

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

Issue No 20
January 1995
75p

THE BOYS OF SUMMER

The BBF have linked up with Dragon Tours (UK) Ltd to provide the membership with the opportunity to purchase inexpensive travel. Whether it's a trip to the States to see your favourite team, an exotic holiday or competing in a European tournament then teams need to look no further than the BBF travel club. In this month's edition there are full details of what the travel club entails and how it benefits you as a BBF member.

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



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

LIVE AND LEARN

This month's Brit-Ball also has a strong coaching theme, whether it be coaching, umpiring or scoring. There are still places available on the Major League Baseball Coaching Clinic. If you wish to attend (20 - 22 January) then please contact BBF Head Office immediately. There are also places for the dinner on the Saturday evening, which is a looking to be a good night out; after dinner speakers, raffle, auction, award presentations.

As well as this coaching clinic, there are also details of the umpires and scorers clinics that will be taking place prior to the start of the 1995 season. They are being held in four different areas of the country, so there is no excuse for not attending. Every team must send at least one umpire and one scorer to these clinics.

Other features include more ideas on how to raise money for your club, and finally we release you news on how to get your hands on the hottest BBF merchandise yet.

Enjoy your read

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MARKETING EXECUTIVE

The successful candidate will need to have a minimum of two years experience in the marketing field. Interpersonal and team working skills are a key factor in the selection process. The position will involve account handling at the highest level in which the candidate must be competent. The position will report to the BBF Board.

Report and proposal production will be high on the list of requirements. In this area the candidate must be a self starter, and able to follow through beyond contract stage. Event management will also play a key part in this position. Drive and ambition coupled with a proven track record of success are essential ingredients for this area.

Sports Council liaison, The Foundation for Sports and the Arts, Areas of the British Olympic Association, Sportsmatch and National Lottery funding all fall under the marketing title.

Candidates must be prepared to commute to London, and be computer literate. They must also have a good understanding of the retail, wholesale and manufacturing market in goods relating to baseball and be well connected in this area.

This is a full time position. Remuneration to be advised upon application.

SECRETARY

The successful candidate will require a minimum of two years secretarial experience, and will provide a full and confidential secretarial service to the Board of the BBF, to support them in the execution of their roles.

Organising skills, team worker, commitment, initiative and professionalism are key competencies required of the candidate. A knowledge of the use of word processing, database, spreadsheet and desk top publishing computer packages is essential.

The position has the following responsibilities within the BBF: dealing with all incoming and outgoing correspondence, travel and meeting arrangements, preparation of all BBF publications, organisation of the BBF registration system, and accounting system.

This is a part time position. Remuneration to be advised upon application.

Applications for the above positions should be made in writing with a full CV,
by Friday 10 February 1995 to:
3BF Head Office, 66 Belvedere Road, Hessle, North Humberside, HU13 9JJ



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1 Rushmills, Bedford Road, Northampton NN4 7YH. Tel: 0604 602800; Fax: 0604 602832.

1995 UMPIRES CLINIC REGISTRATION FORM

I would like to participate in the 1995 Umpires Clinic to be held in

NORTH / MIDLANDS / SOUTH / SCOTLAND*

* Delete as applicable

The objective of the clinics is to refine those skills which the prospective umpire may already possess. It is not designed to teach the rules of baseball to umpires. Individuals attending the clinic should have a basic knowledge of the rules of the game, as well as the willingness to learn and build on the information and techniques taught in both a classroom and practical environment.

The roles and responsibilities of the umpire (both plate and field) will be addressed at length. Discussion on conduct both prior to, and during the game; pre game meetings with partners and opposing coaches will also be discussed. Consistency of the strike zone and knowledge of the strike zone seemed to be a popular gripe amongst players and coaches throughout the past season. The clinic will focus on breaking down the strike zone; how to set up properly behind the catcher to obtain the best view of the plate and batter; confidence in calling balls and strikes; plate mechanics and working with your partner.

Many of the basic rules and situations will be covered. How to identify a balk; what constitutes a fair and / or foul ball; interference and obstruction; the appeal play; anticipation of a play on a runner to include positioning; dead ball area and the resulting award of bases; and mots of all, communication between umpires.

Each BBF registered team **MUST** send someone on one of these courses. A further course is also being held in Scotland. Look out in future editions of Brit-Ball for more details.

Dates for the above are as follows:

- NORTH 25 - 26 March 1995
Menwith Hill Station
Harrogate
- SOUTH 28 - 29 January 1995
Ministry of Defence,
Civilian Staff Restaurant
Elmwood Avenue
Feltham, Middlesex
- MIDLANDS 25 - 26 February 1995
BBF Indoor Training Centre
Mill Street, Aston
Birmingham

Name:			
Address:		Postcode:	
Telephone No:		Date of Birth:	
Baseball Team: (if applicable)			
I enclose £5 registration fee for the clinic			
All cheques should be made payable to the British Baseball Federation			

All participants registering for an umpires clinic will be entered into a draw to win a full set of umpires equipment, including face mask, chest protector and leg guards, donated by Spartan Sports

Return this form and money to :

1995 Umpires Clinic
British Baseball Federation
66 Belvedere Road, Hessle, North Humberside, HU13 9JJ

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COMPETITION CORNER

Answers to last month's puzzles are as follows:

BAFFLED BATTER GRAND SLAM

WHO WON THE LEAGUE?

- a. Cubs
- b. Bees
- c. Jays
- d. Mets

CRYPTIC QUIZ

(DEVISED BY WILL COSGRAVE)

Can you name these BBF Teams?

1. Second Best Mets
2. London Freebooters
3. Bowmen Near London
4. Black Country Indians
5. Redheads' Double Name
6. Scotia Untamed
7. Essex Church Leaders
8. BBF HQ In Space
9. Why Wye Strykers
10. Yorkshire Monarchy
11. CSS Initials
12. Clydeside Astronomy
13. Catty Lancastrians
14. Jolly Rogers Hill
15. XXXXX Rouge Sox
16. Arknew Antsgi Anagram
17. Healthy Pun South of Brum
18. Mucky Fur in Surrey
19. Varsity Rulers
20. Majestic Berkshire

PUZZLING PEN-NAMES

(DEVISED BY WILL COSGRAVE)

A number of well known personalities in British Baseball have decided to use exotic pen-names during 1995. Can you identify the persons below who have featured in Brit-Ball?

1. VIENK CAMAMAD
2. RABYR FALEMIDY
3. VESET BRERETH
4. RABIN NOLHALD
5. VILEC EDAMU
6. LAPU BYLARODU
7. RYGA MIMETROR
8. IMEK HRADORL
9. NIA SHYMT
10. ROMNAN SLEWL

PLEASE REMEMBER

In April 1995, all area codes and many telephone numbers will change. We would like to produce the correct information in our 1995 handbook.

Therefore, please check with your local telephone company as to what your number will be, and complete the correct details on your 1995 BBF Affiliation form.



Major League Baseball

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

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

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

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BOOK REVIEWS

GEORGE BRETT - LAST OF A BREED

By Steve Camerson,
Taylor Addix 1993

This book which tells Brett's story as a future Hall of Famer is beautifully illustrated throughout with a series of fantastic photographs.

The text is basic with the emphasis of the book being placed on the illustrations. Therefore for scholars of the game it may not be the book for you, however for baseball fans, particularly Kansas City Royals fans, this book is a must.

I am sure more insightful books about George Brett will be published, however, I am not so sure that any will match this book for presentation and as previously mentioned the quality of the pictures. My only problem with this book is that I have to return it to Head Office, as it is a prize in the raffle at the MLBI Clinic.

LOU BOUDREAU COVERING ALL THE BASES

By Lou Boudreau Sagamore 1993

Again a book covering the career of a great player. Boudreau was a success as a player, manager and broadcaster. Unfortunately I cannot extend this list to author.

This book, although it whets the appetite, never really satisfies and in the end leaves you feeling disappointed. It appears to be another of these autobiographical projects that all sportsmen seem to publish.

Often when I read a good book I feel sad when I have finished it. However, I merely felt relief when I got to the end

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THE MIKE SCHMIDT STUDY

By Mike Schmidt, McGriff and Bell
1994

This is probably the most detailed hitting manual I have ever read. We all know teaching hitting is a difficult process. This book makes nuclear physics look relatively easy in comparison.

I feel that Schmidt's emphasis is too theoretical, and that his science of hitting is beyond the grasp of many coaches and players. Nevertheless, if you are prepared to give this manual a lot of time, there are doubtless numerous tips to pick up.

As with any form of coaching if you manage to pick up one idea that makes you a better teacher then it is worthwhile. If you are a real student of hitting then this is the manual for you.

Should you wish to purchase any of the above publications, please contact Gazelle Books. Also if you would like to review a book, or loan one to read, then please contact BBF Head Office.

Ian Smyth
Coaching Director

of this one. Undoubtedly this book was informative, however I felt it was at times tedious and was a struggle to get through.

In fact the most interesting thing about this book is that Boudreau in his prime bears a striking resemblance to Jim Pearce, of GB and Crawley Comets.

YOU CAN TEACH HITTING

By Dusty Baker
Bittinger Press 1993

This is one of the best books that I have read. It is very clear, precise and accurate.

Baker cleverly uses diagrams superimposed onto photographs to emphasise his teaching points. This makes the text much easier to follow, and shows exactly what to do.

This approach also shows the coach what to look for, how to observe faults and importantly how to correct them. Baker shows a multitude of drills and practices which will be extremely useful for coaches at all levels.

This is a really good book, if you need a hitting manual and regardless of the level you coach do not look any further.

LOADS -A- MONEY

Following on from last month's article on the National Lottery, below are details of a few more organisations to whom you can apply for funding.

Sports Council

Regional Sports Council grants are designed to develop in partnership with others, projects which achieve the Sports Council's aims and objectives. Within the limited resources available, the Sports Council allocates its funds towards predetermined priorities of greater than local importance.

Some regions produce their own literature on regional funding sources for sport.

Please contact the appropriate regional office for more information.

East Midlands Region
Grove House
Bridgford Road
West Bridgford
Nottingham
NG2 6AP
Tel: 0115 982 1887
Fax: 0115 945 5236

Greater London & South East Regions
P O Box 480
Crystal Palace National Sports Centre
Ledrington Road
London
SE19 2BQ
Tel: 0181 778 8600
Fax: 0181 676 9812

Northern Region
Ayckley Heads
Durham
DH1 5JU
Tel: 0191 384 9595
Fax: 0191 384 5807

Southern Region
51a Church Street

Caversham
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Berkshire
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Tel: 01734 483311
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Quay Street
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M3 4AE
Tel: 0161 834 0338
Fax: 0161 835 3678

South West Region
Ashlands House
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Somerset

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Tel: 01460 72491
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Metropolitan House
1 Hagley Road
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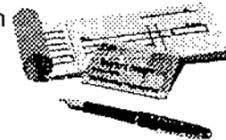
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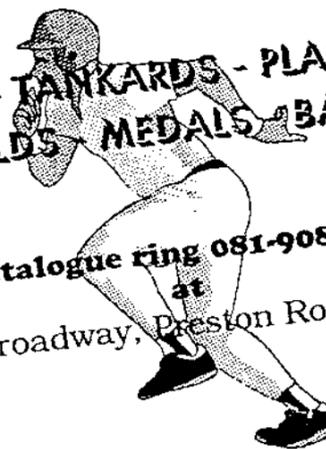


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Foundation for Sports Trusts and Foundations and the Arts

Set up by the football pools promoters, this body has around £60 million annually to donate to sports and arts organisations.

Grants have been given to a wide range of projects. Further information, including details of the criteria for the allocation of funds is available from:

Foundation for Sport and the Arts
PO Box 20
Liverpool L9 6EA
Tel: 0151 524 0235

Local Authorities

Check with your local authority or local education authority for help with funding courses.

Find out if there is a local sports forum (usually call a sports council, but nothing to do with the central government funded Sports Council). If there is, they may be able to help with small grants. To find out if there is such a local sports council in your area, contact your local authority recreation / leisure department.

There are no charitable trusts and foundations which specifically fund sports. However, you may be able to approach a trust / foundation appropriate to your particular needs, eg the Prince's Trust funds young people.

The following publication is a standard reference work which should be available in a large public library.

Charities Aid Foundation
Director of Grant-making Trusts 1993
Tonbridge: CAF Publications Ltd; 1993

Charities Aid Foundation
48 Pembury Road
Tonbridge
Kent TN9 2JD

Details are given of the objectives of each trust, finances, types of grant and type of beneficiary.

Guides to major trust are also available from the Directory of Social



5. Give the remaining money to your club treasurer.

If every player on your team does one card a week, at his place or work or in the local pub, then that's nearly £10 income a week from every player.

Why not let players use the cards to raise their 1995 player registration fees.

Alternatively, why not do one each week at your game and raise the money to pay your umpire and scorer?

Good luck with your fund-raising.

Change.

You may have to make several applications to different trusts, but it's worth persisting!

BBF SCRATCH CARDS

Enclosed with this month's Brit-Ball you will find a free sample of a BBF Scratch-card.

These are available from Head Office at a price of 30p per card (cheques should be made payable to the BBF).

For those of you who have not seen these cards before, raising money is easy. All you have to do is:

1. Decide on how much you wish to charge per square, and how much you will give as a prize.
2. Ask players, spectators, friends to choose a name and buy a square.
3. When all the boxes are full, rub the silver with a coin to reveal the winner.
4. Give the prize money to the winner (eg £5 if you've charged 50p a square).

COMIC RELIEF

BE A SPORT - get your kit on for Comic Relief!

Red Nose Day is closer than you think! March 17 1995 is the Big Day and we hope you'll lend a hand to making this Red Nose Day the biggest and the best yet!

Last Red Nose Day was a great success - and a large part of that success was due to the amazing feats performed by the sports community. Our mission again is to reach every person in the UK who regularly (or irregularly!) take part in sport to encourage them to take part in Red Nose Day 1995, to GET FIT, HAVE FUN AND RAISE LOADS OF LOVELY CASH for very, very important causes.

We are asking all you wonderful sports associations and governing bodies to support Comic Relief by inviting all your members and staff to take part in Red Nose Day 1995. Now is the time

to go out and spread the word and make sure that all the clubs, teams and individuals who are members of your association go out and HAVE FUN FUNdrasing for Comic Relief.

All the wonderfully creative brains here at Comic Relief have been locked together in the Creative Room formulating challenges for the Sports industry and have come up with a few daring and innovative ideas. These will be available in our absolutely splendid, totally FREE, amazingly entertaining FUNDRAISING PACK. All you have to do is:

Send a A4 SAE with 2 first class stamps to DEBBIE ADAMS, Room D115, BBC Sulgrave House, 1 Woodger Road, London, W12 8QT.

But, in the meantime, we're sure that you can come up with something even more exhilarating. So put your thinking caps on NOW and start thinking up the best challenge for your members and come up with something totally AMAZING that will motivate every single person who plays your sport! Or, you can take the easy way and encourage each separate county and regional team to send in for the pack and let them do the work!!

Comic Relief could not work without the help of people like yourselves. We are counting on your support. If you need any further information, please don't hesitate to contact me- and don't forget to let us know of any totally zany fundraising activities you hear of.

With kind regards
Theresa Kelly
Fundraiser, Schools and Sports

PS: Don't forget to get your FREE fundraising pack. But, just to get you going, here's a sneak preview of some of those challenges.....

The Great Red Ball Challenge
All ball sports should sport red balls.
The War of the Noses
Any competitive event between two sides - what you're warring about is your business!
Obstacle Courses
It's A Knockout / Gladiators / Superstars style.
The Silly Sport Swop
Play cricket dressed in your aerobics gear, rugby in your swimsuit, yoga in your football gear.
Sf Patrick's Palaver
For those who insist that 17 March has other connotations apart from Red Nose Day! - Do anything crazy wearing a red nose and dressed as a leprechaun

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Time Out

Check out the all new Coaches Watch from the B.B.F.



British Baseball Federation

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1995 SCORERS CLINICS REGISTRATION FORM

The objective of the clinics is to establish the skills of new scorers and refine those skills which the experienced scorer may already possess. Individuals attending the clinic should have a basic knowledge of the rules of the game, as well as the willingness to learn and build on the information and techniques taught in both a classroom and practical environment.

Please read the article "What is Scoring About and Where is it Going?" in the December edition of Brit-Ball. Let us know your comments, and try to attend one of the clinics to be held pre-season.

Each BBF registered team **MUST** send someone on one of these courses. Courses are to be held as follows:

SOUTH	Sunday 29 January 1995	12 noon - 4.30pm
	Ministry of Defence, Civilian Staff Restaurant Elmwood Avenue, Feltham, Middlesex	
NORTH	Saturday 18 March 1995	12 noon - 4.30pm
	John Smeaton Sports Centre, Smeaton Approach Barwick Road, Leeds	
MIDLANDS	Saturday 25 March 1995	12 noon - 4.30pm
	BBF Indoor Training Centre, Mill Street, Astron, Birmingham	
SCOTLAND	Saturday 1 April 1995	12 noon - 4.30pm
	Alyth Town Hall, Alyth, Scotland	

I would like to participate in the 1995 Scorers Clinic to be held in

NORTH / MIDLANDS / SOUTH / SCOTLAND*

* Delete as applicable

Name:			
Address:			
		Postcode:	
Telephone No:		Date of Birth:	
Baseball Team (if applicable):			
I enclose £2.50 registration fee for the clinic			
All cheques should be made payable to the British Baseball Federation			

Return this form and money to : 1995 Scorers Clinic
British Baseball Federation
66 Belvedere Road, Hessele, North Humberside, HU13 9JJ

Congratulations

to Gary and Andrea Mortimer on the birth of their son Liam on Sunday 17 December, brother for Andrew. Apparently being a typical umpire, it was a bit of a close call!



Dear Sirs

In the promotion of our sport, I have the pleasure in inviting you to participate in our premier international baseball and softball tournament in Laon on Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 May 1995.

We are hoping for the participation of a number of foreign teams; we need teams to arrive on Wednesday 10 May and leave on whatever date necessary.

The participants will be able to camp in tents at the baseball stadium and will

pay a charge for each club. You are also required to bring a scorer and an umpire if necessary.



It will be a great pleasure if we could meet you at our tournament for the promotion of baseball and softball and I hope to hear from you soon.

Regards
Daniel Quin
President of Baseball Club Laon
7 Rue des Alouettes, 02000 Laon,
France
Tel: 010 33 23 20 17 83
Fax: 010 33 23 79 54 23

Dear Mr Herbert

I hope this letter finds you well and having had a great year. Here at People-to-People Sports, we have had the most successful of our 38 years in promoting international friendship and goodwill through sports.

I would like to inquire about the possibility of People-to-People Sports sending American baseball teams to the United Kingdom in 1995. What opportunities (tournaments, tours friendly games) do you have for our teams? What costs would our team need to cover for their trip? Also please inform me of the best time for our teams to visit (youth, high school and college).

Thank you in advance for your cooperation. We look forward to hearing from you and to seeing wonderful opportunity come together.

Sincerely
Sean Rivers
Program Coordinator
People-to-People Sports Comm
inc
80 Cutter Mill Road, Great Neck,
York 11021
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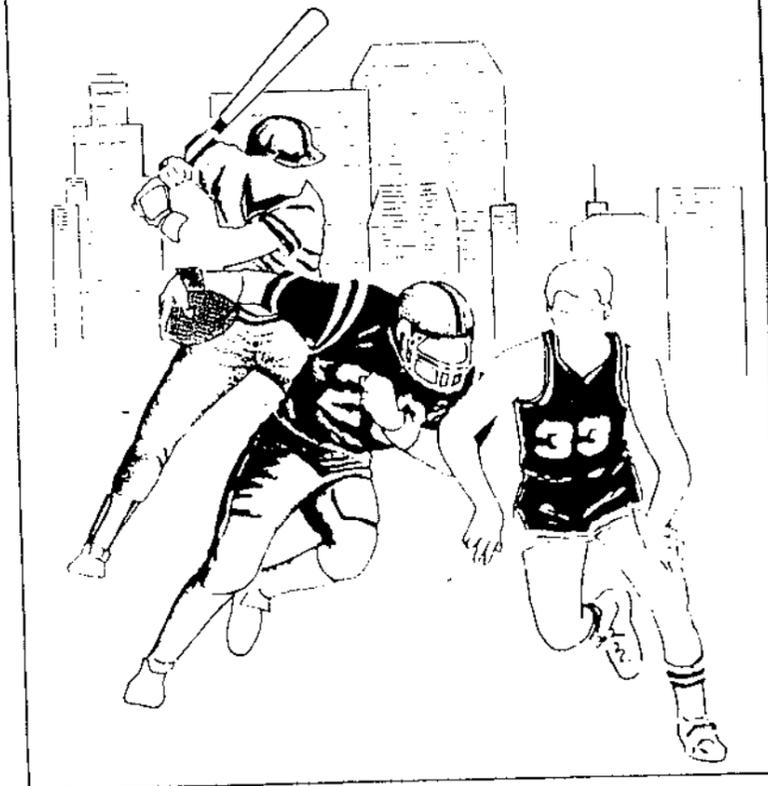


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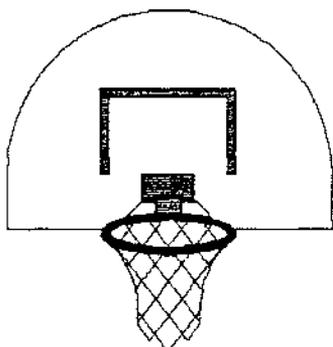
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