

# BRIT BALL

The Official Voice of the British Baseball Federation

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# BRIT BALL

British Baseball Federation

The Official Voice  
of the  
British Baseball  
Federation

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## WE'RE BACK.....

Here it is at last, a belated but bumper issue of Britball!

My apologies to those of you who wondered where the July issue was, but having just returned from the States after attending the World Cup, and also hosting an MLBI Envoy, time got the better of us and last month's issue had to be put on hold. If you are a subscriber then don't worry as your subscription will be put back a month.

Talking of the World Cup in next month's issue, there will be a review of my holiday as not only did I attend five "soccer" games, but I also managed to see the Red Sox five times

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(poor me!) and numerous amateur baseball games.

In this issue we round up the action from around the leagues as we approach the end of the season and also look at the individual player statistics. There is the usual letters page and a review of the successful London Tournament (my review will follow next month; Caterham beware!). As usual the regulars are there, as well as some guest columns with Floyd Perry continuing his excellent series on ground maintenance.

So read on and enjoy!

## MLB OR NOT TO BE

For those of you that haven't heard already, Major League Baseball have decided not to stage a game in London this year.

Following on from last year's washout, they have decided they do not wish to sustain a loss for the second year running. This is sad news as the event was very enjoyable to all those who attended. However MLB have not written off the possibility of staging another in the near future. On a positive note, the MLBI Envoy programme has been an outstanding success again with MLBI's Bill Arce very encouraged at what he has seen around the country. An in-depth look at the Envoys will feature in next month's issue.

This year's MLBI Coaching Clinic will take place on the weekend of 20,21,22 January at a venue yet to be confirmed although most probably at Cranfield University, Bedfordshire.

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# El Presidente

As you will have heard, my attendance at the IBA extra-ordinary congress was a frustrating one, as a required two thirds majority fell 3 votes short of allowing professionals into the Olympics. I felt the issue was never presented well and with some countries wanting to tie a 12 team for Atlanta condition to the vote only further muddying the argument. Countries against the motion had fears and whether real or imaginary these delegates needed to be heard, reassured and if necessary have IBA legislation to remove those potential dangers. A motion worth passing needs nurturing and open discussion by what are very passionate but responsible people who all want the same thing, Olympic baseball for all. I personally have to give my disappointment of the majority of the IBA executive who not only failed to lead us as a united body but openly squabbled over the issue and in some cases personally attacking the President Aldo Notari. Attendees of the major forces in world baseball, Olympic and otherwise must have not been too impressed by the outcome, but more worriedly the way in which it was conducted left much to be desired. The President, Aldo Notari, was ridden roughshod but remained above mud slinging and even criticism of opting out rather than positive leadership didn't topple him. He survived this one and may come out smelling sweeter and be a better equipped President for the future. The fight goes on, as 40 countries petitioned the IOC making their vote and commitment know to the future of Olympic baseball, indeed it's survival as a gold medal sport. Baseball received a blow though not fatal, but because the sword did not indeed fall this time does not detract from the fact that it still hangs ominously over us, I believe a little nearer. The IBA will and must open up eventually and I also believe by a large majority if treated correctly.



Our season is well underway, and yes we have had some major hiccups and quite a lot of paperwork turning up in the wrong place. There seems to be some confusions as to who gets what. We have Gerry Walmsley as National Premier League Coordinator not the general office. On the subject of NPL, come on you so called teams, we're having instances of games being rescheduled without permission, results being rung in very late or in some cases not at all.

All NPL team remember we have bye-laws regarding your conduct and illegibility or even your continuance as a team at our top level. If you want to be taken seriously, then play when you are supposed to at the arranged venue. We want some serious publicity and you need those regular fans attending games.

We have had a new National Registrar, Pau Raybould, for quite a while now, so stop sending registrations and insurance queries to the head office or the treasurer.

I'm happy that so far I've managed to attend several games, tournaments and training sessions throughout the country. Both cadet and junior players look exceptional and if the senior G1 team manage to fulfil their potential then this season looks to be another milestone. Look out for me at the Birmingham and Crawley tournaments and the finals of the Knockout Cup and National Premier League Series weekend. Anyone with any ideas or complaints please come and share them with me.

Steve Herbe  
BBF Preside



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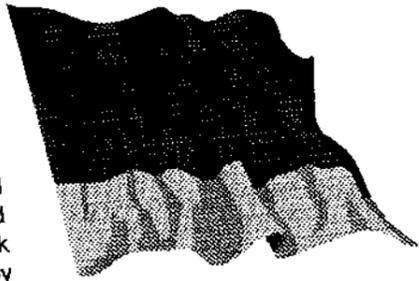
# 1994 EUROPEAN CUP OF CUPS MAINZ, GERMANY

With all the problems arranging transportation and accommodation behind us, Crawley Comets met at Gatwick Airport bright and early on the 13 June 1994 to go out into the unknown to compete in the European Cup of Cups. Although the Comets have competed in several tournaments abroad, one was still apprehensive as to the standard of baseball we were going to compete against.

The week was one of glorious weather and towards the later part very hot, the standard of baseball was even hotter. Belgium took top place with no losses followed by Lithuania in second place then closely grouped followed Russia, Poland, Germany and the Comets respectively. Although the Comets came out at bottom they were not disgraced, there were chances against Russia, Poland and Germany which unfortunately did not go our way due to our small squad of players taken.

The experience I feel has done the club much good in

realising the high standard of baseball achieved by other countries and to participate in these kind of tournaments they too must achieve this proficiency. Looking back, advice I would give to clubs thinking of participating in these kind of tournaments is to take the maximum number of players allowed as you will be playing five nine inning games over six days with pitching and catching staff being foremost. If you get the opportunity to go do not chicken out, you will get a wealth of knowledge and experience and realise the high standard of baseball that can be achieved if only players are willing to learn and practise that much harder.



Finally I would like to thank Martyn Sawyer of the Bristol Black Sox who accompanied us on the tour and pitched superbly and to James Pearce who was awarded the Highest Batting Average of the tournament having hit FOUR home runs in the process. Some achievement against such strong opposition. Well done James.

Les Wile  
Chairman and Organiser  
Crawley Comets

# THE LONDON TOURNAMENT

A superb combination of sizzling non-stop baseball action and scorching sun drenched weather conditions ensured a memorable weekend for all those who attended the London Tournament at Roundshaw on 23 and 24 July. On Saturday, the temperature reached an unbelievable 90 degrees making playing conditions not unlike those faced by World Cup footballers in the States during the previous four weeks. Sunday was similar with a temperature of 86 degrees recorded at about 1pm.

Saturday's mini-league threw up some surprises, with tournament hosts, London Wolves taking top spot in their group, ahead of Lea Valley Baseball Club's scratch side, mainly comprising of National Premier Leaguers, the Essex Arrows. Pitcher for the Arrows was regular hurler Paul Raybould, who took the loss on the mound. The Wolves secured a close fought 5-4 win, mainly due to a 4 run first inning and the fine pitching exploits of Steve Byrne. In the other mini-league, Croydon Pirates squeezed past special guests, the Hessele Astros to lead the table. The biggest surprise of the tournament saw the Hounslow All-Stars beaten by third division Fulham Flames, 4-2, with southpaw Steve Jamet taking the win on the mound for the central London outfit. Hounslow went on to lose all three games and to top it all, found they were unable to put a side together to compete in Sunday's minor placings knockout event. Hounslow were subsequently disqualified from the competition.

Saturday's cup competition was admirably supplemented by an exhibition game between the GB under 18's and a National Premier League All-Star line up. United Artists Cable Television network and the Mayor of Sutton were on hand to enhance the pre-game pazzazz! In an excellent howcase event, the All-Stars managed to beat the talented hardworking GB team 7-2.

On Sunday, chaos brought about by Hounslow's reluctance to field a side meant that scratch games had to be hastily organised so that teams did not miss out. Tiptree and Bracknell both faced a tournament select team consisting of players from other teams. In the fifth and sixth place play-off game, the Flames were victorious over the Rays. The semi-finals pitted the Wolves against the Astros and the Waltham Abbey Cardinals against the Pirates. Third division Cardinals were no match for nonchalant first division Tiptree Flyers the Pirates who reached their second final of the competition. The other semi final proved to be far more exciting with the Wolves facing the talents of the Astros led by formidable Ted Novio on the mound. Adam Roberts led the game for the Wolves but struggled to get into his normal groove. Sixteen year old Shane Bursai stepped in to quell a previously rampant Astros offence. Wolves regained their way back into the game and eventually did enough to secure a close fought 7-5 victory. The Astros Cardinals then battled it out for third and fourth places, with the North Humberside club pulling off an expected victory.

In the final with local rivals second division Wolves facing the might of first division Pirates. This was a remarkable story for the Wolves surprising everyone with their raw brand of no nonsense baseball. What was even

more impressive was the fact that the team never rested between games, with all players helping to run the roadshow, car park and other important jobs. They even found time to play in scratch games just to keep the event buzzing. The clubs priorities for the tournament was to make new friends and to provide a forum for everyone to socialise and to enjoy themselves. This was the success story and getting to the final was a nice bonus. Saturday evenings impromptu 35 a side football match was evidence of the true camaraderie and spirit of the competition exemplified by the Astros, Rays, Flames, Blazer and the Wolves. Unfortunately the same camaraderie and spirit never surfaced in the final, and one was left with an unsavoury taste in the mouth and a deflated feeling resulting from a bad tempered and bitterly contested game. The tournament deserved better, but it was never to be. Tournament Director and first baseman for the Wolves, Neil McLeod was deliberately stamped on and so bad was his injury that he was forced out of the game. Things got worse when an incident at second nearly brought about a mass brawl. However, the excellent umpiring of David Mohr quickly brought the situation under control. The game was eventually won by the Pirates but by then the result was no longer an issue. Eight innings of baseball were played in 2 hours and 15 minutes with a 9-0 first inning being the only blot on an otherwise low scoring final seven innings with the Pirates scoring 13 to Wolves 0.

The bitterly contested and ill mannered final was not befitting of what was otherwise a superlative tournament which was played in excellent spirits. There is a lesson to be learnt about competing with humility and modesty - I will not point any fingers but those players who failed to display the positive characteristics must surely realise that winning is not everything. On to a better note. Unusually the MVP award was split between two players; Paul Newhouse of the Pirates and Shane Bursai of the Wolves. Both were impressive with the bat and on the mound. Special mention should be made of Paul who was also instrumental with organising the event, turning up at 7am on both days to help prepare the two diamonds and other chores. The club would also like to say a big thank you to umpire David Mohr of Bedford, a gentleman, and extremely professional and knowledgeable tournament official and a great personality, and GB manager Barry Marshall and All-Stars Manager Martyn Sawyer for their assistance in organising the exhibition game.

Finally a big thank you to all the teams who helped foster a kindred spirit and a special camaraderie which has seen a cementation of relationships between all the social clubs attending the event. We loved your company and we look forward to seeing you at next years tournament. Final placings were as follows:

- 1st Croydon Pirates
- 2nd London Wolves
- 3rd Hessele Astros
- 4th Waltham Abbey Cardinals
- 5th Fulham Flames
- 6th Tiptree Hotspots Rays
- 7th Bracknell Blazers
- Disq Hounslow All-Stars

Special mention should be made of the Tiptree Rays and the Fulham Flames who jointly win this years Good Behaviour and Fun To Be With Award.

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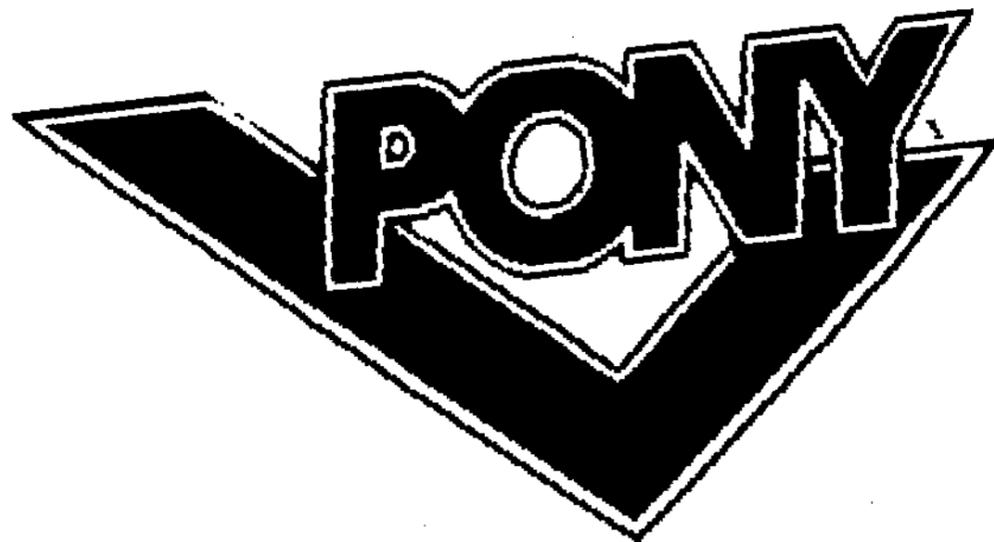
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## SIX STEP PITCHING ROUTINE

The following pitching routine is used by all pitchers at the University of Maine, starters or relievers. It has two main purposes in its use. The first is naturally to get the pitcher properly warmed up in preparation for pitching in a game of for proper throwing from the mound on non-game days. It allows for the arm to warm up slowly in an effort to keep the pitcher from throwing with a cold arm and barring from injury. The second purpose is to stretch different muscles of the body that are necessary for a smooth pitching delivery. Each step has a distinct purpose and if done properly should aid the pitcher in having a smooth pitching motion and hopefully success each time he takes the mound.

### STEP 1 - TWO KNEES

(10 pitches)

The pitcher kneels down on two knees about 6-8 feet away from the catcher. The pitcher very softly tosses the ball to the catcher concentrating on bending his back and bringing his elbow past the opposite knee. The pitcher does not worry about the velocity of the ball, but instead on stretching the muscles in his back which are essential in the follow through.



### STEP 2 - ONE KNEE

(10 pitches)

The pitcher stands on one knee with his stride leg being the leg out forward and the push-off leg being the knee down. The pitcher once again throws the ball softly to the catcher who is about 12 feet away. When throwing the ball, the pitcher comes forward balancing on his stride leg and concentrates on bringing his throwing elbow past his stride knee.

### STEP 3 - STRIDE LINE

(10 pitches)

In this step the pitcher starts by drawing a stride leg going from the push-off heel projecting forward out 3-4 feet (the normal pitchers stride). The pitcher throws the ball to the catcher who is about 20 feet away. Starting with the stride leg forward, the pitcher throws the ball and turns his stride leg (push off leg) over trying to touch the back of his heel to the ground. Once again the pitcher follows through by bringing his elbow by his side. It is very important that the pitcher does not bring the back foot forward but just turns the ankle concentrating on good hip rotation.

### STEP 4 - BALANCE POINT

(10 pitches)

The pitcher now moves back about 35-45 feet from the catcher and starts from the stretch position. The pitcher brings his stride leg up and balances standing on his push-off leg. The balance leg and the upper body should form a 90 degree angle. After holding



the balance for 3 seconds, he continues with the pitch as normal concentrating on a smooth motion and a good follow through. At this point the pitcher starts to warm up his arm.

### STEP 5 - 1-2-3

(10 pitches)

The pitcher goes through the full wind up stopping briefly and breaking down the pitching motion to 3 steps. The pitcher steps back and pivots the push off foot stopping briefly. He then resumes stopping briefly at the balance point and then finishes the motion throwing to the catcher who is about 2-3 feet in front of home plate.



### STEP 6 - FULL MOTION

(Unlimited pitches)

The pitcher now puts the entire motion together and gets fully warmed up using the prior 5 steps to get the body loose along with the arm. The pitcher should still concentrate on balance, a straight stride, follow through, and focusing on the catcher's glove.

Ted Novio

Major League Baseball International Envoy

## Major League Baseball

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## JUNE 5TH

### BBF National Knockout Cup Round Three

Liverpool Trojans 8 Gloucester Meteors 12  
 Steve Hord and Gene Avery combined for the win to dump NPL outfit Liverpool out of the cup.  
 Birmingham Braves 22 Glasgow Comets 1  
 Bristol Black Sox 6 Essex Arrows 17  
 Nottingham Homets 9 Crawley Comets 0  
 Humberside Warriors 9 Humberside Mets 7  
 The shock result of the week came behind a solid pitching display from GB ace Darren Butler. He was backed up by some good defense and timely hitting from a Warriors team who inflicted Mets first Cup defeat in three years.  
 Cambridge Monarchs 9 Brighton Buccaneers 3  
 Yet another shock result as the Monarchs dumped Brighton out of the cup with Shinerberry picking up the win.  
 Leeds City Royals 9 Hounslow Rangers 15  
 Don Knight took the win for the Rangers as they dumped Leeds out of the cup hitting a home run into the bargain.  
 Mark Powell for Hounslow also hit a three run homer.  
 Nottingham Pirates 7 Arun Panthers 18  
 The Pirates used four pitchers but failed to stem the tide.

### Northern Conference Division One - England

Hull Royals 4 Liverpool Tigers 5  
 Tigers took the win scoring the winning run in the top of the ninth.  
 Hull Mets 13 Stretford A's 24

### Northern Conference Division Two - England

Preston Bobcats 16 Sheffield Bladerunners 17  
 Will Greenwood took the save for Sheffield with Anthony Howard taking the loss. Mark Etienne pitched eight solid innings for Sheffield to help them to their first win of the season.

### Southern Conference Division One

Stevenage Knights 18 Croydon Pirates 32  
 Hounslow Hawks 2 Gillingham Dodgers 12  
 Hemel Red Sox 9 Reading Royals 0  
 City Slick Sidewinders 13 Totteridge Trailblazers 12  
 Tunbridge Wells Royals 7 Bournemouth Bees 12

### Southern Conference Division Two

Lashings Sluggers 9 Guildford Mavericks 0  
 Chichester Kyotes 12 Tiptree Hotspots Rays 10  
 Bottom placed Chichester upset league leaders Tiptree.  
 London Wolves 11 Hounslow Falcons 4  
 The Wolves defense played a key role as London continued their impressive form. Dan Mercer struck out seven giving up four hits with Patrick Frederick homering in the bottom of the seventh.  
 Caterham A's 20 Bracknell Blazers 10  
 Kevin Mack struck out fifteen to take the win.

### Southern Conference Division Three

Eastbourne Aces 0 Burgess Hill Red Hats 9  
 Rob Holland continued his winning streak whilst Mark Putt was tagged for the loss.  
 Bedford Mudcats 4 Gloucester Meteors 23  
 Milton Keynes Truckers 9

Waltham Abbey Cardinals 7 Brighton Buccaneers 18

## JUNE 12TH

### National Premier League - North

Liverpool Trojans 3 Humberside Mets 26  
 Brian Thurston took the win.  
 Liverpool Trojans 1 Humberside Mets 7  
 Frank Parker took the win in game two to keep the Mets at the top of the NPL.  
 Birmingham Braves 12 Nottingham Homets 18  
 Birmingham Braves 13 Nottingham Homets 14  
 Once again the Braves were unlucky as they dropped two games to the Homets.  
 Humberside Warriors 7 Leeds City Royals 6  
 Graham Turner took the win for the Warriors.  
 Humberside Warriors 2 Leeds City Royals 7  
 Darren Butler took the loss for Humberside.

### National Premier League - South

Bristol Black Sox 10 Brighton Buccaneers 8  
 Hounslow Rangers 6 Bedford Chicksands Indians 8  
 Don Knight took the win for the Rangers.  
 Hounslow Rangers 9 Bedford Chicksands Indians 9  
 Gus Berutich took the win in game two of double-header

### Northern Conference Division One - England

Hull Mets 19 Bamsley Strikers 13  
 Nottingham Pirates 3 Menwith Hill Pirates 12  
 The score was 3-2 to Menwith until 7th inning in a pitch duel between Mark Sharpe and Matthew Arrildt but Menwith exploded to take the lead and the game.  
 Stretford A's 13 Hull Royals 12  
 Tarnworth Strykers 15 Hull Giants 9

### Northern Conference Division Two - England

Newark Giants 9 Preston Bobcats 0  
 Leeds City Royals 16 Hessele Astros 26  
 A three run homer from Astros' Nick Swann set the tone for the day as the Astros put on an offensive display. However some defensive mistakes allowed Leeds back into the game but Hessele held on for the win.  
 Sheffield Bladerunners 17 Birmingham Dodgers 9

### Northern Conference Division One - Scotland

West Lothian Wildcats 9 Tayside Cobras 0  
 Clyde Valley Knights 0 Edinburgh Reivers 9  
 Dalriada Demons 15 Dundee Dodgers 25  
 Brian Farkas had two doubles for Dundee.

### Southern Conference Division One

Droitwich Spa-Tans 14 City Slick Sidewinders 9  
 In the eighth inning Droitwich led 13-2 however misadventure in the ninth allowed the Sidewinders to steal the game.  
 Cambridge Monarchs 9 Gillingham Dodgers 7  
 Croydon Pirates 17 Hounslow Hawks 7  
 Totteridge Trailblazers 11 Hemel Red Sox 9  
 Reading Royals 6 Bournemouth Bees 19  
 Arun Panthers 8 Tunbridge Wells Royals 1

### Southern Conference Division Two

Lashings Sluggers 11 Caterham A's 9  
 Lashings Sluggers 11 Caterham A's 6  
 Tiptree Hotspots Rays 26 Hounslow Falcons 11  
 Guildford Mavericks 11 London Wolves 16  
 Bracknell Blazers 24 Chichester Kyotes 20  
 Bracknell's first win was highlighted by a two run homer by Jeff Skinner with Spencer Clark going six for six. Winning pitcher was Mark Salter.

### Southern Conference Division Three

Brighton Buccaneers 26 Essex Arrows 3  
 Waltham Abbey Cardinals 26 Milton Keynes Truckers 5  
 Fulham Flames 33 Guildford Mudcats 11  
 Gloucester Meteors 11 Norwich Wanderers 16

## JUNE 19TH

### National Premier League North

Humberside Mets 14 Humberside Warriors 10  
 Humberside Mets 12 Humberside Warriors 10  
 Leeds City Royals 29 Birmingham Braves 12  
 Leeds City Royals 22 Birmingham Braves 12  
 Nottingham Homets 2 Liverpool Trojans 3  
 Nottingham Homets 11 Liverpool Trojans 1

### Northern Conference Division One

Hull Royals 13 Nottingham Pirates 10  
 Hull Royals 8 Bamsley Strikers 19  
 Liverpool Tigers 21 Stretford A's 11

### Northern Conference Division Two

Hessele Astros 17 Newark Giants 47  
 Preston Bobcats 9 Leeds City Royals II 0  
 Birmingham Dodgers 21 Sheffield Bladerunners 21  
 The Sheffield pitcher walked in the final run for the Birmingham victory

### Northern Conference Division One Scotland

Dundee Dodgers 3 West Lothian Wildcats 20  
 Tayside Cobras 0 Glasgow Comets 9  
 Edinburgh Reivers 38 Dalriada Demons 14

### Southern Conference Division One

Cambridge Monarchs 9 Croydon Pirates 8  
 Gloucester Meteors 9 Gillingham Dodgers 0  
 City Slick Sidewinders 19 Stevenage Knights 10  
 Hemel Red Sox 15 Droitwich Spa-Tans 2  
 Hemel Red Sox 33 Droitwich Spa-Tans 8  
 Reading Royals 7 Totteridge Trailblazers 5  
 Reading Royals 6 Totteridge Trailblazers 10  
 Arun Panthers 21 Bournemouth Bees 11

### Southern Conference Division Two

Hounslow Falcons 19 Bracknell Blazers 6  
 Hounslow Falcons 14 Bracknell Blazers 2  
 London Wolves 17 Tiptree Hotspots Rays 3  
 Chichester Kyotes 18 Lashings Sluggers 7  
 Chichester Kyotes 15 Lashings Sluggers 13  
 Caterham A's 5 Guildford Mavericks 4  
 Caterham A's 26 Guildford Mavericks 6

### Southern Conference Division Three

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 Eastbourne Aces 6 Gloster Meteors B 16  
 Brighton Buccaneers 23 Guildford Mudcats 4  
 Cambridge Fellows 0 Burgess Hill Red Hats 9

## JUNE 26TH

Great Britain 23 NPL All-stars 5

Northern Conference Division One  
 Hull Royals 18 Barnsley Strikers 15  
 Stretford A's 13 Liverpool Tigers 12

Northern Conference Division Two  
 Newark Giants 9 Leeds City Royals 0  
 Preston Bobcats 15 Birmingham Dodgers 11

Southern Conference Division One  
 Tunbridge Wells Royals 7 Cambridge Monarchs 8  
 Croydon Pirates 7 Gloster Meteors 2  
 Gillingham Dodgers 0 City Slick Sidewinders 9  
 Stevenage Knights 8 Hemel Red Sox 40  
 Droitwich Spa-Tans 9 Reading Royals 0  
 Droitwich Spa-Tans 9 Reading Royals 0  
 Arun Panthers 8 Hounslow Hawks 5  
 Arun Panthers 5 Hounslow Hawks 6

Southern Conference Division Two  
 Lashings Sluggers 15 Hounslow Falcons 13  
 Guildford Mavericks 14 Chichester Kyotes 20  
 Caterham A's 17 London Wolves 26

Southern Conference Division Three  
 Norwich Wanderers 24 Waltham Abbey Cardinals 11  
 Cambridge Fellows 0 Fulham Flames 9  
 Burgess Hill Red Hats 17 Guildford Mudcats 2

## JULY 3RD

BBF National Knockout Cup Quarter Finals  
 Arun Panthers 6 Birmingham Braves 7  
 Cambridge Monarchs 9 Essex Arrows 8  
 Gillingham Homets 14 Gloster Meteors 1  
 Hounslow Rangers 16 Humberside Warriors 4

Northern Conference Division One  
 Hull Royals 11 Tamworth Strykers 4  
 Liverpool Tigers 12 Barnsley Strikers 11

Northern Conference Division Two  
 Preston Bobcats 16 Newark Giants 11  
 Birmingham Dodgers 38 Hessle Astros 22  
 Sheffield Bladerunners 11 Leeds City Royals 22

Northern Conference Division One  
 City Slick Sidewinders 11 Croydon Pirates 13  
 Hemel Red Sox 20 Gillingham Dodgers 0  
 Totterdidge Trailblazers 27 Droitwich Spa-Tans 1

Bournemouth Bees 19 Hounslow Hawks 11  
 Bournemouth Bees 18 Hounslow Hawks 12

Southern Conference Division Two  
 Tiptree Hotspots Rays 12 Lashings Sluggers 14  
 London Wolves 27 Bracknell Blazers 4  
 Chichester Kyotes 25 Caterham A's 14

Southern Conference Division Three  
 Milton Keynes Truckers 20 Fulham Flames 10  
 Waltham Abbey Cardinals 32 Cambridge Fellows 3  
 Guildford Mudcats 39 Eastbourne Aces 21  
 Brighton Buccaneers B 18 Burgess Hill Red Hats 5

## JULY 10TH

National Premier League-North  
 Humberside Mets 8 Birmingham Braves 4  
 Humberside Mets 8 Birmingham Braves 7  
 Humberside Warriors 3 Liverpool Trojans 4  
 Humberside Warriors 11 Liverpool Trojans 4

National Premier League-South  
 Bristol Black Sox 0 Crawley Comets 9  
 Bristol Black Sox 0 Crawley Comets 9  
 Brighton Buccaneers 5 Essex Arrows 10  
 Brighton Buccaneers 9 Essex Arrows 8

Northern Conference Division One  
 Nottingham Pirates 12 Hull Royals 8  
 Tamworth Strykers 16 Liverpool Tigers 5  
 Barnsley Strikers 23 Stretford A's 13

Northern Conference Division Two  
 Sheffield Bladerunners 12 Newark Giants 33  
 Preston Bobcats 9 Hessle Astros 0  
 Birmingham Dodgers 17 Leeds City Royals II 33

Northern Conference Division One - Scotland  
 Dundee Dodgers 9 Glasgow Comets 21

Southern Conference Division One  
 Hounslow Hawks 0 Cambridge Monarchs 14  
 Gloster Meteors 11 Arun Panthers 16  
 Tunbridge Wells Royals 9 City Slick Sidewinders 5  
 Croydon Pirates 6 Hemel Red Sox 7  
 Gillingham Dodgers 8 Reading Royals 7  
 Stevenage Knights 5 Totterdidge Trailblazers 27  
 Droitwich Spa-Tans 6 Bournemouth Bees 22

Southern Conference Division Two  
 Caterham A's 7 Hounslow Falcons 11  
 Guildford Mavericks 19 Tiptree Hotspots Rays 7  
 Lashings Sluggers 27 Bracknell Blazers 30  
 Chichester Kyotes 8 London Wolves 19

Southern Conference Division Three  
 Cambridge Fellows 17 Milton Keynes Truckers 30  
 Fulham Flames 15 Norwich Wanderers 26  
 Burgess Hill Red Hats 29 Eastbourne Aces 9

# CONGRATULATIONS

..... to Julie and Ian Smyth on the  
 birth of their daughter, Marnie, in July

## BOARD POSITIONS

Have you ever wondered what goes on at the top of the BBF, ever thought you would like to get involved. If so, now is your chance. As per the BBF Bye-laws two Directors must stand for re-election each year. If you are interested in standing for a position, then please send your application, in writing, along with two nominations from your BBF registered colleagues before 1 October 1994. Your application will then be put to a vote before the BBF membership at the Annual General Meeting.

## BOOK WORMS!

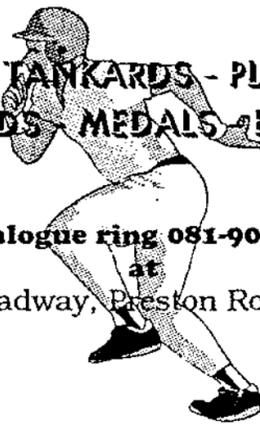
We now have a very comprehensive library of books here at the BBF Head Office, of which we would like to provide reviews for inclusion in Brit-Ball. If you are interested in reviewing a book, please give us a call and we will send you a list of what is available. All books should be returned to Head Office when the review is complete.

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**JULY 17TH**

National Premier League - North  
 Liverpool Trojans 17 Leeds City Royals 0  
 Humberside Warriors 5 Birmingham Braves 13

National Premier League - South  
 Bristol Black Sox 0 Brighton Buccaneers 9  
 Hounslow Rangers 11 Crawley Comets 5  
 Hounslow Rangers 11 Crawley Comets 13  
 Bedford Chicksands Indians 3 Essex Arrows 4  
 Bedford Chicksands Indians 4 Essex Arrows 3

Northern Conference Division One - England  
 Hull Royals 0 Menwith Hill Pirates 9  
 Hull Giants 6 Hull Mets 13  
 Nottingham Pirates 20 Liverpool Tigers 17  
 Nottingham Pirates 7 Liverpool Tigers 2  
 Tamworth Strykers 9 Stretford A's 0

Northern Conference Division Two - England  
 Birmingham Dodgers 16 Newark Giants 27  
 Sheffield Bladerunners 17 Preston Bobcats 28  
 Leeds City Royals 0 Hessele Astros 9

Northern Conference Division One - Scotland  
 Glasgow Comets 16 West Lothian Wildcats 6  
 Clyde Valley Knights 0 Dundee Dodgers 9  
 Edinburgh Reivers 9 Tayside Cobras 0

Southern Conference Division One  
 Boumemouth Bees 1 Cambridge Monarchs 26  
 Gloster Meteors 15 Hounslow Hawks 4  
 Arun Panthers 8 City Slick Sidewinders 6  
 Hemel Red Sox 6 Tunbridge Wells Royals 5  
 Reading Royals 10 Croydon Pirates 8  
 Totteridge Trailblazers 9 Gillingham Dodgers 0  
 Droitwich Spa-Tans 12 Stevenage Knights 11

Southern Conference Division Two  
 Chichester Kyotes 19 Hounslow Falcons 9  
 Bracknell Blazers 6 Guildford Mavericks 16  
 London Wolves 13 Lashings Sluggers 11

Southern Conference Division Three  
 Waltham Abbey Cardinals 7 Milton Keynes Truckers 17  
 Cambridge Fellows 0 Norwich Wanderers 9  
 Eastbourne Aces 0 Brighton Buccaneers B 9  
 Gloster Meteors B 4 Burgess Hill Red Hats 39

**JULY 24TH**

National Premier League - North  
 Leeds City Royals 26 Humberside Mets 9  
 Humberside Mets P

Nottingham Homets 16 Humberside Warriors 10  
 Nottingham Homets 8 Humberside Warriors 3  
 Birmingham Braves 7 Liverpool Trojans 3  
 Birmingham Braves 14 Liverpool Trojans 6

National Premier League - South  
 Bristol Black Sox 2 Hounslow Rangers 6  
 Bristol Black Sox 1 Hounslow Rangers 7  
 Bedford Chicksands Indians 9 Brighton Buccaneers 11  
 Bedford Chicksands Indians 11 Brighton Buccaneers 10  
 Essex Arrows 10 Crawley Comets 18

Northern Conference Division One - England  
 Menwith Hill Pirates P Liverpool Tigers P  
 Hull Giants 13 Hull Royals 15  
 Nottingham Pirates 9 Stretford A's 0  
 Bamsley Strikers P Tamworth Strykers P

Northern Conference Division Two - England  
 Preston Bobcats 9 Leeds City Royals 0  
 Sheffield Bladerunners P Birmingham Dodgers P

Southern Conference Division One  
 Gloster Meteors 6 Cambridge Monarchs 13  
 Gloster Meteors 3 Cambridge Monarchs 9  
 Totteridge Trailblazers 9 City Slick Sidewinders  
 Reading Royals 6 Hemel Red Sox 38  
 Gillingham Dodgers 23 Hounslow Hawks 21  
 Arun Panthers 14 Droitwich Spa-Tans 3

Southern Conference Division Three  
 Cambridge Fellows 0 Norwich Wanderers 9  
 Cambridge Fellows 3 Norwich Wanderers 45

**JULY 31ST**

Knockout Cup Semi-Finals  
 Nottingham Homets 8 Hounslow Rangers 11  
 Winning pitcher D Knight  
 Cambridge Monarchs 6 Birmingham Braves  
 Winning pitcher M Dutton

National Premier League - North  
 Humberside Mets 12 Leeds City Royals  
 Humberside Mets P Leeds City Royals

Northern Conference Division One - Engla  
 Menwith Hill Pirates 24 Hull Mets 1  
 Liverpool Tigers P Hull Giants P  
 Liverpool Tigers P Hull Giants P  
 Hull Mets P Hull Royals P  
 Bamsley Strikers 0 Nottingham Pirates

Northern Conference Division Two - Engli  
 Leeds City Royals II 7 Newark Giants 18  
 Hessele Astros P Sheffield Bladerunners P  
 Birmingham Dodgers 9 Preston Bobcats

Northern Conference Division One - Sco  
 West Lothian Wildcats 9 Clyde Valley Knig

Dairrada Demons P Glasgow Comets P  
 Dundee Dodgers P Edinburgh Reivers P

Chichester Kyotes 24 Bracknell Blazers 4  
 Caterham A's 9 Lashings Sluggers 13  
 Guildford Mavericks 17 London Wolves 7

Southern Conference Division One  
 Cambridge Monarchs P City Slick Sidewinders P  
 Gillingham Dodgers P Stevenage Knights P  
 Droitwich Spa-Tans 0 Gloster Meteors 9  
 Tunbridge Wells Royals 17 Boumemouth Bees 3  
 Hounslow Hawks 13 Croydon Pirates 17  
 Hemel Red Sox 17 Totteridge Trailblazers 7

Southern Conference Division Two  
 Hounslow Falcons 19 Tiptree Hotspots Rays 30

Southern Conference Division Three  
 Norwich Wanderers 4 Milton Keynes Truckers 13  
 Waltham Abbey Cardinals 4 Fulham Flames 24  
 Gloster Meteors B 9 Eastbourne Aces 0  
 Gloster Meteors B 9 Eastbourne Aces 0  
 Brighton Buccaneers B 9 Guildford Mudcats 0

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**BBF League standings as at 31st July 1994**

**BBF NATIONAL PREMIER LEAGUE - NORTH**

	WINS	LOSSES	GAMES BACK
Humberside Mets	11	2	
Leeds City Royals	8	4	2.5
Nottingham Hornets	8	5	3
Liverpool Trojans	6	9	6
Birmingham Braves	6	9	6
Humberside Warriors	4	13	9

**BBF NORTH - ENGLAND DIVISION ONE**

	WINS	LOSSES	GAMES BACK
Menwith Hill Pirates	10	0	
Nottingham Pirates	10	2	1
Liverpool Tigers	7	4	3.5
Tamworth Strykers	6	5	4.5
Hull Mets	3	6	6.5
Stretford A's	4	7	6.5
Barnsley Strikers	4	8	7
Hull Royals	3	8	7.5
Hull Giants	2	9	8.5

**BBF NORTH - ENGLAND DIVISION TWO**

	WINS	LOSSES	GAMES BACK
Newark Giants	9	1	
Preston Bobcats	6	6	4
Leeds City Royals II	5	6	4.5
Hessle Astros	4	5	4.5
Birmingham Dodgers	5	7	5
Sheffield Bladerunners	2	7	6.5

**BBF NORTH - SCOTLAND DIVISION ONE**

	WINS	LOSSES	GAMES BACK
Glasgow Comets	6	1	
West Lothian Wildcats	4	1	1
Dundee Dodgers	3	3	2.5
Edinburgh Reivers	2	3	3
Dalriada Demons	2	4	3.5
Tayside Cobras	1	4	4

**BBF NATIONAL PREMIER LEAGUE - SOUTH**

	WINS	LOSSES	GAMES BACK
Hounslow Rangers	10	5	
Crawley Comets	10	6	0.5
Essex Arrows	9	6	2
Bedford Chicksands Indians	9	6	3.5
Brighton Buccaneers	7	11	4.5
Bristol Black Sox	2	13	7.5

**BBF SOUTH - DIVISION ONE NORTH**

	WINS	LOSSES	GAMES BACK
Hemel Red Sox	13	1	
Cambridge Monarchs	10	2	2
Totteridge Trailblazers	7	5	5
Gloster Meteors	6	5	5.5
City Slick Sidewinders	7	7	6
Droitwich Spa-Tans	4	10	9
Reading Royals	3	11	10

**BBF SOUTH - DIVISION ONE SOUTH**

	WINS	LOSSES	GAMES BACK
Arun Panthers	10	1	
Croydon Pirates	7	4	3
Bournemouth B's	8	6	3.5
Tunbridge Wells Royals	4	6	5.5
Gillingham Dodgers	5	8	6
Hounslow Hawks	4	11	8
Stevenage Knights	0	11	10

**BBF SOUTH - DIVISION TWO**

	WINS	LOSSES	GAMES BACK
London Wolves	12	2	
Lashings Sluggers of Maidstone	11	5	2
Tiptree Hotspots Rays	8	8	5
Guildford Mavericks	7	8	5.5
Chichester Kyotes	7	9	6
Caterham A's	6	8	6
Hounslow Falcons	5	9	7
Bracknell Blazers	4	11	8.5

**BBF SOUTH - DIVISION THREE NORTH**

	WINS	LOSSES	GAMES BACK
Norwich Wanderers	11	3	
Milton Keynes Truckers	9	2	0.5
Fulham Flames	7	5	3
Waltham Abbey Cardinals	5	8	5.5
Cambridge Fellows	0	12	10

**BBF SOUTH - DIVISION THREE SOUTH**

	WINS	LOSSES	GAMES BACK
Burgess Hill Red Hats	12	1	
Brighton Buccaneers B	11	2	1
Gloster Meteors B	6	7	6
Guildford Mudcats	3	10	9
Eastbourne Aces	0	12	11.5

**LEAGUE LEADERS**

Thanks to Gerry Waimisley, Clive Maude and Brian Holland, we are able to take a detailed look at who's doing what around the leagues so far.

**NATIONAL PREMIER LEAGUE**

**Runs**  
P Edwards (Hounslow) 21  
S Radge (Leeds) 19  
L Mayfield (Hounslow) 16

**Hits**  
L Mayfield (Hounslow) 23  
P Edwards (Hounslow) 19  
C Foster (Humb Warriors) 16

**Doubles**  
Webber (Birmingham) 6  
R Brownlie (Leeds / Humb Mets) 5  
A Pellegri (Leeds) 5

**Triples**  
C Gee (Liverpool) 4  
M Godsall (Liverpool) 3  
R O'm (Liverpool) 3

**Home Runs**  
R Brownlie (Leeds / Humb Mets) 4  
Plantier (Birmingham) 3

**RBIs**  
P Figueroa (Crawley) 18  
L Mayfield (Hounslow) 16  
P Figueroa (Crawley) 18  
J Pearce (Crawley) 15

**Slugging**

Plantier (Birmingham) 1.188  
R Brownlie (Leeds / Humb Mets) 1.115  
S Sewell (Nottingham) 1.000

**Batting Average**  
M Vickers (Humb Mets) .571  
P Thurston (Humb Mets) .556  
B Stapp (Bedford) .556

**Innings Pitched**  
D Butler (Humb Warriors) 61  
M Godsall (Liverpool) 47  
M Sawyer (Bristol) 47

**Base on Balls**  
D Butler (Humb Warriors) 74  
G Marshall (Leeds) 38  
S Sewell (Nottingham) 32

**Strike Outs**  
D Butler (Humb Warriors) 76  
M Sawyer (Bristol) 68  
A Fansler (Bedford) 43

**Wins**  
K Pickston (Essex) 4  
A Fansler (Bedford) 4  
M Stephenson (Humb Mets) 4

**Saves**  
P Thurston (Humb Mets) 2  
F Parker (Humb Mets) 2

**Earned Run Average (min 20 innings)**  
G Marshall (Leeds) 1.21  
S Bowden (Essex) 2.84  
K Pickston (Leeds) 3.30

**NORTHERN CONFERENCE**

**Stolen Bases**  
B Agnew (Preston) 30

A Howarth (Preston) 21  
S Atack (Preston) 19

**RBIs**  
A Howarth (Preston) 13  
K Kushner (Stretford) 12

**Home Runs**  
K Kushner (Stretford) 3  
D Mullen (Preston) 2  
W Greenwood (Sheffield) 2

**Batting Average**  
K Kushner (Stretford) .682  
A Wiltshire (Hull Royals) .565  
L Marsh (Stretford) .556

**Wins**  
M Arrldt (Menwith Hill) 3  
K Kushner (Stretford) 3  
A Howarth (Preston) 3

**Strike Outs**  
K Kushner (Stretford) 58  
A Howarth (Preston) 43  
A Wiltshire (Hull Royals) 30

**Earned Run Average**  
M Arrldt (Menwith Hill) 2.14  
S Kirkby (Hull Royals) 2.70  
D Liwoshko (Newark) 3.75

**SOUTHERN CONFERENCE**

**Top Batters**  
Wightman (Norwich) .660  
Bond (Norwich) .591  
G Bonfield (Hemel) .563

**Top Pitchers**  
Gofton (Tunbridge Wells) 6.60  
McGuinness (Hemel) 6.62  
Nock (Norwich) 8.50

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IB Rundown is growing quickly and is reaching more people in amateur and professional baseball throughout the world than ever before. New for this year is an IB Rundown world baseball display, which will be at many United States tournaments and baseball events this spring and summer.

Please make sure baseball in your country gets the recognition it deserves by sending in articles or information to the IB Rundown office at the address or fax number below. We use all information received.

If your country is interested in sending an item for display in the IB Rundown world baseball exhibit, to be seen by thousands of US baseball fans this year, please contact IB Rundown. It's a great way to let people know about baseball in your part of the world.

I hope to hear from you soon.

Jeff Elijah  
Editor, IB Rundown Magazine

Dear Kevin

We just thought we had to write to you after seeing you on TV on Saturday morning. We think you're the sexiest thing in a baseball cap since Kevin Costner (it must be the name, or is it the cap?)

We would like to know, are you setting up a fan club for dedicated fans such as ourselves? If so can we please have a signed photo of your or Nobby?

Have you any plans for any more appearances, or even any personal appearances as we would like to be your official groupies.

We like you so much, we pretended we were interested in forming a bored housewives baseball team, and the television company kindly gave us your address.

Forever yours

Katy and Dianne

*Editor: The above letter was in response to a recent appearance that Steve Herbert, Gary Roberts, several Birmingham players and myself recently made on Gimme 5. Unfortunately, the above two ladies did not give me an address to reply to them. If you know of them (the letter was postmarked in Darlington), then please let me know!*

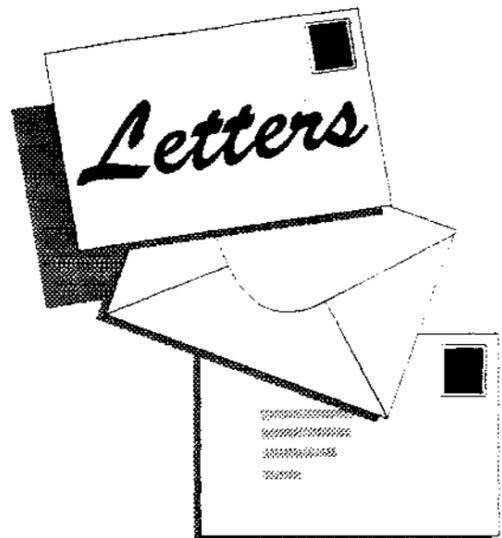
Dear Keith

Many thanks for the SDO equipment which I received from you in the post on Tuesday 21 June. I can assure you that the equipment received was very much needed and will all be put to very good use.

In response to any questions of "What do the BBF do for us", I must say that since I have been part of the organisation things have always looked on the up for the Birmingham Braves, and I feel that I would be correct in speaking for the whole of the team in saying that we are most happy so far with what the BBF has done for us. Keep up the good work!

Best regards

Gary Roberts, Birmingham Braves



Dear Kevin

I've been hearing plenty of rumours about return of the teams in the bush league to the BBF.

We might as well start the debate now and save ourselves the bother at the BBF AGM. I presume the membership will have the opportunity to do so?

My club thinks that in the interests of British baseball, we should welcome all the teams that wish to rejoin, back.

However, it's not as simple as that. We believe that affiliation fees owed and fines owed should stand. Also, any banned players should not be allowed to return to the BBF unless a proper appeal hearing against the

ban is heard and the subsequent decision is favourable. This is what happened to the Nottingham players after all, so others should not be treated any differently.

We would also agree to allow the teams that wanted to come back to take their places in the divisions they were in when they left. This would obviously involved a bit of tinkering with the current organisation, but as long as the current BBF teams do not lose out, we would say that this is a fairly large concession.

The bush teams made a bad judgement call when they left the BBF. They did what they thought was best. I remember at the time it was a very difficult argument to consider, so there must be no blame.

What we must be careful of is getting sucked into the small minded egotism that was largely responsible for the split in the first place.

It is also just as well to remember that we don't need them back - we've got along fine without them. So when they come back, it is because we choose to have them back.

Yours

Earl Dix

Club President, Hounslow Baseball Club

*Editor: Does anyone else have any views on the above - does everyone agree with Earl. Let Brit-Ball know your point of view.*

Dear Kevin

We have been recently contacted by the BBF to consider the baseball market in the UK. It was put to us that the teams basically suffer from lack of good supplies at reasonable prices and prompt deliveries. Furthermore, there is general apathy and lack of real resources to develop the sport at grass roots level, therefore making it difficult to cultivate youngsters for integration into the leagues.

As a result we have now invested a large amount into coaching programmes in schools and the importation of good quality equipment. In a relatively short period of time, we have managed to enlist nine schools with 2100 kids whom are being coached by Chris and Kevin from the Essex Arrows. We have also allocated funds to expand the coaching scheme for 20,000 kids for next season, in what is a privately funded scheme in association with the BBF and Major League Baseball.

In order to support the scheme, we hope to be able to

market equipment, the profit of which will be pumped into coaching programmes. Due to the lateness in the season, we hold a limited amount of stock as per the price list enclosed. However, we will be importing a substantial volume to meet your requirements in the next season. All equipment is of very good quality and can be delivered promptly, at a concessionary price to BBF members. With this view, we trust that we can count on your support, which will help ensure the future development of baseball. For references you can contact Keith Peskett, Alan Chell, Steve Herbert or Greg Welch at the BBF.

Your sincerely

Elie Levy

First Base International

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Dear Editor

I was watching a NPL game a little while ago that was officiated by an official NPL umpire. Late in the game there was a tag play at third. It was a quick play that appeared out of nowhere and there was a lot of dust. The umpire, saying that he was not sure what happened, went to ask the player who laid the tag what had happened. Guess what - the runner was out!

And now I hear that an umpire called time in the middle of a pitcher's wind-up at the Hounslow Rangers v Nottingham Hornets BBF Knockout Cup semi final. When the plate umpire ruled that the play was legal and that time should not have been called,

all hell broke loose which led to the umpire changing his mind.

I'm not whinging about the balls and strikes and close judgement plays. Those are things we have to live with until our umpires gain more experience and become more skilled at watching the plays.

What I'm on about is the sheer lack of professionalism in their attitude. Do they not care about the quality of the umpiring? Why do we have to put up with the same mistakes time after time? When is it going to change? Do all the courses and clinics make no difference? These are umpires playing at the highest level of British baseball; when can we expect the incompetence to stop?

Yours faithfully

Earl Dix

Dear Editor

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your assistance in making the American Sports Week 1994 a great success.

The feedback I have received from both children and parents is excellent and a credit to everyone who has participated in the programme, from coaching staff, helpers and last but not least, all those people whose donations were very much appreciated.

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I hope now that the foundations have been laid, that this event will become an annual sports week in the city of Sunderland, and that the sports of American Football, Baseball, Basketball and Racketball all benefit, and grow in participation.

With a varied programme and enthusiastic coaches, plus over 100 children attending every day, Monday to Friday, it proved that alternative sports can succeed, even in harden traditional areas.

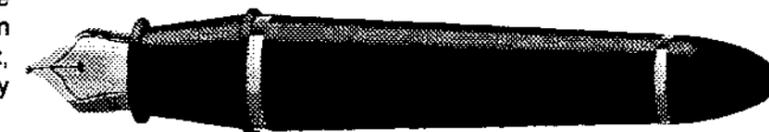
I personally enjoyed working with everyone associated with the American Sports Week, from meeting people in person to contacts over the telephone, and to you all, once again, a big thank you.

Yours in sport

Steve Huntley

Sports Development Officer

Sunderland High School and Ashbrooke Sports Club





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## BASEBALL'S BIGGEST HEADACHE: WATER!!

Today, many major conferences require full infield tarps to save wasted weekends and departmental travel expense. That's fine for the big boys - what about the rest of us? How do we create an opportunity to play after some serious rain?

There are a couple of ways which might help and they're not diesel fuel, gasoline or sawdust.

Three tricks that have proved successful for coaches and groundskeepers are as follows:

1. The high powered blow pack which removes water without removing clay is an easy way to handle shallow bodies of water.

2. The sponge is great for small deep puddles around the plate, mound or bases.

3. The pump and smart cart are the answer for large and separated bodies of water on either clay or grass.

The biggest problem that occurs is how do you dry the clay surface after you remove the water, especially on days when it's cloudy and overcast. If your surface is something like Stabiliser Red which dries exceptionally fast, then you shouldn't be concerned, but if your surface is of a high clay content, then a drying additive such as a Turface calcine

clay needs to be added.

Two particle sizes of calcine clay are on the market with both offering high quality results. The fine ground is more of a puddle removing particle whereas the larger calibration is for drying and slippage reduction. With a little raking of the new additive to the exiting clay material your field should be acceptable to any umpire within twenty minutes after the rain.

As coaches, we all know rain is coming, it's just a matter of when. The biggest time saving part of the "wet field scenario" is having the correct materials and supplies on hand and within close proximity to the field. The other part of the rain delay is just making sure the concession stand has enough hot dogs, because you're going to need them.

### Floyd Perry

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 Grounds Maintenance or Baseball and Softball is now available on the market.

## "IT NEVER RAINS BUT IT POURS"

On the 24 July, two of the lesser known sides in the Northern Second Division met in a match that had previously served up an enthralling encounter, when the Birmingham Dodgers ran out eventual winners 21-20 against the Sheffield

Bladerunners, and this meeting was expected to be just as exciting.

As the two sides began to warm up, shortly before the start of the match, the weather was becoming very heavy and humid, and both sets of players were expecting another warm afternoon of baseball. The game started promisingly as Sheffield romped away to a 20-6 lead in only the second inning, and hopes started running high as they pushed for only their second victory of the season, with a very much depleted and inexperienced side, that had lost the bulk of its long established players.

However, as the game started to heat up, the weather began to do exactly the opposite, as menacing storm clouds hovered over the park and spots of rain started to fall during the fourth inning. Then suddenly, as Birmingham had just taken two walks off Sheffield's pitcher, the heavens opened and monsoon conditions soon brought an interruption to the game, and both sets of players retired to sheltered areas to dry off.

Following a delay of thirty minutes the two managers came to an agreement that they wanted to see the game played to a finish, despite the awful weather conditions.

By now, the pitch had developed a film of surface water, and conditions were becoming more difficult and dangerous as Birmingham resumed their innings, and their comeback. Unfortunately, the short break seemed to have affected James Ellis' pitching, as he walked five batters in a row. As Birmingham continued their comeback, reducing the scoreline to 26-16, the weather conditions became every more difficult, as a combination of driving rain, and bad light, reduced vision to a minimum.

By the end of a very soggy and wet fourth innings, the decision was taken to abandon the game, despite the brave efforts of both sides, who had struggled to deal with the horrendous storm conditions.

The final, but insignificant scoreline to this unusual "summer game" was 26-16 to the Bladerunners, but the scoreline was not the most outstanding factor of this game, nor was the grand slam from Sheffield's Steven Ellison, but it was the remarkable commitment and effort shown by both sides that will make this game one to remember. Well done lads!

Lee Vaughan  
Sheffield Bladerunners

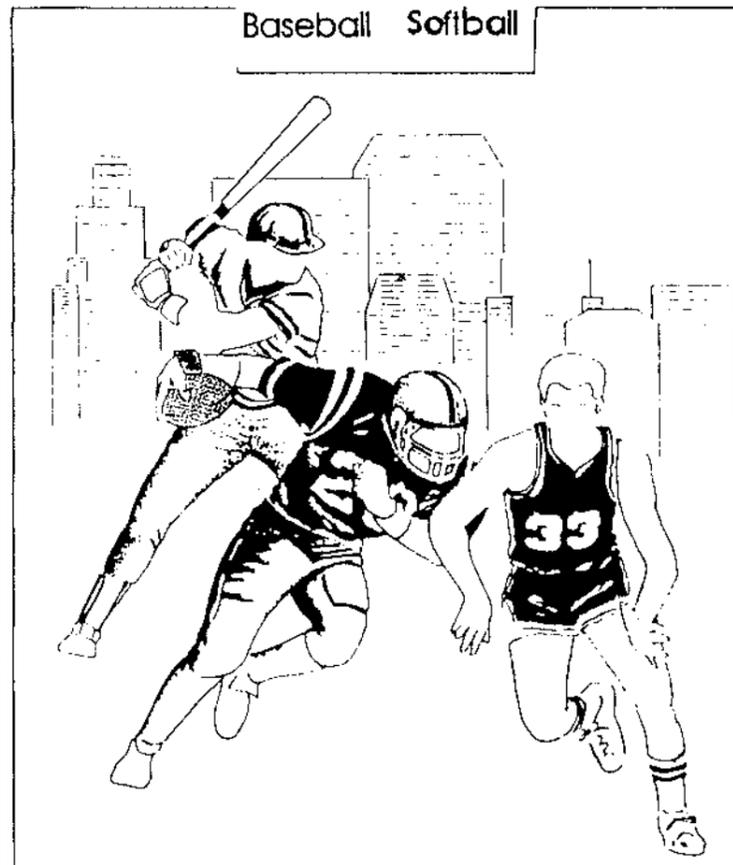


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# EAST V WEST SCOTTISH ALL-STARS

## East of Scotland

N Clark  
K Burns  
K Graham  
D Donaldson  
B Farkas  
J Wilde  
J Nicoll  
D Seal  
A MacBain  
A Baird  
B Halliday  
K Turner  
M Hebner

## West of Scotland

E Duffy  
B MacCauley  
A Wood  
A Slater  
S McMillan  
A Reid  
P Carracher  
S Kirkham  
D LeFeure  
M Okuda  
S O'Demar  
P Clark  
I Broadfoot  
L Bell  
G Smith

This year the game was played at Strathclyde Country Park, home of the Dalriada Demons. Unfortunately the weather could not match the occasion, as the game opened in cool and wet conditions.

The East scored ten runs in the first three innings, aided by some poor fielding and erratic pitching. In reply, the West managed to get men on base, but suffered too many strikeouts, and only scored a run on an error.

The fourth inning sealed the victory for the East



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with ten runs being scored, once again aided by defensive errors (and some good hits).

Keith Graham pitched a great game for the East; he mixed a lively fastball with a good curveball, and even finished the eighth inning with three consecutive strikeouts.

Man of the match was Jim Wilde, who had a good game defensively (catching the whole game), hit the ball hard every time (one hit landing just a couple of yards short of a homer), and collected seven rbi's.

The final score was East of Scotland 33, West of Scotland 4.

Thanks to the umpires M Burns, G Dean, J Murray and F Rooney.

## CALLING ALL COACHES

This year the BBF Coaching Association intend to develop a coaching digest. This digest will contain articles and papers on all aspects of baseball coaching. However, the success or failure of this digest will depend upon the support of coaches throughout the country. We need YOU to write these articles and papers. This will enable us to share our knowledge, skills and experience with other coaches.

I feel it is important to the continued development of quality baseball coaching in this country, that such a magazine exists.

Therefore, please get your thinking caps on and typewriters tapping.

Also, remember the coaching association is here for you. If you need any information on any aspects of coaching, we have a library of coaching resources that may meet your needs.

If you are willing to contribute a paper, please send it to me typed, ready to reprint.

If you have any ideas, comments or suggestions, please contact me on 0532 612571

Ian Smyth  
BBF Coaching Association

## TO UMPIRE OR NOT?

As most of you are painstakingly aware, we have a distinct lack of neutral umpires in this country. No doubt many of you team managers out there have spent many a training night trying to press gang someone into umpiring on the following Sunday.

Firstly let me say that your efforts are well appreciated and are to be congratulated. However, there have been several occurrences of umpire substitutions this year and this practice MUST be stopped.

When a team member agrees to umpire he must realise that they take on the commitment for the whole game. It is unacceptable and unfair for one player to be removed from umpiring a game and placed into the line-up whilst the player he has replaced assume the umpiring duties.

Also, please consider the impression this gives to the general public and maybe potential sponsors or our game. You must admit it does give it the look of an unfair game especially if an argument or disagreement ensues from the visiting team.

I am not trying to become heavy handed over this, so please do not make the editor's postbag split at the seams. Just consider what I have said and try to let the individual umpire the whole game. You never know he may enjoy it and wish to do it on a regular basis and thus solve your problems period!

Gary Mortimer  
BBF Technical Director

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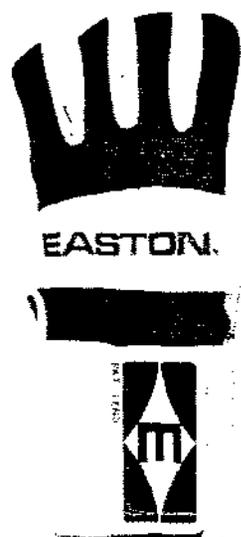
## TANGLED TERMS

Can you make five common baseball terms of five letters each from the square below? (for example BASES, STEAL, etc)

A C C C E  
E E F H I  
L N O O O  
P P R R R  
R T T T U

All twenty five letters much be used once only if your answers are to be correct.

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