hotspots Rays 1

Steve Hord took the win for the Meteors.

Hemel Red Sox 26 Reading Royals 3

City Slick Sidewinders 14 Guildford Mavericks 11

MAY 15TH

National Premier League - North

Humberside Mets P Leeds City Royals P

Liverpool Trojans P Birmingham Braves P

Humberside Warriors 7 Nottingham Hornets 8

Steve Sewell took the win striking out nine hitting a triple and he also blasted a 450ft shot over the Warriors outfield fence to ease the Hornets past the Warriors in Game one of the double-header.

Darren Butler took the loss and struck out four. The second game was rained out.

National Premier League - South

Bedford Chicksands Indians 8 Essex Arrows 1

The Indians Carlos Baez is destined to leave these shores shortly and has proved to be a real asset and a great competitor in the National Premier League. However, although he may be missed by some because of his personality, there will be a few teams that will breath a sigh of relief when he goes. Not only did he become the first



person to hit a home run over the Arrows outfield fence in the first inning he did the same again in the second inning. The Indians Aaron Falser pitched a no hitter with Essex's only run coming from a bases loaded pop fly which was dropped in short left field for Paul Raybould to score from third base. Falser walked four and struck out ten.

Bedford Chicksands Indians 5 Essex Arrows 4
Baez took the win in game two and this time hit a three run homer to take the Indians to the top of the NPL.
Brighton Buccaneers 9 Bristol Black Sox 8
Brighton Buccaneers 6 Bristol Black Sox 2
Crawley Comets 12 Hounslow Rangers 17
Crawley Comets 10 Hounslow Rangers 5
Northern Conference Division One - England
Liverpool Tigers P Menwith Hill Pirates P
Hull Royals P Hull Giants P
Stretford A's P Nottingham Pirates P
Tamworth Strykers Bamsley Strikers

Northern Conference Division One - Scotland
Clyde Valley Knights West Lothian Wildcats 35
Glasgow Comets 57 Dalriada Demons 15
Edinburgh Reivers 8 Dundee Dodgers 39

Northern Conference Division Two - England
Leeds City Royals P Newark Giants P
Hessle Astros P Sheffield Bladerunners P
Birmingham Dodgers 7 Preston Bobcats 12

Southern Conference Division One
Reading Royals 2 Cambridge Monarchs 11
Hemel Red Sox 10 Gloster Meteors 8
Hemel jumped to a six run lead early on aided by Geoff Hare's three run double. Red Sox's Shaun Ozolin homered and from then on the Meteors picked at the Hemel lead. However, Ozolin pitching in relief for Hemel shut Gloster down in the ninth to pick up his second save of the season. Paul McGuinness notched up his third win of the season with Paul Betteridge the pick of the Sox hitters with a double and two singles. In defense, Cameron again gunned down a number of runners.
City Slick Sidewinders 13 Bournemouth Bees 4
Hounslow Hawks Totteridge Trailblazers
Arun Panthers P Droitwich Spa-Tans P
Stevenage Knights 6 Tunbridge Wells Royals 8
The Knights continue to struggle as they failed to tie the game up in the ninth inning when a Knights runner was tagged out going to third to end the game.
Gillingham Dodgers 1 Croydon Pirates 8

Southern Conference Division Two
Hounslow Falcons 13 Caterham A's 29
Shane Fletcher pitched six shutout innings with team-mates Gary Cope and Anthony Weakner scoring five runs apiece to help him along the way. For the A's Mike England went six for six with four doubles and two singles.
Tiptree Hotspots Rays 10 Guildford Mavericks 12
Tiptree lost their first game for over a year as they were just edged out by Guildford.
Tiptree Hotspots Rays 10 Guildford Mavericks 5
The Rays got their revenge in game two of the doubleheader.
Bracknell Blazers 2 Lashings Sluggers 16
Bracknell Blazers 1 Lashings Sluggers 14
London Wolves 23 Chichester Kyotes 7

Steve Bum struck out nineteen whilst both Rookie Harris and Alan Roberts did the business with the bat. Harris went three for four with four runs and Roberts one for two with three walks and four runs.

Southern Conference Division Three
Norwich Wanderers 11 Milton Keynes Truckers 28
Norwich Wanderers 16 Milton Keynes Truckers 3
Both teams split the double-header to keep the pressure on at the top.
Fulham Flames 14 Waltham Abbey Cardinals 13
Guildford Mudcats 6 Brighton Buccaneers 8
Jon Sawyer for the Mudcats struck out twenty and gave up seven hits and no walks but still ended up taking the loss. Clive Upton took the win for Brighton striking out ten. Simon Sparrow's two bagger levelled the game at 4-4 but in the eighth Brighton scored twice to take an 8-6 lead and managed to hang on.
Gloster Meteors B Eastbourne Aces

MAY 22ND

Knockout Cup Round Two
Nottingham Pirates 9 Edinburgh Reivers 0
Glasgow Comets 9 Tayside Cobras 0
Cambridge Monarchs 9 Croydon Pirates 4
Winning pitcher Chris Shinerbury
Arun Panthers 9 City Slick Sidewinders 0

National Premier League - South
Brighton Buccaneers 21 Crawley Comets 14
Hounslow Rangers 13 Essex Arrows 15
Winning pitcher Paul Raybould. Low scoring game (5-4) until rain started in 7th inning, after that it was a hitters game. In the 8th inning Essex had an 8 run rally and held the lead into the bottom of the 9th to take the win.

Southern Conference Division One
Stevenage Knights 11 Bournemouth Bees 12
Twice the Knights had the winning run on third base in the ninth and tenth inning, but failed to capitalise as the Bees ran out winners.
Tunbridge Wells Royals P Gillingham Dodgers P
Gloster Meteors P Reading Royals P
City Slick Sidewinders P
Hemel Red Sox P

Southern Conference Division Two
Lashings Sluggers of Maidstone P London Wolves P
Bracknell Blazers P
Guildford Mavericks P
Caterham A's 4 Tiptree Hotspots Rays 11
The A's fielded fine but that attack was lacking with only 4 runs being scored.
Chichester Kyotes 11 Hounslow Falcons 4
Chichester Kyotes 10 Hounslow Falcons 15

Southern Conference Division Three
Brighton Buccaneers B 9 Gloster Meteors B 0
Waltham Abbey 0 Norwich Wanderers 29
Guildford Mudcats 1 Burgess Hill Red Hats 32

Winning pitcher was Rob Hollands who pitched a no hitter, striking out 20. Mudcats batting continued to let them down.
Fulham Flames P Cambridge Fellows P

Northern Conference Division One
Menwith Hill Pirates P Stretford A's P
Nottingham Pirates P Bamsley Strikers P
Hull Royals P Hull Mets P
Liverpool Tigers P Hull Giants P
Beat Bamsley Strykers 16-6 in a friendly. Give him a call pls.

Northern Conference Division One - Scotland
Kircaldy Warriors 26 Dalriada Demons 9
To christen their new diamond, the Demons held a friendly game. This also gave them the opportunity to try out a couple of new pitchers.

Northern Conference Division Two
Preston Bobcats 20 Hessle Astros 24
Winning pitcher Scott Akester
Leeds City Royals II 16 Birmingham Dodgers 12

MAY 29TH

National Premier League - South
Bristol Black Sox 2 Essex Arrows 10
Martin Sawyer pitched a complete game for the Sox throwing 162 pitches and striking out 10 along the way. Paul Raybould for the Arrows went six innings giving up two hits and one run followed by Kevin Pickston in relief who gave up one run. Chris Christoforou went two for three with two rbis and two walks.
Brighton Buccaneers 9 Hounslow Rangers 11
Brighton Buccaneers 3 Hounslow Rangers 11
Bedford Chicksands Indians 15 Crawley Comets 5
Aaron Fansler took the win striking out seven over five innings and giving up two hits.

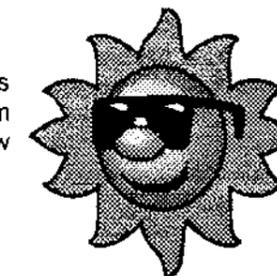
Northern Conference Division One - England
Barnsley Strikers 1 Menwith Hill Pirates 19
The Pirates stay on course at the top of the division.
Tamworth Strykers 6 Nottingham Pirates 10

Northern Conference Division Two - England
Newark Giants 16 Birmingham Dodgers 6
Leeds City Royals 32 Sheffield Bladerunners 11
Leeds exploded to their third straight victory scoring sixteen runs in the first two innings. Greg Harvey took the win going five strong innings striking out six. Leeds pulled off a double-play. Rawlinson took the loss for Sheffield.

Southern Conference Division One
Reading Royals 5 City Slick Sidewinders 20
Arun Panthers 5 Gillingham Dodgers 4
Tunbridge Wells Royals 9 Croydon Pirates 0
Stevenage Knights 9 Hounslow Hawks 20
Stevenage continued their recent slump.
Droitwich Spa-Tans 9 Cambridge Monarchs 14

In a great advert for British Baseball, Cambridge managed to pull away in the ninth inning to put the game out of reach. The score stood at 9-7 to Cambridge in the eighth.
Totteridge Trailblazers 13 Bournemouth Bees 7

Southern Conference Division Two
Tiptree Hotspots Rays 25 Chichester Kyotes 11
Tiptree Hotspots Rays 9 Chichester Kyotes 6
Tiptree swept both games of a double-header and with the London Wolves and Lashings Sluggers losing shot to the top of the division.
Hounslow Falcons 17 London Wolves 15
In a topsy-turvy game, Wolves made some uncharacteristic errors. For the Wolves Steve Pollard went two for six with three runs and Neil McLeod who caught for the Wolves and played very well went two for five with two runs. Adam Roberts and Steve Bum struck out thirteen Hounslow batters between them.
Guildford Mavericks 4 Lashings Sluggers 2
The game was tied at 2-2 in the eighth.
Bracknell Blazers 15 Caterham A's 30
John Delaney took the win for the A's with team-mates Shane Fletcher and Kevin Mack both hitting triples.



Southern Conference Division Three
Waltham Abbey Cardinals 30 Cambridge Fellows 4
Eastbourne Aces 13 Guildford Mudcats 25
Burgess Hill Red Hats 13 Brighton Buccaneers 6
The Red Hats continued their strong start to the season.
Milton Keynes Truckers 19 Fulham Flames 6

BBF National Knockout Cup Round Two
Gloster Meteors 6 Hemel Red Sox 3
Gloster go through to meet Liverpool Trojans in the next round.

1994 KNOCKOUT CUP - QUARTER FINALS

All games to be played on Sunday 3 July

Cambridge Monarchs v Essex Arrows
Nottingham Homets v Gloster Meteors
Arun Panthers v Birmingham Braves
Hounslow Rangers v Humberside Warriors



British Baseball Federation

Leagues as at 30 May 1994

BBF NATIONAL PREMIER LEAGUE NORTH

	Wins	Losses	Games Back
Humberide Mets	3	1	
Liverpool Trojans	3	2	0.5
Leeds City Royals	3	2	0.5
Nottingham Hornets	3	3	1
Birmingham Braves	2	3	1.5
Humberide Warriors	2	5	2.5

BBF NORTH - ENGLAND DIVISION ONE

	Wins	Losses	Games Back
Menwith Hill Pirates	4	0	
Liverpool Tigers	4	0	0
Nottingham Pirates	2	0	1
Tamworth Strykers	3	2	1.5
Stretford A's	2	2	2
Barnsley Strikers	1	3	3
Hull Mets	1	3	3
Hull Giants	0	3	3.5
Hull Royals	0	4	4

BBF NORTH - ENGLAND DIVISION TWO

	Wins	Losses	Games Back
Leeds City Royals	3	0	
Newark Giants	2	0	0.5
Hessle Astros	2	1	1
Sheffield Bladerunners	1	2	2
Preston Bobcats	1	3	2.5
Birmingham Dodgers	0	4	3.5

BBF NORTH - SCOTLAND DIVISION ONE

	Wins	Losses	Games Back
Glasgow Comets	2	0	
Tayside Cobras	1	0	0.5
Dundee Dodgers	2	1	0.5
West Lothian Wildcats	1	0	0.5
Dalriada Demons	1	1	1
Edinburgh Reivers	0	2	2
Clyde Valley Knights	0	3	2.5

Wins Losses Games Back

BBF NATIONAL PREMIER LEAGUE SOUTH

Bedford Chicksands Indians	6	1	
Essex Arrows	6	3	1
Hounslow Rangers	5	3	1.5
Crawley Comets	4	5	3
Brighton Buccaneers	4	6	3.5
Bristol Black Sox	0	7	6

BBF SOUTH - DIVISION ONE NORTH

Hemel Red Sox	4	0	
Cambridge Monarchs	3	1	1
Totteridge Trailblazers	3	2	1.5
Gloster Meteors	2	1	1.5
City Slick Sidewinders	3	3	2
Droitwich Spa-Tans	1	3	3
Reading Royals	0	5	4.5

BBF SOUTH - DIVISION ONE SOUTH

Arun Panthers	3	0	
Croydon Pirates	3	1	0.5
Gillingham Dodgers	3	2	1
Tunbridge Wells Royals	2	2	1.5
Hounslow Hawks	3	3	1.5
Bournemouth B's	3	3	1.5
Stevenage Knights	0	7	5

BBF SOUTH - DIVISION TWO

London Wolves	5	1	
Tiptree Hotspots Rays	5	2	0.5
Lashings Sluggers	4	1	0.5
Caterham A's	4	2	1
Guildford Mavericks	3	3	2
Hounslow Falcons	2	5	3.5
Chichester Kyotes	2	6	4
Bracknell Blazers	0	5	4.5

BBF SOUTH - DIVISION THREE NORTH

Milton Keynes Truckers	4	1	
Norwich Wanderers	3	1	0.5
Fulham Flames	1	2	1.5
Waltham Abbey Cardinals	2	4	2
Cambridge Fellows	0	3	2.5

BBF SOUTH - DIVISION THREE SOUTH

Burgess Hill Red Hats	6	0	
Brighton Buccaneers	4	2	2
Gloster Meteors B	2	3	3.5
Guildford Mudcats	2	4	4
Eastbourne Aces	0	4	5



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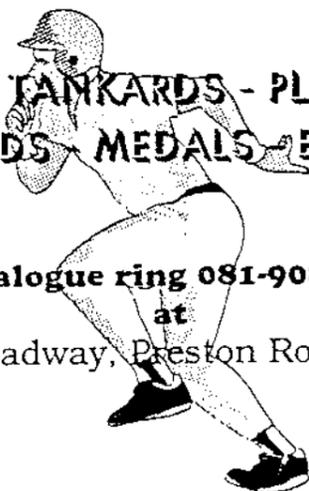
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GREAT BRITAIN IN LA ROCHELLE

Results:

Great Britain 0 Belgium 8
Great Britain 10 Moldavia 4
Great Britain 1 France 23
Great Britain 18 Moldavia 3

Great Britain took an inexperienced squad to the La Rochelle tournament in preparation for the European B Championships in Slovenia later in the season.

By comparison, both Belgium and France were very strong. Although disappointed not to score against the Belgians both Martin Godsail (Liverpool Trojans) and Matt Beckwith (Arun Panthers) showed good form on the mound, an injury to catcher Andy Maltby (Humberside Mets) disrupted the side early in the game.

The second game against Moldavia again saw good performances on the mound with Darren Butler (Humberside Warriors) and Marty Sawyer (Bristol Black Sox) keeping the Moldavians quiet whilst the Great Britain offence came to life with Mark Vickers (Humberside Mets) leading the way with two hits.

The final group game



against the French was a disaster when almost everything that could go wrong in a ball game actually did. The injury curse struck again when Phil Cocks (Leeds City Royals) hurt his back in the Bullpen. The score line certainly flattered the French but Great Britain did not help the cause with a couple of errors at vital times early in the game.

The final game (3rd / 4th play-off) against Moldavia saw Great Britain totally dominate the game and run out 18-3 winners.

The Leeds City Royals pairing of Ray Brownlie and Gavin Marshall on the mound combined to throw a 3-hitter.

Overall the tournament highlighted our offensive problems against good quality pitching but also showed our improvement in defence and we are now developing good pitching strength in depth.

This tournament also provided us with two outstanding displays by newcomers to the squad. Joe Yarnold (Birmingham Braves) and Matt Gilbert (Cambridge Monarchs) both showed they have the ability to compete at this level, with exceptional defence displays.

Barry Marshall
Great Britain Coach

SCOTLAND 1 ENGLAND 26

An England side containing eight Great Britain squad players proved far too strong for an inexperienced but game Scotland team. The pitching of Martyn Dutton (Birmingham Braves) and Darren Butler (Humberside Warriors) proved too much for the Scotland hitters, collecting 19 strike outs between them. David Donaldson was the pick of the Scottish hitters with a triple in the first innings which scored their solitary run. Solid hitting by the England team along with errors in the field enabled them to race to a 14 - 1 lead after three innings, then changes in the Scotland defensive line-up enabled them to hold England during the next three innings before England finished with a flurry to run out convincing winners.

Credit must go to Scotland for the way they stuck to the task, and with more games against opposition of a higher standard to themselves, the gap which exists at the moment will soon narrow.

THE SPORTING NEWS

They're here and on sale at last. The baseball fan's bibles, namely The Sporting News Baseball Guide 1994 and The Sporting News Official Baseball Register 1994, are not available from Gazelle Books in Lancaster.

The Baseball Guide covers the 1993 major and minor league seasons, complete with all the stats from the 1993 season. The Office Baseball Register gives you everything you want to know about every current

major league player and quite a few up and coming minor leaguers. If you want to know where John Kruk was born or what Juan Gonzalez's minor league stats were, then this is the book for you.

Copies of the above are available from Gazelle Book Services Limited, Falcon House, Queen Square, Lancaster, LA1 1RN, Tel: 0524 68765.



ON THE MOVE AGAIN

Another change of address for your 1994 BBF Handbook

Contact names for the Bedford Chicksands Indians are now as follows:

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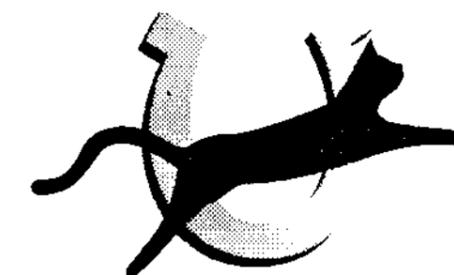
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**GOOD
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Good Luck to Crawley Comets who will be competing in the CEBA Winners Cup B-Pool in Germany, 14-18 June.



Dear Teams

We, the Bracknell Blazers, as 'rookie' players, are not familiar with the interpretation of every baseball rule (though sometimes some of us may think we are!). Our lack of knowledge was exploited on occasion last season by other teams. We accepted this as part of the game and part of our learning process. However, since then, we have gone to great lengths to find an experienced manager, Ivan Stroud, to develop our team, teach us to play to the rules and ensure we are treated fairly. The players at Stroud's insistence, maintain respect for the umpire's decisions but the club's Executive Committee backs the manager's right to query those decisions.

We are concerned about the way other teams have reacted when Stroud has asked the umpire to watch for particular points, queried calls with the umpire or pointed out rule transgressions. Players and managers have got angry and even aggressive. Stroud has not, during our games so far, queried an umpire's judgement and he would be dealt with by our disciplinary procedures, enforced by our Executive Committee, if he did so.

We are not wrong to want to play to the rules. We want to play baseball, not a game similar to baseball but not quite the same. We wish this sport to develop and it is essential that it is played to the rules. We do not understand why people are getting angry when Stroud is trying to ensure that this happens.

We would respectfully point out that, when any manager raises a point about the rules, he should be given a reasonable chance to explain his point in an atmosphere of co-operation, not confrontations, even though he may be wrong.

Either manager (nobody else) can appeal a decision with the umpire according to rule 9.02(b). If he's wrong he can be shown evidence of that and educated in the rules of the game. Either manager is entitled to protest formally if they feel that a particular call is wrong (rule 4.19). These rules should ensure that no-one needs to get upset or annoyed. We would rather have a game stopped a few times to have particular points discussed than quickly continued with the situation not resolved to both managers' satisfaction.

We believe there is a bright future for British Baseball. Our club is committed to the development of the British Baseball and we write with sincerity and in the interests of that development. We honestly do not mind if we lose every game this season as long as those losses are because our opponents are better than us. Our development and the sport's development will continue, skills will improve and knowledge of the game will increase much more rapidly if the game is played properly.

Alan Newell
Club Secretary
Bracknell Blazers Baseball Club

Dear Kevin

Having recently read with great interest the letter in Brit-Ball No 14 from P C Collingwood of the late PC American Sports, I felt compelled to offer my views on this topic.

The first issue I wish to address is the difficulty you experienced in obtaining information regarding the order you had placed (and paid for).

Here at Spartan Sports it is our policy (as it should be at any bona-fide retail outlet) to keep customers fully informed of the status of their order. We are reluctant to accept advance payments for goods that we do not have in stock, and as a rule, will only do so if the goods are already on order with our suppliers.

Spartan Sports were founded over 7 years ago and have operated as a professional business, not from home, but at established retail premises for the past 6 years. Our

present facilities are in excess of 3,000 square feet and it is our policy to carry stock of all items featured in our price lists. It has always been our aim to offer a quality product to teams and players and we have achieved this by signing an exclusive distributorship deal with one of the USA's most established and respected manufacturers - Louisville Slugger. We are totally committed to the baseball market and sell no other form of sports equipment. We are staffed purely by people who have had a lifelong involvement with baseball and therefore offer a product knowledge that cannot be equalled in this country.

Spartan Sports, like other baseball retailers do from time to time experience difficulties in obtaining stock of certain items. However, this problem would be magnified drastically if we were to only import goods as and when we receive orders (and money) from customers.

Unfortunately, a number of companies have come and gone over the past few years, believing there was a "quick buck" to be made in the baseball market. They seem to do little more than damage the retail sports trade and disillusion potential newcomers to the game who get ripped off when trying to purchase their first glove or bat.

Our advice to teams and players is to purchase your goods from established retailers and don't take chances with "fly-by-night" suppliers who offer you the world at half the normal price!

Yours sincerely
Jack Akers
Director
Spartan Sports

Dear Kevin

I went to watch Liverpool Trojans play Leeds City Royals on Sunday 8 May at Leeds. It was a beautiful day and I was looking forward to an entertaining and relaxing afternoon. On arriving a little after the pitch off I was informed that a player had already been excluded from the game for verbally abusing the umpire. That unfortunately was the start of a display of behaviour I was ashamed to witness for the next 5 hours. Including foul language, continued verbal harassment of players whilst at bat, pitching and fielding, bad tempered outbursts at the umpires, opposition and fellow team members. Flying helmets and bats as players were either struck out or called out for various reasons whilst advancing round the bases were common place. I found myself becoming irritated and embarrassed to be associated with baseball.

On that particular Sunday, Leeds Cougars American Football Team were also playing a home match at the ground, drawing a crowd of 200-300 people, many of whom watched snippets of the baseball game. If I had been a first time spectator, I would certainly feel that I would not want to take a child of mine, or anyone else, to watch such aggressive, ill tempered and abusive display of poor sportsmanship, every again.

This kind of behaviour should have no place in baseball, and I feel that stricter measure should be introduced to prevent this kind of display.

When a youngster of about seven years of age begins repeating language such as "f***** hell", it is time to seriously question the image our players are presenting.

Yours sincerely
Julie Smyth

Editor's wife: I totally agree. If British players would like their sport to grow, then they need to encourage spectators and new players. Behaviour similar to the above will only drive people away. Those of us who do support the teams week after week don't want to have to listen to such abuse. Take heed managers, you don't just need to look after your players you need to take care of your spectators as well - they're a bit of a rare commodity at the moment!

Dear Kevin

We would like to express our appreciation to the BBF for giving us the opportunity to play host to 200 school pupils at a preview of "Rookie of the Year" at the UCI cinema complex at East Kilbride. The movie was greatly enjoyed by all present.

As a result of our being present in the cinema foyer before and after the screening we have been asked to initiate a coaching programme in some of the local schools, which will lead to more people in this part of the country participating in baseball.

Yours sincerely

Liam Bell
Manager

Dalriada Demons Ball Club



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Major League Baseball

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

Black Sox) was top run scorer with 4 runs. Ross Chell (Lashings Sluggers of Maidstone) and Woods (Droitwich Spa-Tans) both hit homers whilst M Briggs (Droitwich Spa-Tans) showed up well in the field.

The game was played in an excellent spirit. This was a good tester for the Great Britain Junior Team in preparation for the European Championships in July whilst Droitwich played their part to the full whilst under the handicap of having played a difficult game the previous day.

Droitwich	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	3	5
Great Britain	0	7	4	1	5	2	0	1	4	24

Great Britain Junior Squad

Ross Chell (Lashings Sluggers of Maidstone)
 Gavin Marshall (Leeds City Royals)
 Lee Loverseed (Nottingham Homets)
 Steve Hibbert (Waltham Abbey Cardinals)
 Ben Gogan (Brighton Buccaneers)
 Matt Gilbert (Cambridge Monarchs)
 Neil Eggleston (Nottingham Homets)
 John Boyd (Hounslow Hawks)
 Lee Evans (Hull Mets)
 Alex Malihoudis (Tonbridge Bobcats)
 David Donaldson (Tayside Cobras)
 Ravi Raman (Hounslow Hawks)
 Steve Pollard (Reading Royals)
 Andrew Ferry (Bristol Black Sox)
 Phillip Walmsley (Cambridge Monarchs)

BASEBALL IN BELFAST

Our current club started within the ranks of the Belfast Templar Archery Club in the late 1980's. At that time the Archery club contained two brothers Myles and John Monaghan and myself Alan Milliken who introduced Baseball to Club members. Myles and John made frequent visits to the United States on holiday to stay with numerous relations that they had in Ohio. Their favourite destination was to an uncle because he lived fifteen minutes walk from the Cleveland Indians Stadium. Their uncle turned them into real baseball fans, and they in turn would fill our heads with stories about baseball like the night the Indians manager was ejected from the stadium in the sixth inning in the third game of a three game series against the Yankees (the series was tied 1-1) for fighting with an umpire, the manager then went down the street to a bar and phoned his plays to the dugout phone, from the bar, while watching the game on television, to win the game and win the series. Stories of long warm summer nights of tension and drama on the banks of Lake Erie, the smell of hot dogs, beer, cigars, popcorn and peanuts as the sun set over a clear sky. How beautiful everything looks under floodlights, how every time they went to see the Indians play it was like going home. Buoyed up on this sea of enthusiasm we decided ... we must play baseball!

The original park we practised on was a rugby pitch on the banks of Belfast Lough at Holywood next to the Belfast / Bangor dual carriageway. At that time we toyed with the name of Holywood Athletics because the Oakland Athletics uniform contained a shade of green which was the same as GNAS (Grand National Archery Society) Archery Green, so the baseball club would have a link with archery. So armed with home made bases made of plywood a handful of ill fitting stiff baseball gloves and a couple of battered bats we started to practice every Sunday weather permitting. With no training, no uniforms with the exception of Oakland A's hats, practising only what we had watched on game videos to watch players techniques, we must have looked a bizarre site to the locals, well we definitely looked bizarre to one local the park keeper!!! The park keeper was your standard retired Sergeant Major type at some point in his military service had developed rheumatism of the brain and a profound love of red tape and rules. He believed that we could not use a rugby pitch for baseball because it was called a rugby pitch and not a baseball field, and therefore could not be used for anything other than rugby as the name stated.



The practice continued with periodic encounters with our friend the park keeper until one Sunday when we were in the middle of batting practice I hit a home run, or should I say our equivalent of a home run - the ball was hit to the chain link fence that separated us from the dual carriage way, about seventy five yards. So I rounded the bases feeling pretty pleased with myself. As I passed second heading for third with my back to the outfield I heard an almighty screeching with the accompanied crash. A car driver, watching us instead of the road, caused

a three car pile up - no-one seriously injured just two cars towed away. At this point we had visions of the park keeper organising a lynching party armed with litter spikes to run us out of this park for causing pandemonium on a Sunday afternoon. As discretion being the better part of valour, we moved our practices to Belfast. So that's how the Holywood Athletics became the Belfast Red Sox. With a succession of very bad summers of rain and mud, practices became more intermittent unlike the rain and bad weather. So last year the existing weather beaten members decided to organise practice sessions on a more regular basis, making them flexible to avoid bad weather. Currently the club is trying to give baseball a higher profile in Northern Ireland. We have started to advertise the club everywhere baseball equipment is sold in Belfast plus we have had enquiries from individuals who have heard about us from friends of friends. Also as part of the recruitment drive we are hoping to get coverage in the local press. Our belief is that there are people in Northern Ireland with baseball equipment acquired from America, purchased on holiday or business, for example Digital Computer Engineers in Northern Ireland train in America for approximately two months, most during this time they play baseball and softball socially and all buy their own fielders gloves. Our objective for this season is to build on the foundation that we have to increase membership, to increase public awareness, encourage sponsorship and have fun in the process.

Alan Milliken
 Chairman - Belfast Red Sox

GB JUNIORS

Droitwich Spa-Tans 5
 Great Britain Juniors 24

After a very shaky opening innings, Great Britain Juniors turned on the power to overwhelm Droitwich with an impressive display of pitching and hitting.

The pitching duties were shared by Gavin Marshall (Leeds City Royals), Ross Chell (Lashings Sluggers of Maidstone) and Martin Bladon (Bristol Black Sox) who combined to concede only two hits over nine innings and striking out 15 on the way. All three showed good pace and control which augers well for the future.

Pick of the fielders was Lee Loverseed (Nottingham Homets) who also was top batter with three hits, whilst Andrew Ferry (Bristol



ENTRIES ENIGMA

(Devised by Will Cosgrave)

In the Baseball Land Knockout Cup four second round winners qualify to meet four exempted top teams in the quarter finals. Most teams start in the first round, but there are two preliminary round winners who qualify for the eight match first round.



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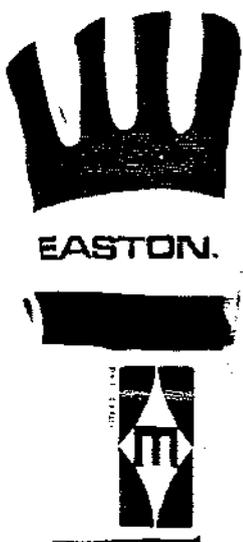
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