

BRIT BALL

The Official Voice of the British Baseball Federation

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British Baseball Federation

**The Official Voice
of the
British Baseball
Federation**

**Issue No 24
May 1995
75p**

RAISING THE STANDARD

In this month's issue there are a number of articles that will hopefully spark a debate on the way the game will develop in the UK over the coming years.

I will be interested to receive views on Frank Scherer's article on umpire fees which I think is a way we must look toward if we are to act more professionally. The first game reports and statistics are inside and can I remind teams to phone their results in and send your scoresheets to the relevant statistician so that we can ensure the statistics are correct.

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in British Baseball, call the
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49p per minute peak time.**

Registrations are also mentioned in this issue and as you will read in the article it will no longer be acceptable to send them last minute. After last years problems teams should be receiving their rosters within a week of posting them to us but I am sure you will agree that leaving them until the last minute and expecting the players to be able to play is unfair to us so please abide by the details inside.

The Major League Baseball Envoys have started to arrive in the country again and for those teams who are hosting one of them I can assure you that you will have a summer you will not forget if my experience from last year is anything to go by. Without MLB's continued support the game would not be developing and increasing in popularity as it has done over the last year.

In next month's issue we will hopefully be announcing the date for next years MLB/BBF Coaching Clinic as well as a Cadet Camp this summer. The Coaching Clinic will again be held at Cranfield and we will be looking at ways for you to spread the cost at what will be the best clinic yet following last years success.

And finally I would like to apologise for the lateness of this issue. For those of you that don't know Wendy had a baby girl Rachael Jemma on 21 April weighing 7lb 2oz and try as I might to get her to take the PC into hospital she refused!

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The Skills of the Game: Baseball & Softball by Ian Smyth

Crowood Press 1995

First of all don't let the simple title fool you. This book has a lot to offer players and coaches alike. A short history precedes the section "Introduction to the Game of baseball" which covers all of the disciplines of hitting, baserunning, throwing, pitching and fielding. Photographs compliment the text nicely, especially on the section "Throwing and Catching" where the text is a little confusing.

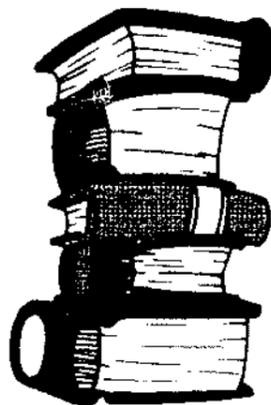
Included in each chapter is a set of drills (with advice on equipment) to help understand the intricacies of the game, and maximise technique. Following this is "Teamplay" which sorts out once and for all who has authority over who whilst fielding, and should dispel those "it was your ball" arguments that tend to rise now and then.

As well as all of the above, the coach can benefit from hints on communication, teaching, strategy and most importantly working with the players, plus a great section on practise organisation. Conditioning of the body is dealt with excellently with warm-up routines, weights, and general fitness covered. The emphasis is on avoiding injury, as it is throughout the whole book.

Finally, for those considering branching out there is a section of Softball, explaining the difference between fast-pitch, slow-pitch and its sister game of baseball. Rounding off with a glossary (so you can understand what your coach is babbling about) ends a fine book.

In short if you are just stepping out on the diamond, whether player or coach, get it.

Review by Delziel J Cook



1995 REGISTRATION PROCESS

Many of you out there seem to be having the same problems as 'Confused of Hounslow' when registering your players. Below are a few more guidelines to assist you.

1. Please do not send your 1995 roster back when registering additional players. If a new roster is not returned to you by the next weekend you will need it for your game. A copy of every roster is kept in your file at Head Office, so we know who you have registered already.

2. Please use the appropriate form (BBF 689) when registering a new player. It makes our life a lot easier. If you require more forms, please feel free to photocopy one, or just give us a call and we will put more in the post.

3. A player is classed as "under 18" for the 1995 season if they are

born in 1977 or later, and therefore only required to pay £10 registration fee.

4. Please remember that a player who is "under 16", ie born in 1980 or later, requires a letter of consent from their parent / guardian, confirming that they have their permission to play senior baseball.

5. **With effect from 1 June 1995, if you wish to register a new player, then their details and the appropriate fee should be received by Head Office by the Wednesday prior to the Sunday you wish them to play on. This will ensure that we have time to update your roster and return it to you before your game.**

Umpires and Scorers

For those of you who have not done so already, please don't forget to register your umpire and scorer. These year each registered official is receiving a 1995 Sporting News Rule Book, so if you want them to be well informed and up to date REGISTER!

Umpire and Coach Game Day Reports

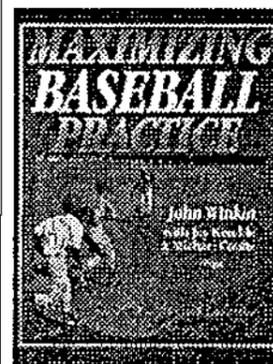
Hopefully you are all making use of the coach and umpire game day reports each week. If you require more of the forms, then please feel free to photocopy more, or ring head office and we will put more in the post. Try to encourage your coaches and umpires to use these forms, it's the only way we can look to improve our standards. If you don't let anyone know what you think, how can you expect us to improve things.

Umpires Coordinator

Unfortunately our Southern Conference Umpires Commissioner, Dick Coombes is unwell at the moment and we send him all our best wishes for a speedy recovery.

In the interim, if you require details of an umpire for your game, please contact your Conference Commissioner, ie for National Premier League teams Gerry Walmsley on 01954 782495 and for all other teams in the Southern Conference Sharron Bonfield on 01442 240259.

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An Umpire's View of the Way Forward

Having just returned home from my second week of games this season, I figured I'd put a few thoughts on paper to run by you.

I've come to realise how awkward it is to have to chase down coaches, or have them chase after me to pay me each week for calling their games. I don't think it is good practice to have such an open exchange of money before or after games.

At Menwith Hill, after every game I sign a payment sheet denoting my participation in that day's game. It is a simple form with date, teams and fee along with my signature. This means that at the end of the month I receive a check for the games I have worked without money exchanging hands on the ballfield.

After today's game I am asked the same question as I am asked every week, 'How much do I owe you?'. My understanding is £15 for single games and £20 for doubleheaders. I believe that mileage is 15p per mile. This worked out at £40 each plus £18 mileage. We took £50 as they had trouble getting that up however I feel very self-conscious asking for the money even though I am entitled to it.

Therefore, I have a proposal which I would like to hear team's views on. In addition to the affiliation fee that teams pay at the start of the season, the expected fees for officials are included. Therefore for ten home single games a club would pay 10 x £15 x 2 officials = £300.

This would be paid along with the registration fee prior to the start of the season or in instalments if teams needed to. After each game the officials would sign the score sheet and a copy would be sent to Head

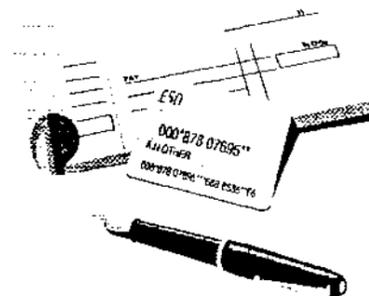
Office and the Umpires Commissioner who would keep a track of officials used for each game. At the end of the month the Commissioner would send an expense sheet to the Head Office and not have to chase the coaches for payment. This would standardise the payment of officials as well.

As for the fees I think the current fee is not enough for Premier League Officials. There is no incentive to improve and therefore I propose a tiered method of payment. Premier League Officials should be paid more than Division one or Division Two Officials. Doubleheaders should count as two games since they are two games. Payment should commensurate with ability and seniority at that level. A proven Premier League Official should be paid £25 for plate work and £20 game for base umpiring. This cost can be computed into the registration fee at the start of the season. The Game Day and Umpire reports can help in determining the calibre of the officials that we have. Division One and Two Officials will be paid a lesser fee so the motivational factor to improve and move up into the Premier League is

in the quality of play these past two seasons that I have been associated with, then the calibre of officiating has to grow in proportion. The play seems to be improving but the officiating isn't. Attendance at the clinics is an indication of that. At the AGM it was mentioned that 'we should pay officials more money that will get them out to games'. True statement. However just by paying officials more money does not indicate the officials will be better qualified. Make clinic attendance mandatory to receive payment. That's mandatory for everyone not just some of them.

Manuals and guide books can be produced from some of the clinic material that was produced as a working guide to officiating. Pro-rate the payment of officials. This will give the officials something to aim for, not only better pay but a chance to connect with CEB and work tournaments in Europe, and work the NPL Championships at the end of the season. There are many opportunities they just need to be made known to all working officials.

I look forward to hearing teams views on my proposals.



Frank Scherer
 Northern Conference
 Umpires Commissioner

heightened. All officials must attend an umpire's clinic each season to keep up with rule changes and to let the Commissioners know just who is available. Attendance at the clinic is mandatory if the official is to be paid for his work. Officials who come in after the season has started can be dealt with on a case by case basis.

If at the end of the season a team has overpaid then the money can be carried forward to the next season's registration and where they have underpaid then an invoice will be sent to the team.

If British Baseball is to grow and it has

APRIL 1995 RESULTS

9 April

NATIONAL PREMIER LEAGUE NORTH

Birmingham Braves 1 Humberside Mets 12
Humberside Mets pitcher Gavin Marshall notched up his first win of the season striking out eight as last years champions started their 1995 campaign in the right vein. Mets Neil Read hit a grand slam home run with five RBI's and team mate Mark Vickers hit a two run shot as they ran out 12-1 victors.

Menwith Hill Pirates 27 Leeds City Royals 4
Elsewhere in the north, Menwith Hill Pirates trounced Leeds City Royals 27-4, with Pirates Matt Arridit taking the win on the mound. Jerry Foreman homered for Menwith.

Nottingham Hornets 9 Humberside Warriors 0
Nottingham also comfortably cruised past Hull Warriors 9-0.

NATIONAL PREMIER LEAGUE SOUTH

Hounslow Rangers 8 Brighton Buccaneers 3
Hounslow's Don Knight took his first win against Brighton's Andy Wilson with Rangers Paul Bullock homering to lead Hounslow to an 8-3 victory.

London Warriors 5 Essex Arrows 7
Essex Arrows had five straight hits in the first inning scoring five runs off London Warriors pitcher Alan Smith to win 7-5. The highlight of these was a double by Si Bowden which bounced off the home run fence and back into the park. Kevin Pickston started for the Arrows working four innings

and yielding three runs before Si Bowden pitched five innings giving up one run, three hits and striking out eight to take the win.

Hemel Red Sox 21 Crawley Comets 4
Hemel Red Sox had their own home run derby as they crushed Crawley Comets 21-4. Mark Beresford took the win on the mound as Red Sox's Sean Ozolins homered twice and Stu Miller and Stuart Boast also hit one out.

Bristol Black Sox 4 Enfield Spartans 15
Bristol Black Sox started their season in the same vein as last year as they went down at home to Enfield Spartans. Spartan's Julian Fountain took the victory.

16 April

NATIONAL PREMIER LEAGUE - NORTH

Humberside Warriors 22 Birmingham Braves 18
It's not often you can pitch a game give up four home runs and still win, but that is just what Hull Warriors Graham Turner did as his team outslugged the Birmingham Braves in the first game of a doubleheader in Hull.

Warriors Darren Cross went 2 for 2 with two runs and five RBIS whilst team-mates Russ Mercer had five RBIS and Chris Foster and Andy Urry scored four runs apiece.

Braves hitters were also on good form with a two home runs from Paul Simons and one apiece from Jim Moran and Jim Murphy but this was not enough as first Braves Joey Yamold then Shaun Shears tried to stem the flow of Warriors runs.

Warriors Chris Foster retired the last three Braves to give Warriors their first victory of the season.

Humberside Warriors 3 Birmingham Braves 19
Braves Martyn Dutton started the second game and pitched well to record his first victory of the season as the Braves cruised to a 19-3 victory.

Nottingham Hornets 9 Leeds City Royals 0
Nottingham Hornets shut-out Leeds City Royals to notch up a 9-0 victory.

NATIONAL PREMIER LEAGUE - SOUTH

Essex Arrows 12 Hemel Red Sox 16
Hemel Red Sox came out on top in a game which both sides failed to dominate. Mark Beresford took the win for the Red Sox with Scott Miller taking the save. For Hemel, Stuart Boast went 4 for 5 with a double, Duncan Cameron went 3 for 5 with 3 rbis, Mark Beresford went 3 for 4 and Alun Stuffins went 3 for 5.

Enfield Spartans 5 London Warriors 0
Julien Fountain notched up his second win of the season for Enfield as he shutout the London Warriors 5-0.

Spartan's Jason Hornett sparked the team into action with a double and Oscar Marcellino also assisted driving in a couple of runs to keep Enfield at the top of the league.

Hounslow Rangers 9 Bristol Black Sox 0
Hounslow closed down Bristol 9-0 to keep things tight at the top.

23 April

NATIONAL PREMIER LEAGUE NORTH

Humberside Mets 14 Humberside Warriors 1
Gavin Marshall pitched a seven inning no-hitter today striking out six and giving up only one walk to keep Humberside Mets at the top of the National Premier League North. Mets once again proved to be a force to be reckoned with and it will be a surprise if they lose a game this season so strong is their team. Mark Vickers went 4 for 5 with four runs whilst Simon Radge went 2 for 5 with two runs as they brushed aside Humberside Warriors 14-1.

Birmingham Braves 8 Leeds City Royals 10
Leeds City Royals notched up a surprise away victory against Birmingham Braves winning 10-8.

Nottingham Hornets 5 Liverpool Trojans 9
Nottingham Hornets were narrowly beaten 9-5 by Liverpool Trojans with Martin Godsall recording his first victory of the season.

NATIONAL PREMIER LEAGUE SOUTH

Brighton Buccaneers 14 Essex Arrows 5
Brighton's Nick Carter pitched a complete game giving up five hits and striking out thirteen to record a Bucs victory over the Arrows 14-5. Carter also had three hits, scored three runs and stole three bases. Paul Raybould took the loss for Essex.

Hounslow Rangers 9 Crawley Comets 0
Hounslow defeated Crawley Comets 9-0.

Hemel Red Sox 9 Enfield Spartans 15
Iain Lanario kept the Enfield Spartans at the top of the National Premier League South and continued their 100% record as they squeezed past Hemel Red Sox winning 15-9.

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Bristol Black Sox 2 London Warriors 19
 Bristol Black Sox felt the backlash of poor results from London Warriors as they were crushed 19-2 by good Warriors hitting. Cody Cain pitched four innings striking out twelve and also homered the first time up to bat.

30 April

NATIONAL PREMIER LEAGUE - NORTH

Leeds City Royals 0 Humberside Mets 7
Leeds City Royals 7 Humberside Mets 17
 Met's Ray Brownlie took the win in game one of a doubleheader against Leeds with Mike Stephenson taking the win in game two to keep Humberside firmly at the top of the National Premier League and maintain their 100% record.

Liverpool Trojans 8 Birmingham Braves 6
Liverpool Trojans 8 Birmingham Braves 5
 Martin Godsall notched up two more victories to take his win-loss record to 3-0 as Liverpool Trojans swept the Birmingham Braves in a double-header to move the Trojans into second place.

Menwith Hill Pirates 6 Nottingham Hornets 1
 Gary Abbott and Matthew Arrildt combined for a two-hitter for the Pirates as they beat the Nottingham Hornets 6-1. The two pitchers struck out eleven between them with Arrildt eventually taking the win. Losing pitcher for Nottingham was Steve Smith. Offensively Gary Abbott for the Pirates went 2 for 2 with a double and an rbi.

NATIONAL PREMIER LEAGUE - SOUTH

Essex Arrows 6 Hounslow Rangers 10
 In the NPL South, Hounslow Rangers ran out 10-6 victors over Essex Arrows inflicting the Arrows third straight defeat. The Rangers jumped to a 7-1 lead after the third inning owing to fielding errors by Essex. Don Knight took the win for the Arrows going the distance and striking out six whilst Arrows veteran Paul Raybould took the loss also going the distance.

London Warriors 18 Hemel Red Sox 5
 The only other game to take place in the south this weekend resulted in an 18-5 victory to London Warriors who appear to have bounced back after a poor start.

NORTHERN CONFERENCE DIVISION ONE - SCOTLAND

The season got underway in Scotland this weekend with last year's league champions and runners up clashing in the first game.
Dundee Dodgers 9 Glasgow Comets 20
 The Glasgow Comets ran out eventual winners by 20-9 starting their 1995 campaign off well.

Edinburgh Reivers 17 East Coast Pirates 5

Elsewhere, the Edinburgh Reivers beat the league newcomers East Coast Pirates convincingly by 17-5 with Keith Graham taking the win and going 2 for 3 with the bat. Reiver's Callum Craig also went 2 for 2 with 3 rbis.

West Lothian Wildcats 0 Tayside Cobras 9

SOUTHERN CONFERENCE DIVISION ONE

Cambridge Monarchs 19 Arun Panthers 2
 Arun Panthers had no reply to the sheer power of Cambridge as the Monarchs took revenge over last years defeat crushing the Panthers 19-2.

Hounslow Hawks 0 Droitwich Spa-Tans 9

London Wolves 9 Croydon Pirates 5
London Wolves 24 Croydon Pirates 14
 London Wolves extended their lead at the top of Division One when they beat local rivals Croydon Pirates twice in a double header. In game one Shane Bursai took the win for the Wolves striking out nine whilst Pirates Darrin Ward took the loss. London's Neil Macleod went 3 for 3 with a triple and two rbis whilst Croydon's Harvey Sahker went 3 for 3. In game two Mark Meeny took the win for London with Neil Macleod again hitting well going 3 for 6 with a double and three rbis. For the Pirates Darrin Ward went 2 for 3 including a home run whilst Pirates Pete Van Olinda took the loss.

City Slick Sidewinders 16 Tonbridge Bobcats 8
 Will Beglane notched up his second victory of the season as City Slick Sidewinders beat the Tonbridge Bobcats 16-8.

Stevenage Knights 1 Tunbridge Wells Royals 24
 Elsewhere, Stevenage Knights were heavily defeated by Tunbridge Wells Royals 24-1.

Bournemouth B's 11 Gloster Meteors 10
 Both Bournemouth and Gloster battled hard over ten innings with the B's coming out on top when Phil Midgeley bunted home the winning run to end the game. John Troutwine took the win for Bournemouth with Nathan Blankford taking the save.

SOUTHERN CONFERENCE DIVISION TWO

Chichester Kyotes 2 Caterham A's 26

Milton Keynes Truckers 14 Tiptree Rays 25

Lashings Sluggers 15 Burgess Hill Red Hats 9

Lashings Sluggers capitalised on Red Hats errors in the seventh inning to pull away and run out 15-9 winners with Mark tyran taking the win after going the distance.

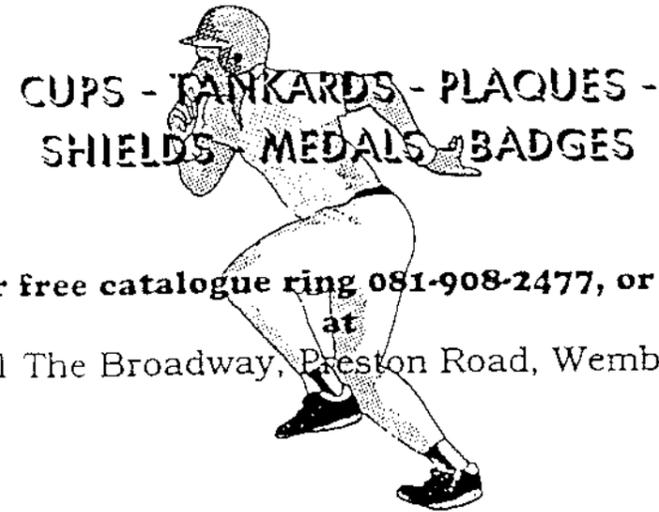
Bracknell Blazers 10 Gillingham Dodgers 29

If you're wondering why your team has not had any commentary on their game printed, then perhaps it's because you didn't leave any information. Look in the BBF Handbook for further details.

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League Leaders

National Premier League Statistics

Batting

Scott Miller (Red Sox)	0.600
Mark Vickers (Mets)	0.600
Duncan Cameron (Red Sox)	0.571

Runs

Scott Miller (Red Sox)	9
Duncan Cameron (Red Sox)	8
Geoff Hare (Red Sox)	7

Hits

Duncan Cameron (Red Sox)	8
Mark Vickers (Mets)	6
Stuart Boast (Red Sox)	6

Doubles

Gavin Keffert (Buccaneers)	3
Five players tied on 2	

Triples

Four players tied on 1	
------------------------	--

Home Runs

Sean Ozolins (Red Sox)	2
Six players tied on 1	

RBI's

Sean Ozolins (Red Sox)	7
Duncan Cameron (Red Sox)	7
Two players tied on 6	

Stolen Bases

Louis Cammarosano (Arrows)	6
Chris Christoforou (Arrows)	5
Mark Beresford (Red Sox)	4

Innings Pitched

Alan Smith (Warriors)	13.1
Mark Beresford (Red Sox)	12.1
Gavin Marshall (Mets)	11

Base On Balls

Mark Beresford (Red Sox)	17
Seth Volk (Arrows)	12
Scott Miller (Red Sox)	8

Strikeouts

Martin Godsall (Trojans)	16
Three players tied on 13	

Wins

Gavin Marshall (Mets)	2
Mark Beresford (Red Sox)	2

ERA (min. 9 innings)

Gavin Marshall (Mets)	0.00
Don Knight (Rangers)	0.00
Martin Godsall (Trojans)	2.00

BBF LEAGUE STANDINGS AS AT 30 APRIL 1995

BBF NATIONAL PREMIER LEAGUE - NORTH

	WINS	LOSSES	GAMES BACK
Humberside Mets	4	0	
Liverpool Trojans	3	0	0.5
Menwith Hill Pirates	2	0	1
Nottingham Hornets	2	2	2
Humberside Warriors	1	3	3
Leeds City Royals	1	4	3.5
Birmingham Braves	1	5	4

BBF NATIONAL PREMIER LEAGUE - SOUTH

	WINS	LOSSES	GAMES BACK
Enfield Spartans	3	0	
Hounslow Rangers	2	0	0.5
Brighton Buccaneers	1	0	1
London Warriors	2	2	1.5
Hemel Red Sox	1	2	2
Essex Arrows	1	3	2.5
Bristol Black Sox	0	3	3

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Pre-season Construction of the Pitchers Mound

This is probably your number one priority item when 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.

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 wind up. If you mound area is a full 18" diameter when 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 doubleheader. 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.

One man assigned to the field with the proper training, equipment and necessary supplies can do an admirable job with the facility in a short period of time. There isn't a college instructor, a star shortstop or an assistant coach who is going to do a super job without some equipment and guidance. Keep that in mind as you communicate with your grounds personnel and supervisors about their daily tasks.

Floyd Perry



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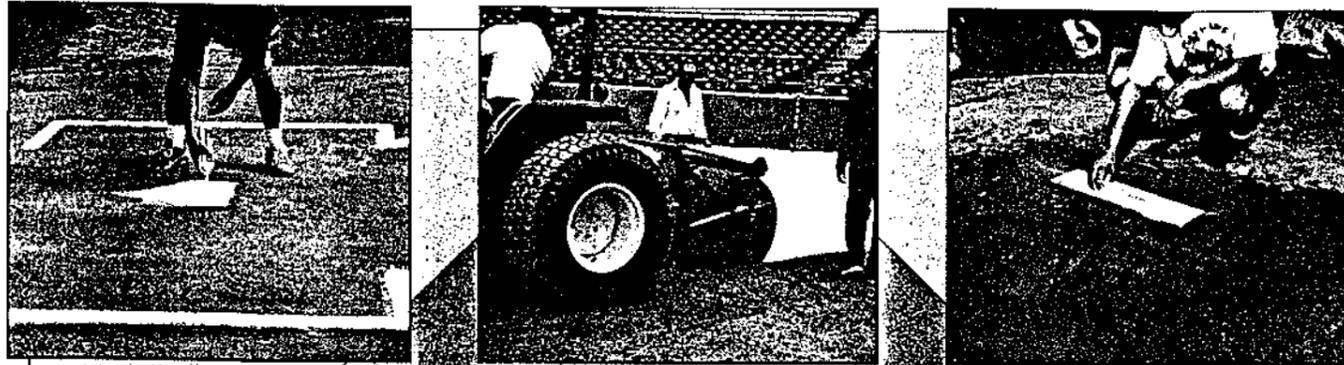
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Dear Sir

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My address is as follows: 14411 NE 10th PL, Bellevue, Washington, 98007, USA or before September: Na valich 662, 440 01 Louny, Czech Republic.

Yours sincerely

Eric Jacques
Major League Baseball International
Coach

Dear Sir

On Saturday 3 and Sunday 4 June we will be organising the first American Sports Weekend in Offenbach am Main, which is located next to Frankfurt am Main in Germany.

The highlight of this weekend will be the game of MLB veterans versus the German National team. Additionally there will be a hitting clinic with the MLB veterans, starting Saturday morning and a players party in Frankfurt's Champion Sports bar/restaurant Saturday night.

If any body would like to attend this event please call us on 0049 6172 30 42 36 or 0049 69 97 12 08 24.

Yours sincerely

Torsten Waack

Dear Kevin

I am writing to you on the matter of the Umpires and Scorers clinics held in Scotland. On Saturday 28 and Sunday 29 March a member of every club in Scotland should have been present at the Umpires Clinic in Aylth. I am sad to say there was a dismal attendance at this clinic, players and an umpire from the Tayside Cobras, 4 people in total, and a representative from East Coast Pirates were the only people present. I thought it was compulsory for all teams to send at least one umpire to the clinic, this was not the case. I am appalled at the attitude of the other teams in Scotland

who just did not bother. They complained at the annual meeting that the BBF never do enough for Scotland then when they do organise a course, people fail to turn up. I must apologise to Frank Scherer for the lame attitude of the other teams in Scotland. The people that went on the course found it very interesting and an invaluable source of knowledge and information. I would recommend that all managers as well as perspective umpires should go on this course. This would stop all the bullshit between managers about arguing over rules that are wrong or do not exist. It would also give credibility to so called umpires up here that do not know the rules properly, it would give them the knowledge and the ability to conduct themselves properly in a game, so that they are not the deciding factor on the outcome of the game instead of the two teams. All I can say is that the people who should have attended and did not are the losers.

Andrew Baird
Manager, Tayside Cobras

Dear Kevin

Spring has sprung so once again we at the Freescreen team are bounding into action and reminding you about the free service that the programme offers. Freescreens Fun and Games section is there for sports clubs to publicise what they're up to.

So please keep encouraging your clubs to send us details about their forthcoming fixtures and events.

Yours

Sarah Bampton
Producer Freescreen
PO Box 550 Southampton SO14 0HQ

Dear Kevin

I feel moved to write to thank the BBF for arranging the recent series of Scoring Clinics in the North of England. Whether the membership of the BBF deserve this support is another matter. I was personally disgusted at the level of support from the majority of clubs. At Leeds we had representatives from five clubs and at

Birmingham three clubs were represented. As you know the Scottish Clinic was cancelled because there was only one club showing an interest.

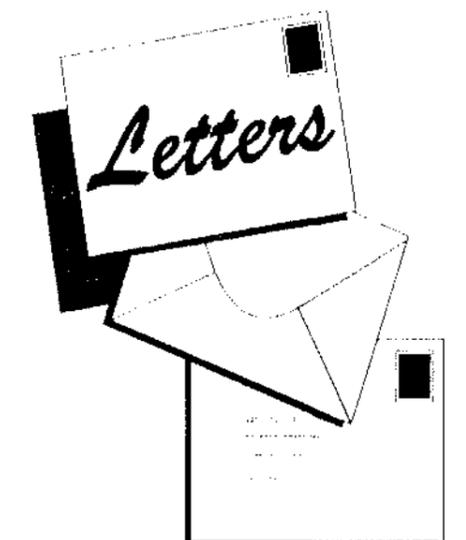
It doesn't take a genius to work out that only eight clubs from the North of the UK could be bothered to send representatives to an event which was advertised as being mandatory for all clubs.

It will be interesting to see which clubs start to complain that their stats do not get published this season. The obvious answer to them will be you need a trained scorer to get your stats accepted and the players need to ensure that their clubs send along representatives to training events organised by the BBF. The argument that they are a new club only just starting and concentrating on the playing side will not wash since 25% of the clubs represented were new clubs for the 1995 season. This of course means that only six of the established clubs in the North of the country were sufficiently well organised to get a representative to any of the clinics offered. If this is the currently level of organisation of our clubs the game is in a bad state.

Yours sincerely

Yours sincerely

Clive Maude
Northern Conference Statistician





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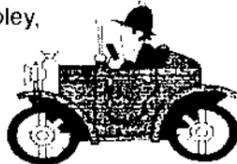
WE'RE MOVING

Please note the following changes of address in your 1995 BBF Handbook

Marketing Director
Keith Peskett
113-117 Farringdon Road, London, EC1R 3DQ
Tel: 0171 837 5100 Fax: 0171 837 2819

Chichester Kyotes
Steve Sinclair
57 Oving Road, Chichester,
West Sussex, PO19 4EN
Tel: 01243 774633

Hounslow Hawks
Earl Dix
38 Station Approach, Wembley,
Middlesex, HA0 2LA
Tel: 0181 903 7087



Leeds City Royals
have moved ground to:
John Smeaton Sports Centre
Smeaton Approach, Leeds, LS15 8TA

London Warriors
1st contact has changed to:
Alan Smith
110 Bamsbury Road, London, N1 0ES
Tel: 0171 278 8706

OLD TIMERS
BASEBALL
CLUB

March - April 1995

The club has played 5 games so far this season and to date have won 3 and lost 2.

The first game of the season was at Enfield against the Premier Division team Enfield Spartans. There were two hits in this game for the Old Timers both singles by John Thomas and Peter Crook but no runs were scored. The final score was Enfield 11 Old Timers 0. The pitchers were Neil Vanstone and George Simmons.

The second game was against the Guildford Mudcats and they managed to have a total of 19 hits with a score of 39-4. The winning pitcher was George Simmons credited with 8 strike outs. A special work of thanks to Malcolm Barwick and his 'Merry Men' for the work they had done on the ground and backstop and for the netting and rope provided by Peter Crook.

The third game took place on 1 April were Eastbourne Mariners were the visitors, and a score of 37-4 resulted. George pitched 5 innings and had 4 strike outs, while John Thomas managed 2. There were 19 hits in the game with John O'Grady having the most with 4 singles.

On 8 April the fourth game against Totteridge Trailblazers took place a Kneller Hall, were the final score was 8-4. Hits came from Pete Crook and John Thomas with 2 a piece while Bob Winning and Geoff Rogers provided 2 singles at appropriate moments. Neil pitched a very good game and 15 strike outs were credited to him.

Stevenage Knights were the visitors on 15 April and a very good game at the beginning but it was tied in the 9th innings when a series of errors brought in 7 runs for Stevenage which levelled the score at 12 all. 2 further runs were scored by them in the top of

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the tenth. The Old Timers were to score nothing in their final innings, and the game was lost 12-14. There were to total of 11 hits by the Old Timers, Oliver Everett had 3 singles, George had 1 double, 1 single, John O'Grady 2 singles, John Thomas, Geoff and Pete had a single a piece. Oliver played 3rd base and made some very good plays in this position.

A special thank you must go to John Domin our own umpire for maintaining a cool and calm approach in the games as he had to put up with a lot of stick from several sources. All I would like to say to him is consistency is what it is all about.

Barry Mayfield
Old Timers Association

COMPETITION
CORNER
SNIFFERDOG

(Devised by Will Cosgrave)

The manager of the Downhill Ducks is tired of losing so many foul balls to "nature". He decides to offer his players a can of Old Nutblower for every lost ball found after the next home game.

Now try to see how many lost balls you can find within half an hour.

1. _ R _ E
2. _ U _ H
3. _ R _ S _
4. _ I _ E _
5. _ E _ G _
6. _ U _ L _
7. _ E _ T _ E _
8. _ H _ C _ E _
9. _ R _ M _ L _ S
10. _ N _ E _ G _ O _ T _

ATTENTION

The second annual Groundskeepers Management Academy will begin its 1995 schedule. The three site series will kick off at Millinton, TN, home of the USA Baseball Team July 18-22. The four day educational workshop will feature twelve hours of classroom instruction and twenty hours "hands on" groundskeeping experiences along with maintaining the field for the US / Japan four game series.

"We had a tremendous working opportunity at our '94 Academy and this year's session will offer more opportunities for Academy participants", stated Floyd Perry, Academy Director.

Call 0101 407 351 9381 for additional information and details.



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*This is Speedy Dan again (He's an FBI man). Speedy has got it wrong. Look at the Picture on the left and see if you can find out what Speedy is doing incorrectly. All you have to do is **WRITE** your answers on a Post Card only, to FBI and the first ten names drawn will win a pair of wrist bands. Telephone entries will not be accepted.*

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