

BRIT BALL

The Official Voice of the British Baseball Federation

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BRIT



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British Baseball Federation

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

**Issue No 27
August 1995
75p**

RALPH RAGO

Ralph Rago has recently been appointed as Development Officer for Great Britain by the BBF and MLBI. This contract will initially run for three years. Ralph has been an MLBI envoy for the past three years, working all over Britain. Ralph has been coaching at the University of California at Davis for eight years, and was a high school coach for more years than he can remember before that. Ralph also played college and professional baseball.

Ralph will work in two main areas:

1. National Teams Programme → working with the junior and senior national teams, cadet programme, and with the national team coaches at all levels. The aim of the National Programme is for the seniors to be promoted to the CEB A Pool next year, and to stay there in subsequent years. Ralph will be spearheading this campaign.
2. Coach Education Programme - essentially

increasing the number and quality of coaches. Developing services for coaches and resources.

In essence Ralph has a great deal of work to do. Given the support of the Federation, his task will be made easier, and the benefits of his experience will be reaped.

Ralph is based in Leeds, however he intends to get around the country visiting players and coaches. If you need his help, want clinics for your players and or coaches, contact Head Office. Details of any coaching courses Ralph is holding will appear in Brit-Ball.

We need to use Ralph as much as possible. TO develop baseball in your area, YOU will have to be the catalyst. Ralph and the BBF will do their utmost to support your efforts.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

The 1996 MLBI / BBF Annual Coaching Clinic will be held on 19 / 20 / 21 January 1996. More details on timings, the venue and a booking form will appear in a future issue of Brit-Ball.

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in British Baseball, call the
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BBF Handbook: Printed annually, price £4.00 inclusive of postage. Contains all contact details for BBF teams and league fixtures. Cheques and Postal Orders payable to 'British Baseball Federation' and sent to BBF Handbook, 66 Belvedere Road, Hessle, North Humberside, HU13 9JJ

BBF - PONY BASEBALL SPORTSMANSHIP AWARDS

These Sportsmanship Awards are available to all junior teams, to nominate a candidate from their club.

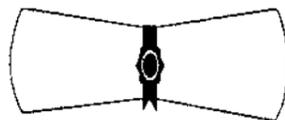


These awards are aimed at the child with outstanding integrity, dedication and enthusiasm. Ability should not be a major consideration in your choice.

It may be a kid who is not physically gifted, but who tries hard and who you and your team deem is worthy of this prestigious award. It is up to you how you choose, and who you choose.

Each child chosen from their club will then be eligible to win the National Sportsmanship Award. To enter the National Competition, simply write and tell us why your player is worthy of the award, stating his or her achievements, endeavours and qualities both on and off the field of play. A panel of judges will then decide the National winner, who will be presented with a special certificate and prize at the BBF Annual Dinner in January. **PLEASE NOTE:** only registered players are eligible for the National Award.

Please do not sell your kids short. If you have a deserving child, let us know. Even if they do not want to enter the National competition, they will still receive a certificate as their clubs' sportsman of the year.



All requests for certificates should be made to Head Office, with the child's name, address, and reason for their selection. Please also indicate if you want to enter the National competition.

For further information and advice please contact Ian Smyth on 0113 261 2571. We also have certificates for batting achievements, and seasonal batting average, available free of charge.

THE ROAD TO THE SHOW.....

NATIONAL PREMIER LEAGUE PLAY-OFFS

The schedule for the 1995 National Premier League play-offs is as follows:



Round One

Saturday 2 September

1st NPL North v 4th NPL South - Game 1
 1st NPL South v 4th NPL North - Game 2
 2nd NPL North v 3rd NPL South - Game 3
 2nd NPL South v 3rd NPL North - Game 4

These games will be single games of nine innings, pitching off at 1.00pm. First team listed in each fixture will be the home team.

Semi Finals

Saturday 9 + Sunday 10 September

Winners Game 1 v Winners Game 3
 Winners Game 2 v Winners Game 4

These games will take the form of a three game series over the weekend. Each game will be nine innings with no pitching restrictions. The slaughter rule will still apply.

Venues for the two games are:

Droitwich Spa-Tans, King George Playing Fields, Droitwich, Worcs

Game 1 will be held on Saturday 9 September at 1.00pm
 Game 2 will be held on Sunday 10 September at 1.00pm
 with game three starting 20 minutes after the end of game 2 if it is required.

Cambridge Monarchs, Nightingale Park, Nightingale Avenue, Cambridge

Game 1 will be held on Saturday 9 September at 1.00pm
 Game 2 will be held on Sunday 10 September at 11.00am
 with game three starting 20 minutes after the end of game 2 if it is required.

The decision as to which game will be held at which venue will be decided after the round one games.

Final

Saturday 16 and Sunday 17 September

This series will be held at

London Wolves, Roundshaw Playing Fields, Hannibal Way, Wallington, Surrey

These games will take the form of a three game series over the weekend. Each game will be nine innings with no pitching restrictions. The slaughter rule will still apply.

Game 1 will be held on Saturday 9 September at 2.00pm
 Game 2 will be held on Sunday 10 September at 11.00am
 with game three starting 20 minutes after the end of game 2 if it is required.

The NPL series will be preceded at 11.00am on Saturday 16 September by the final of the National Youth Championships

If you require a map to any of these venues please call BBF Head Office.

For details of which teams will be competing in these fixtures, please listen to the BBF Hotline each week, 0891 884533.

PUZZLE CORNER

DIAMOND DILEMMA
 Devised by Will Cosgrave

Four baseball teams share the diamond below. Use each letter once only to spell the nick-names of the teams:

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      A
    A A E
  E G G I I
I L N O P R R
  R S S S S
    T T T
      Y
    
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Answers to last months Newcomer's Nightmare are as follows:

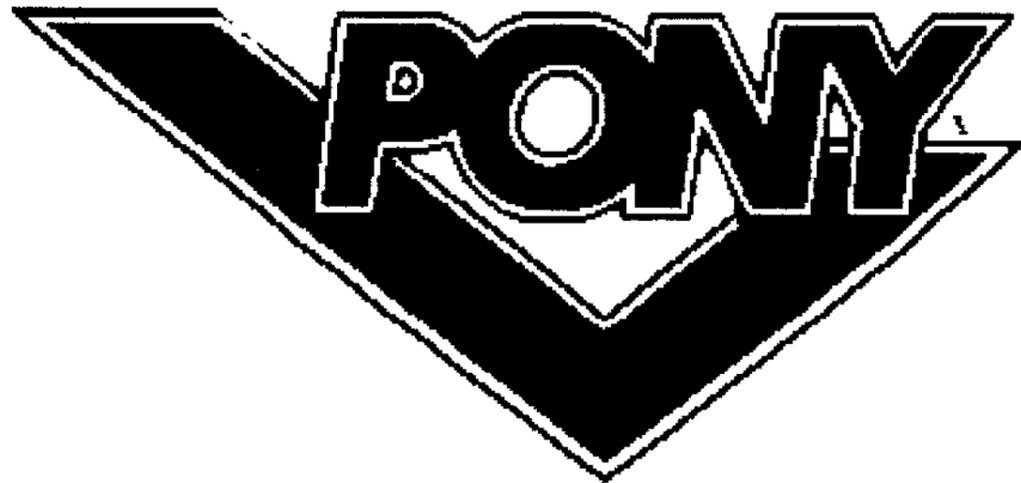
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El Presidente

So what's been happening over the last couple of months, my feet don't seem to have touched the ground

CEB & European A Pool

Attended the executive meeting of CEB in Haarlem, Netherlands, to discuss Statutes and Tournament Structures plus forthcoming IBA matters for the meeting in Havana, Cuba, in October. Saw the final stages of the Euro A, 5 game series between the Netherlands and Italy. Game 1 was a big surprise with Italy leading 3 - 0 in the 1st, tied it in the 9th after the first and only Dutch error put the scoring run on 1st, and went 3 up in the 10th. Game 2 saw an understandable tense game with the Netherlands considered finished if they went 0 - 2. El Presidente prediction was no-one would win three in a row. Guess what? Yep they squared it 1 - 1 and took the next two games as well. All games were close and exciting which pleased the large crowd, around 6,000, with TV covering all the main games. Both Italy and the Champions the Netherlands now look forward to participation in Atlanta in 1996.

London Capital Baseball Festival.

Congratulation to London Wolves and especially Neil McLeod for the staging of this weekend on their new facility in Wallington. It was my privilege to officially open the field on the Saturday on behalf of the BBF and I expect this facility to figure largely in future plans including International Tournaments and BBF Baseball Academy. Matt Gilbert was pushed by all-comers but even after throwing first he held and improved on the pitching record by registering 81 mph. The games were good and played in superb spirit with old rivals London Wolves and Croydon Pirates again meeting in the final. After a nervous start by the Wolves seeing them trail 9 - 2 the fat lady warmed up and sat down as Wolves rallied to 9 - 7. The fat lady assured of a Croydon victory arose but was silenced by yet another rally and the score was tied 9 - 9. Man on 3rd big pop fly to centre and Wolves were in front and celebrating, too soon! No batter at the plate the umpire Terry Greer called for a pitch and strike one. One high swing, one no swing and Wolves were out in the field. Could they hold on? Croydon heads seemed to fall, no surprises were in store and Wolves were champions. The fat lady left embarrassed and silent.

GB Juniors - Nottingham

We arrived at the field just after 9.30am. I boasted to my Envoy Rick Steen, "Yeah, I always like to arrive well ahead of time, half an hour if possible". We waited, it was now 10am and we were alone. "Oops! Guess I took the half an hour off twice I sheepishly confessed!". The staff and players arrived on time for the 10.30 session meanwhile the back of my legs had baked for one hour as I paced up and down. The squad were put through their paces by Ralph

Rago, Mike Harrold, the three MLB envoys Mike Shepherd, Ted Novio, Rick Steen and Junior coach Steve Smith. General Manager Gary Roberts and myself watched made notes and were impressed both with the activity at the drill stations and the coaching content. I was also impressed I wasn't doing it, as the heat was now unbearable and the backs of my legs were beginning to glow bright red. After a slightly curtailed day, everyone was now several pounds of fluid lighter, we all agreed that the comprehensive work out was great preparation and the squad were motivated for their trip to Austria and the Junior Championships 5 - 13 August.

Envoy and Camps

Rick Steen after four weeks with London Wolves and coaching the team to a successful tournament win made the journey back to Sheffield with me. We hit it off fairly well from the start and as we chatted (Ok I talked a lot as usual and Rick politely listened). The trip around the M25 seemed to go very quickly. As I was in the 3rd lane Rick enquired if we were going up the M1 as we were just about to come up to the turn off. I said sure and assured him it was a test, just to see if he was paying attention. He smiled and was obviously not fooled. We arrived home at 1.30am, the first of many late nights and early mornings so far. The next three weeks see us in the Goodwin Centre for Kings Sports Camps and Woodburn Athletic Stadium for the Sports Development Units doing various sessions of tee ball and junior baseball. The camp at Grimsby will be our next out of the city session where we will link up with Tom Mendoza this Thursday for a day with about 120 children. The new junior team, Sheffield Pumas, have also been honed by Rick's knowledge and at times unbelievable patience. After a hard days coaching it is always nice to return home and break open another can of Coors Extra Gold, a well earned reward and refresher. Apart from Rick's perverse desire and ability to take long walks every day and his constant battle of conscience with tins of shortbread, he is another good example of the ambassadors that MLB provide our programs every summer. Tonight we're doing some adult tuition as Dormer Tools prepare for their mixed softball tournament. So after three hours in the park we will be in the Rock Island Diner improving our considerable novice abilities at eating and drinking for the barbecue and bar at the tournament. With a week and a half left with me, I feel smugly confident that we will leave lots of children craving for baseball but he will give in and hit the shortbreads.

Next month I will give you a report on the Fanfest at Covent Garden, more matters International as well as internal, with some thoughts on re-structuring and a look ahead to the NPL series and future.

Yours for Baseball
Steve Herbert

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In late 1994, Abe Key, newly appointed President of the PONY (Protect our Nations Youth) Organisation invited us to send a National Team to the USA. His invitation was reiterated at the ABCA clinics in January this year and planning got under way. All we had to do was get there and he would take care of the rest. Abe's interest is to help promote baseball, particularly youth baseball. His invitation expanded to include the team in the Greensboro (North Carolina) Palomino Annual Tournament. This tournament is arranged by the PONY organisation or Greensboro, and region winning teams of 16-18 year olds from all over the USA are invited. Thirty plus teams were invited and split into groups of 6 playing "round robin" games to find group winners.

The GB squad was to include some new players, some players to find out the level of their ability, players who needed experience and half the Junior squad for the European Junior Championships (Vienna, August 1995). The latter was to be considered a conditioning programme for the Championships as well as exposure to a better standard. Several player selections were with next years Senior Championships (Hull, August 1996) in mind.

From the moment we arrived at Raleigh Durham Airport (2 hours from Greensboro) to the time we left, the hospitality we received was outstanding. I personally have never seen such generous, friendly, kind and helpful people in the thirty years I have been in baseball. We were housed in a Motel (four to a room, two to a bed!) and fed to gastronomic proportions. All the games we played - 5 in the tournament and 4 scrimmage - were superbly organised. The fields we played in were first class and the officials were excellent.

In all we travelled for two days, had

GB ON TOUR....

one rest day, had one game rained out, played 9 games in 7 days, went 4 and 5, lost 2 by 1 run and 2 in extra inning (could it have been 8 and 1?). All in heat in the 80/90's and humidity which felt like 100%.

The squad were a credit to the programme, their country and the Federation and they played some very good baseball. In only one game did they really fall below their own standard. The opposition, despite being aged 16 - 18 year olds were of High School standard and we can consider ourselves to have played an excellent standard for eight of the games. The local newspaper - the Greensboro News and Record, in their edition 2 July 1995, quoted one spectator, after our first game v Winston Salem (won 3 - 1) in which we completed a 5 - 2 - 3 double play with bases loaded as saying, "Are they here to teach us how to play baseball?".

The results were as follows:

Tournament (time limit of 7 inning)

Great Britain 3 Winston Salem 1
 Winning pitcher Gavin Marshall

Great Britain 15 Farmingdale (NY) 5
 Winning Pitcher Martin Sawyer

Great Britain 5 Evansville (NC) 9
 Losing pitcher Martyn Dutton

Great Britain 4 Staten Island (NY) 1
 Winning pitcher Darrin Ward

Great Britain 5 Johnson City 6
 Losing pitcher Nick Carter

Tournament record 3 and 2

Scrimmages (7 inning)

Great Britain 9 Plainedge Red Sox 10
 Losing pitcher Darren Butler

Great Britain 4 Doyle Ent 5
 Losing pitcher Gavin Marshall

Great Britain 3 United Eagles 12
 Losing pitcher Simeon Maas

Great Britain 11 Winston Salem 8
 Winning pitcher Nick Carter

The Great Britain squad consisted of the following players:

Martin Bladen - Nottingham Hornets
 Alan Bloomfield - London Warriors
 Darren Butler - Hull Warriors
 Nick Carter - Brighton Buccaneers
 David Donaldson - Tayside Cobras
 Martyn Dutton - Birmingham Braves
 Neil Eggleston - Nottingham Homets
 Lee Evans - Humberside Mets
 Matthew Gilbert - Cambridge Monarchs
 Lee Loveseed - Nottingham Homets
 Alex Malihoudis - Brighton Buccaneers
 Gavin Marshall - Humberside Mets
 Simeon Maas - Hounslow Rangers
 Steve Pollard - Hounslow Rangers
 James Pearce - Tunbridge Wells Royals
 Simon Radge - Humberside Mets
 Martin Sawyer - Bristol Black Sox
 Gary Sewell - Nottingham Hornets
 Mark Vickers - Humberside Mets
 Darrin Ward - Croydon Pirates
 Joe Yarnold - Birmingham Braves
 Andy Maltby - Humberside Mets
 Steve Hibbert - Enfield Spartans

with the following coaches

Michael Harrold
 Barry Marshall
 Ian Smyth
 Ralph Rago
 Gary Roberts

Mike Harrold
 GB Team Manager



JULY 1995 RESULTS

2 July

National Premier League - South

Enfield Spartans 8 Hounslow Rangers 7
Rob Nelson took the win for the Spartans with the game going nine innings. The second game of the doubleheader was rained out.

National Premier League - North

Humberside Warriors 9 Liverpool Trojans 1
Humberside Warriors 7 Liverpool Trojans 9
Rob Dixon claimed the win for the Warriors in game one with Martin Godsall of Liverpool Trojans taking the win to split the doubleheader in game two.

Northern Conference Division One England

Nottingham Pirates 12 Barnsley Strikers 39

Preston Bobcats 12 Stretford A's 13

Hull Royals 14 Tamworth Strykers 13

Northern Conference Division Two England

Hessle Apaches 17 Birmingham Brewers 7

Darlington RFC Demons 28 Sheffield Bladerunners 18

Southern Conference Division One

Arun Panthers 28 Stevenage Knights 6

Hounslow Hawks 9 Tonbridge Bobcats 0

Hounslow Hawks 9 Tonbridge Bobcats 0

Essex Eagles 17 Tunbridge Wells Royals 13

Droitwich Spa-Tans 0 Waltham Forest Angels 1

Droitwich Spa-Tans 1 Waltham Forest Angels 16

Cambridge Monarchs 7 London Wolves 4

Bournemouth B's 19 Croydon Pirates 9

Southern Conference Division Two

Milton Keynes Truckers 19 Caterham A's 5

Guildford Mavericks 8 Burgess Hill Red Hats 11

Gillingham Dodgers 37 Totteridge Trailblazers 13

Lashings Sluggers 16 Tiptree Rays 18

Bracknell Blazers 23 Chichester Kyotes 12

Southern Conference Division Three

Fulham Flames 21 Waltham Abbey Arrows 23

London Wolverines 26 Guildford Mudcats 14

Brentwood Stags 27 Cambridge Monarchs 7
Winning pitcher A Matthews, losing pitcher J Gilbert. Home runs from Dowsett and Ling and base running displays from Simon Singleton with 6 at bats, 6 runs, 12 stolen bases. Great defensive spell mid game from M Gruby (Monarchs short stop), 2 pick-ups, 1st base throws and a catch which left Brentwood gasping. Dave Balir proved that dropped 3rd strikes can pay off.

9 July

National Premier League - North

Menwith Hill Pirates 5 Humberside Warriors 4
Menwith Hill Pirates 14 Humberside Warriors 4
Pirates Matt Arrldt took the win in game one against the Humberside Warriors striking out eight and giving up five hits. In game two Gary Abbott took the win giving up four hits whilst Chase Parker hit a home run a double and an rbi.

Liverpool Trojans 15 Leeds City Royals 10

Liverpool Trojans 15 Leeds City Royals 9

Martin Godsall kept the Liverpool Trojans on the playoff trail picking up two wins against Leeds despite Royals Rob Lopez hitting a two run homer in game two.

National Premier League - South

Hounslow Rangers 4 London Warriors 17

Hounslow Rangers 1 London Warriors 15

Hemel Red Sox 6 Brighton Buccaneers 4

Hemel Red Sox 2 Brighton Buccaneers 7

Hemel's Atusi Arakaki hit a two run homer to win the game against Brighton in game one of a double header which would have placed Brighton joint first. However Buccaneers John Straits took the win in game two.

Northern Conference Division One England

Tamworth Strikers 40 Stretford A's 15

Northern Conference Division Two England

Darlington RFC Demons 18 Birmingham Brewers 30
Losing pitcher Gavin Clark. Steve Wade hit an inside the park home run for the Demons.

Northern Conference Division One Scotland

Dundee Dodgers 20 East Coast Pirates 9

Winning pitcher Brian Farkas

Edinburgh Reivers 17 Tayside Cobras 5

Winning pitcher Keith Graham pitched 6 innings with 11 strike outs. Nick Clark went 2 for 3 with 3 RBIs and a home run. Losing pitcher was Peter Carracher.

Southern Conference Division One

Essex Eagles 52 Tonbridge Bobcats 2

Glen Stirling went 8 for 8, Vince Warner hit two home runs and Carl Blackbum had 13 RBIs.

London Wolves 14 City Slick Sidewinders 10

Winning pitcher Adam Roberts with 5 strike outs.

Croydon Pirates 1 Cambridge Monarchs 31

Southern Conference Division Two

Milton Keynes Truckers 25 Chichester Kyotes 2

Southern Conference Division Three

London Wolverines 24 Brentwood Stags 33

Guildford Mudcats 13 Fulham Flames 15

Winning pitcher Vinny Gibbs with 3 strike outs and 5 walks. Losing pitcher was Simon Sparrow with 4 strike outs and 2 walks.

16 July

National Premier League - North

Birmingham Braves 3 Humberside Mets 8

The Braves led 3-2 going into the seventh inning but the

Mets rallied to win. Ray Brownlie took the win for whilst Martyn Duton took the loss.

Birmingham Braves 4 Humberside Mets 17

Winning pitcher was Gavin Marshall with Joe Yarnold taking the loss.

Menwith Hill Pirates 22 Leeds City Royals 1

Matt Arrldt took the win striking out six and giving up one hit. Arrldt also had four hits with the bat whilst teammate Ken Wells had three hits.

Menwith Hill Pirates 15 Leeds City Royals 3

Gary Abbott took the win striking out six and giving up one hit. Once again Ken Wells had three hits, a double, a triple and three rbis whilst Jerry Foreman had two hits, one double and two rbis.

Nottingham Hornets 9 Humberside Warriors 0

Nottingham Hornets 9 Humberside Warriors 0

National Premier League - South

Bristol Black Sox 3 Essex Arrows 21

Paul Raybould took the win for the Arrows whilst Louis Cammaranso proved the Essex hero scoring eight runs including two grand slams.

Bristol Black Sox 2 Essex Arrows 9

Dave Shears took the win in game two with Martin Sawyer taking the loss despite striking out twelve. Again Cammaranso went 3 for 3 with three rbis with teammate Ben Law taking eight putouts including a double play.

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Enfield Spartans 5 Hounslow Rangers 8

Julien Fountain took the loss for the Spartans whilst Don Knight kept Hounslow in the running.

Northern Conference Division One

Stretford A's 7 Barnsley Strikers 21

Preston Bobcats 9 Nottingham Pirates 0

Tamworth Strykers 5 Hull Royals 7

Northern Conference Division Two

Darlington RFC Demons 19 Hessle Apaches 4

Winning pitcher Tom Yard

Manchester Cougars 11 Birmingham Brewers 10

Winning pitcher Dave Garrett. Lee Peterson scored a home run in the 9th to win the game.

Southern Conference Division One

Essex Eagles 11 Stevenage Knights 1

Waltham Forest Angels 12 Gloster Meteors 11

Arun Panthers 1 Bournemouth Bees 11

Arun Panthers 9 Bournemouth Bees 4

Cambridge Monarchs 14 City Slick Sidewinders 4

Winning pitcher Matt Gilbert

Cambridge Monarchs 10 City Slick Sidewinders 0

Winning pitcher Steve Gilbert

Croydon Pirates 7 Hounslow Hawks 4

Winning pitcher Darrin Ward

Croydon Pirates 13 Hounslow Hawks 3

Southern Conference Division Two

Burgess Hill Red Hats 9 Totteridge Trailblazers 0

Bracknell Blazers 16 Caterham A's 15

This game went on for 10 innings. For Bracknell Alan Newell, A Haines, P Merrifield each had a double with Alan Newell also scoring a home run. J Skinner and M Sewell each had a triple. For Caterham S Flynn and A Weakner each scored 3 runs, with M England scoring 4 runs including a home run. Winning pitcher was Jeff Skinner.

Guildford Mavericks 22 Chichester Kyotes 2

Winning pitcher Dave Wallace, giving up only one hit. Good solid batting from Luke Stevens, Dan Roberts (with a stand up double) and Dave Wallace with (with a stand up treble). Rob Cochrane and Nick Jolly both scored home runs.

Gillingham Dodgers 15 Milton Keynes Truckers 23

Brighton Buccaneers 9 Lashings Sluggers 0

Southern Conference Division Three

Brentwood Stags 18 Fulham Flames 13

Winning pitcher A Matthews, losing pitcher Chandler. Fulham looked strong as Cook opened the assault. Flames were never properly extinguished until the eighth inning when the Stags took the lead, crossing the plate 5 times. Tight infield play by Flames held back the Stags. Two particular good catches by their short stop and second baseman. Cook went on to score 2 runs along with Chandler, Halferty, Nash and Fox. Stags leading scorers: Smyth 4 runs, Ling 4 runs including a superb home run. Stags outfielder Tony Greenwood gave his second double play of the season when he caught a deep centre field fly, with a runner tagging back to third. He propelled the ball some 70 metres to home plate, the ball bouncing 10 feet prior to the tag out by catcher John Ling. This gave the Stags tremendous momentum in the closing stages. Final 3 outs were all tags.

Waltham Abbey Arrows 9 Guildford Mudcats 0

Eastbourne Mariners 5 London Wolverines 18

Winning pitcher Adam Roberts, pitching 7 innings with 5 hits and 9 strike outs. Losing pitcher Richard Weller. For the Wolverines Joe Giacobe went 5 for 4 with 1 walk, 2 RBIs, 1 double and 3 runs with brother Fil Giacobe going 3 for 5 with 1 double, 3 runs and 2 RBIs. For Eastbourne Nick Tomy had an unassisted double play.

23 July

National Premier League - North

Birmingham Braves 10 Menwith Hill Pirates 5

Martyn Dutton took the win in game one to damage the Pirates championships hopes.

Birmingham Braves 7 Menwith Hill Pirates 17

Humberside Mets 22 Liverpool Trojans 3

Ray Brownlie took the win.

Humberside Mets 8 Liverpool Trojans 3

National Premier League - South

Nottingham Hornets 12 Leeds City Royals 5

Jason Ball took the win as well as hitting a home run along with team mate Tony Penwarden.

Hounslow Rangers 12 Brighton Buccaneers 8

Don Knight took the win in game one.

Hounslow Rangers 15 Brighton Buccaneers 24

Andy Wilson took the win in game two.

Bristol Black Sox 16 Enfield Spartans 8

Bristol notched up their first win of the season over high flying Enfield.

London Warriors 17 Essex Arrows 7

Essex jumped to a 6-0 lead but the Warriors kept their grip

on the top of the table with Cody Cain picking up the win.

30 July

National Premier League - North

Humberside Mets 20 Menwith Hill Pirates 8

Winning pitcher Ray Brownlie

Humberside Mets 14 Humberside Warriors 2

Winning pitcher Gavin Marshall

Birmingham Braves 37 Leeds City Royals 1

Nottingham Hornets 1 Liverpool Trojans 0

Winning pitcher Steve Sewell

Nottingham Hornets 15 Liverpool Trojans 5

Winning pitcher Jason Ball

National Premier League - South

Hounslow Rangers 19 Bristol Black Sox 4

Don Knight took the win for Hounslow with Steve Pollard homering over the right field fence.

London Warriors 13 Brighton Buccaneers 0

London Warriors 5 Brighton Buccaneers 8

Northern Conference Division One England

Barnsley Strikers 9 Nottingham Pirates 0

Tamworth Strykers 29 Stretford A's 8

Northern Conference Division Two England

Hessle Apaches 25 Sheffield Bladerunners 14

Winning pitcher Scott Akester, Barry Marshall took the save. Andy Morrill hit a home run.

Darlington RFC Demons 18 Manchester Cougars 6

Tom Yard took the win to make Darlington the first team to win their division this year. Makoto Saito hit a three run homer.

Northern Conference Division One Scotland

Glasgow Comets 21 Tayside Cobras 3

Edinburgh Reivers 23 Dundee Dodgers 21

Billy Jenkins took the win whilst Brian Farkas took the loss.

Southern Conference Division One

Gloster Meteors 13 Droitwich Spa-Tans 3

Stevenage Knights 0 Waltham Forest Angels 9

Stevenage Knights 0 Waltham Forest Angels 9

London Wolves 17 Tunbridge Wells Royals 7

Croydon Pirates 16 Bournemouth B's 13

Colin Wade took the win for Croydon as the game was decided in the bottom of the ninth when three runs scored. Pirates Craig Perry homered

City Slick Sidewinders 16 Arun Panthers 12

Wining pitcher was Will Beglane

Southern Conference Division Two

Brighton Buccaneers B 2 Guildford Mavericks 17

Lashings Sluggers 5 Totteridge Trailbalzers 8

Lashings Sluggers 21 Totteridge Trailblazers 19

Tiptree Rays 12 Milton Keynes Truckers 14

Caterham A's 25 Cichester Kyotes 4

John Delaney took the win for Caterham

Southern Conference Division Three

Fulham Flames 23 Eastbourne Mariners 10

John Halman and Wayne Nash homered with Joe Jarnett picking up his second victory

Waltham Abbey Arrows 17 Brentwood Stags 25



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wht/gry/ryl/scr/gld/kly/mmm/col/blk/ppl/dkg/om/bm/aqu

Baseball Pants - £22.50 each

minimum of 12 assorted sizes, small - ex large
Heavy weight polyester, double reinforced knees, back pocket
elastic waistband, snap and fly front, pro quality
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Baseball Pants - £17.50

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· ex large



BBF LEAGUE STANDINGS AS AT 30 JULY 1995

BBF NATIONAL PREMIER LEAGUE - NORTH

	WINS	LOSSES	GAMES BACK
Humberside Mets	14	1	
Menwith Hill Pirates	15	3	0.5
Nottingham Hornets	10	9	6
Liverpool Trojans	8	10	7.5
Birmingham Braves	7	12	9
Humberside Warriors	4	14	11.5
Leeds City Royals	2	14	12.5

BBF NATIONAL PREMIER LEAGUE - SOUTH

	WINS	LOSSES	GAMES BACK
London Warriors	14	5	
Brighton Buccaneers	12	5	1
Hounslow Rangers	13	6	1
Enfield Spartans	12	6	1.5
Essex Arrows	9	11	5.5
Hemel Red Sox	4	12	8.5
Bristol Black Sox	1	20	14

BBF NORTH - ENGLAND DIVISION ONE

	WINS	LOSSES	GAMES BACK
Hull Royals	8	1	
Bamsley Strikers	6	4	2.5
Stretford A's	5	5	3.5
Preston Bobcats	3	5	4.5
Tamworth Strikers	3	6	5
Nottingham Pirates	3	7	5.5

BBF NORTH - ENGLAND DIVISION TWO

	WINS	LOSSES	GAMES BACK
Darlington RFC Demons	9	1	
Birmingham Brewers	5	4	3.5
Hessle Apaches	4	5	4.5
Manchester Cougars	3	6	5.5
Sheffield Bladerunners	2	7	6.5

BBF NORTH - SCOTLAND DIVISION ONE

	WINS	LOSSES	GAMES BACK
Edinburgh Reivers	6	1	
Glasgow Comets	5	2	1
Dundee Dodgers	4	3	2
East Coast Pirates	1	4	4
Tayside Cobras	0	5	5

BBF SOUTH - DIVISION ONE NORTH

	WINS	LOSSES	GAMES BACK
Cambridge Monarchs	11	1	
Essex Eagles	11	2	0.5
Waltham Forest Angels	10	4	2
City Slick Sidewinders	6	6	5
Gloster Meteors	6	7	5.5
Stevenage Knights	3	9	8
Droitwich Spa-Tans	3	9	8

BBF SOUTH - DIVISION ONE SOUTH

	WINS	LOSSES	GAMES BACK
London Wolves	11	2	
Croydon Pirates	9	5	2.5
Arun Panthers	8	7	4
Bournemouth B's	7	7	4.5
Tunbridge Wells Royals	6	10	6.5
Hounslow Hawks	3	11	8.5
Tonbridge Bobcats	0	13	11

BBF SOUTH - DIVISION TWO NORTH

	WINS	LOSSES	GAMES BACK
Gillingham Dodgers	8	3	
Milton Keynes Truckers	8	4	0.5
Lashings Sluggers	5	6	3
Tiptree Rays	5	7	3.5
Totteridge Trailblazers	3	5	3.5

BBF SOUTH - DIVISION TWO SOUTH

	WINS	LOSSES	GAMES BACK
Brighton Buccaneers B	7	4	
Burgess Hill Red Hats	6	3	0
Guildford Mavericks	5	5	1.5
Caterham A's	6	6	1.5
Bracknell Blazers	4	6	2.5
Chichester Kyotes	2	9	5

BBF SOUTH - DIVISION THREE

	WINS	LOSSES	GAMES BACK
Brentwood Stags	7	3	
London Wolverines	6	3	0.5
Waltham Abbey Arrows	6	3	0.5
Cambridge Monarchs B	5	4	1.5
Eastbourne Mariners	4	5	2.5
Fulham Flames	4	5	2.5
Guildford Mudcats	0	9	6.5

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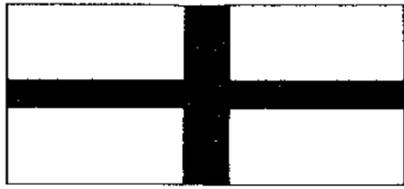


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Hoots Mon!

SCOTLAND VS ENGLAND

I dunno ... what do you have to do to win a game? Twelve each top of the ninth and the bases are loaded.

"Time" shouts David Donaldson as he walks across to me from his catching position. "The next batter likes them outside". "Yeah, I know" I say back to him, "I'll keep them inside".

First pitch strike one, second pitch strike two but I don't know what happened to the third pitch. As soon as it left my hand I could see that it was going away from the batter. A fastball outside

"Oh no" I thought
"Oh no" David thought

What I want to know is how can someone called Ashley hit the ball so hard and with a swing smoother than Pamela Anderson's inner thigh.

It was a tad deflating going into the bottom of the ninth four runs down after someone just hit a grand slam. The best Scotland could muster was just one more run. No one had a great batting game ... at least not going by the stats. The people in the Scotland team that expected to hit well didn't, well not by their usual standards. Rick Harrison had three hits, Farkas, Cumming, Moodie and yours truly with two hits, everyone else one or none. Scotland struck out 8 times and had 12 hits with 7 errors. The hitters for England were Kilgas with three hits,



Wade, Mullen and Tomlins with two hits. England had 14 hits in total and made 4 errors.

Alyth proved to be the best place to hold the international with hospitality not seen since the open day at the Riviera Sauna, but that's another story. It was almost held elsewhere but a phone call similar to the following took place.

Voice 1 Hullo
Voice 2 Hello is that you?
Voice 1 Hullo ... Hullo ... Operator ... Hullo ...
Voice 2 Who's that?
Voice 1 What? ... I can't hear you uhv got a rabbit in my car ...
Voice 2 What? ... Hello ...

It was obvious from that phone call that Alyth was the correct place.

Karin Donaldson and family and friends organised the event almost magnificently. I say almost because it was so well done that the English team want to come back.

Back to the game and it was close all the way ... the scores were either tied or Scotland were ahead at the end of each inning, except the end of the ninth.

What is the worst job in the world?
PR man for the Scottish Tories?
Lavatory attendant at the Diarrhoea Clinic for the Blind and Physically Unstable?

Nope ... umpiring is.
Ump on the day was Patrick ... em ... "Here Liz what's Patrick's second name?" "Dunno"
Ump on the day was Patrick. He has umpired many of the games I've pitched and I personally reckon that he's the best so far, and I've been umpired by umpers from all over if you know what I mean. He handled a lot of difficult decisions well and I don't think there were many calls that people would disagree with. Well maybe one or two but who's counting? The game was won or lost (depending on which side you're on) on the field and that's what the game was about.

Next year ... eh?

Keith Graham
Pitcher for the Scotland squad

Dear Editor

There will be no doubt be a detailed game report elsewhere in Brit-Ball so may I say a few words as a visitor and spectator at the Northern Conference Scotland vs England game played a Alyth near Perth. At first sight this seemed to be a most unlikely venue for a representative game but events proved otherwise. The teams played a nail biting contest with a finish that should only happen in the movies. Stirring stuff indeed.

Karin Donaldson and a host of volunteers from Tayside must have worked long and hard in the promotion of the event - in preparing the field - organising overnight accommodation - publicity and programmes - a grand post game reception and much much more. The warmth of their hospitality made this a day to remember. Thank you everyone.

Frank Counce
Preston Bobcats

Dear Brit-Ball

Having watched British Baseball games for many years now I feel the remarks by Frank Scherer about Doreen Megson being "way off base" are not justified. Surely Doreen, John Wiltshire and others, have been involved for long enough to know problems when they see them. The growth Frank mentions is just not there; for every new team joining an older existing team disbands.

There is an obvious shortage of young players taking up the game. Driving up costs won't help in the least; 1995 Britain has a low wage / high cost of living economy with many young men existing on £35 per week unemployment benefit - who can play baseball at that rate. Actual wages are often not that better, if anyone doubts this try the local Job Centre for yourself. No disrespect Frank, but I think your views are based on US salaries, not ours. People here have to live within their means, that's all.

If fees can't be reduced the only answer is to cut down on games and reduce travel costs. I feel that 20 games (+ play offs) is quite enough even at Premier level, any more leads

to forfeitures and postponements due to player shortages. The lower divisions seem to have problems even with playing 20 games.

Some years ago the old BBF South evolved a system where teams met their nearest rivals in single games and distant rivals in double headers to save on travel, perhaps there is scope for savings here too.

Paying umpires more seems a bad bet if clubs don't benefit. Who wants to fund a 20% increase and get (say) 2% more umpires in return? Improving umpire's skills is to be commended but clubs need to be able to afford their fees.

If the number of teams and players is to increase I feel the cost of playing must be brought down. Better slow growth than fast extinction.

Finally, thanks to Cliff Court for answering my query and the kind offer of more assistance if required.

Yours faithfully
Will Cosgrave

Editor: Playing Baseball is a choice people make therefore like any other leisure activity there is a cost. The BBF Membership at the AGM passed the budget and what I have found is that the teams who complain about the cost surprisingly are the ones that can't get be bothered to attend. What do players think to the cost of playing baseball. Is £23 a season, ie £1 per week of the season too much to ask for organised baseball! Having asked many people what they pay for playing rugby and football during the winter or table tennis and cricket during the summer, baseball seems to be the cheap option.

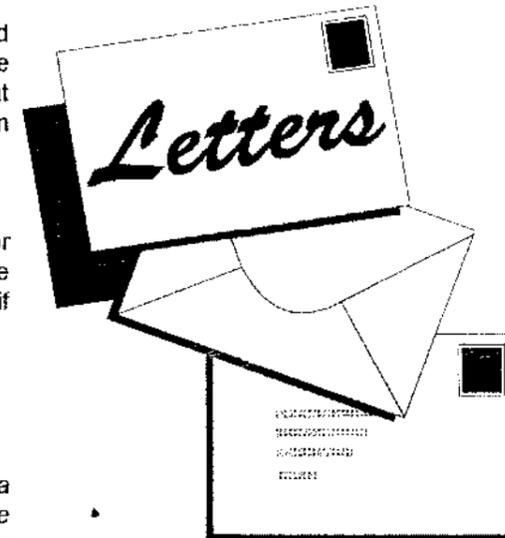
Dear Kevin

I am the secretary and treasurer to the Chichester Kyotes Baseball Team, I am also the wife of Steve Sinclair, manager and coach of the Chichester Kyotes.

I am writing this letter to you

concerning the cover of insurance for anyone to do with baseball, ie players, umpires, coaches and scorers. It seems to me that one important issue has been left out of the insurance cover that the baseball federation has at the moment and this is loss of earnings due to an injury while at one of the games.

This seems to have come to light just recently, due to the fact that a number of questions have been asked by members on what they are insured against, your letter in the June Brit-Ball, also, as in our case, finding out about not being insured for loss of earnings, after Steve was badly injured in a game and not able to work



because of it. This I feel is unsatisfactory.

Steve injured his left knee when the pitcher of the Lashings Sluggers fell onto it, after Steve had reached home plate. Three tendons have been torn in the knee and he has been informed by the Doctors of St Richards Hospital at Chichester that he should rest for at least four weeks. His place of work have also told him not to go in, as he is a liability with his knee the way it is at the moment. This means that as Steve did not realise he had to insure himself against an injury while playing baseball, we stand to lose in the region of £1500. You should also realise that due to this injury, Steve is now unable to drive or play baseball, the game he loves, for the reason of this season, which has upset him very much. You should also realise he cannot coach the juniors on a Saturday afternoon for a while either.

You say in your article that everyone was sent a copy of the insurance cover, but I feel that the British baseball Federation should be insuring their members for injury to themselves more than for the loss of a limb and loss of life as most people have their own insurance for that anyway.

I also feel that the British Baseball Federation should ask their members what they require from their insurance, as it is they who are at risk. I have spoken to a number of our own players and our umpire and not one of them realised that they were not insured for loss of earnings. Someone should have made this clear when the insurance cover note was sent out to each member.

It is a bit late now for Steve to have cover for loss of earnings but I feel that the BBF should make sure that it is not too late for other members, so may I suggest that you look for another insurance cover for members as soon as possible and also check with your members if it is satisfactory with them before going ahead with it, maybe this should be brought up at the next BBF Board meeting and I feel this letter should be published in the next Brit-Ball magazine. I am not having a go any person on this matter, but this matter should be brought to everyone's attention.

Yours sincerely
Sylvia Sinclair

Editor: At last years AGM, at which Chichester Kyotes were represented, it was agreed that because of the high premiums insurance companies charge in respect to weekly benefit policies, the BBF's Personal Accident policy would no longer cover loss of earnings. The Federation is here to provide insurance for serious injuries and it is not our job to provide income protection. Your club, like every other club in the country, was sent a copy of the schedule at the beginning of the season. Therefore please ensure that you read what you are sent!

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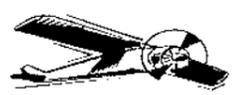
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**Northern Conf Division One England Stats
As at 26 July 1995**

Batting Average	
Andrew Wiltshire (Royals)	697
Mike Langton (Royals)	684
Damian Mullen (Bobcats)	577

Home Runs	
Four players tied on	1

Stolen Bases	
Andrew Wiltshire (Royals)	27
Damian Mullen (Bobcats)	17
Nick Thoresby (Royals)	15

Base on Balls	
Andrew Whittaker (Royals)	12
Anthony Howarth (Bobcats)	7
Peter Howarth (Bobcats)	6

Runs Batted In	
Andrew Wiltshire (Royals)	14
Damian Mullen (Bobcats)	10
John McDonald (Royals)	10

ERA (min 15 innings)	
Andrew Wiltshire (Royals)	4.688
Alan Milhench (Bobcats)	8.852
Anthony Howarth (Bobcats)	9.212

Pitcher Win Loss Record	
Andrew Wiltshire (Royals)	6 - 0
Danny Morris (A's)	2 - 0
Three players tied on	1 - 0

Strike Outs	
Andrew Wiltshire (Royals)	50
Anthony Howarth (Bobcats)	15
Three players tied on	11

**Northern Conf Division Two England Stats
As at 26 July 1995**

Batting Average	
Rick Tomlins (Brewers)	600
Tom Yard (Demons)	600
Steve Sturman (Demons)	595

Home Runs	
Charlie Bruin (Apaches)	2
Six players tied on	1

Stolen Bases	
Len Morrill (Apaches)	27
Mark Carty (Apaches)	27
Brian Jones (Brewers)	21

Base on Balls	
Rick Tomlins (Brewers)	12
Darren Sedgeman (Durham)	11
Brian Jones (Brewers)	10

RBIs	
Tom Yard (Demons)	20
Len Morrill (Apaches)	18
Steve Sturman (Demons)	13

ERA (min 15 innings)	
Tom Yard (Demons)	3.255
Gary Banner (Brewers)	6.319
Scott Akester (Apaches)	8.507

Pitcher Win Loss Record	
Tom Yard (Demons)	6 - 0
Gary Banner (Brewers)	3 - 1
Scott Akester (Apaches)	3 - 5

Strike Outs	
Tom Yard (Demons)	80
Scott Akester (Apaches)	52
Gary Banner (Brewers)	30

**Southern Conference Statistics
As at 16 July 1995**

Batting	
Francis (Tiptree Rays)	0.667
Lawless (Tiptree Rays)	0.581
M Jenner (Tunbridge Wells)	0.447
Gofton (Tunbridge Wells)	0.404
Ackroyd (Guildford Mudcats)	0.375

Home Runs	
Gofton (Tunbridge Wells)	3
Armstrong (Tiptree Rays)	2
Charman (Tunbridge Wells)	2
Francis (Tiptree Rays)	2
Jim Pearce (Tunbridge Wells)	2

Pitching (min 20 innings)	
Darrin Ward (Croydon Pirates)	2.16
Gofton (Tunbridge Wells)	8.12
Sparrow (Guildford Mudcats)	17.07

Does your team feature in the above stats. If not, it could be because you are not sending in your score sheets - WHY NOT?

1995 Official Rules of Major League Baseball

This book, published by Triumph Books in Chicago, is as it says on the back cover, "The Ultimate Authority" on major league baseball rules and their interpretations. The rule book used by the BBF and CEB, The Sporting News baseball Rule book, provides an accurate and detailed listing of all of the rules currently enforced by Major League baseball.

The 1995 ORoMLB takes these rules one step further. They provide a casebook account of many of the rules and how they apply in given situations. The material in the this book interprets and elaborates on the language of the Official Rules, providing insight in the Rules Committee's intent when drafting the rules. There are listing of approved rulings for certain rules, penalties when imposed are described as well.

For example, under rule 8.02(a)(1) "The pitcher shall not...bring his pitching hand in contact with his mouth or lips while in the 18-foot circle surrounding the pitching rubber.... [the book goes on to describe what action the umpire may take].... For violation of this part of this rule the umpires shall immediately call a ball. However....etc.

Many of the rules throughout the book are covered in this manner. It may not be the definitive answer when dealing with a difficult situation but the examples offer possible situations, rulings and penalties for many of the rules umpires must deal with during the course of a game.

A couple of umpires as well as a player or two that I know of have copies of this book in their possession and refer to it when discussing various rule interpretations. It's a very informative and comprehensive piece of reference material. Any umpire, or player or coach for that matter, would do well to have a copy of The 1995 Official Rules of Major League Baseball in their possession.

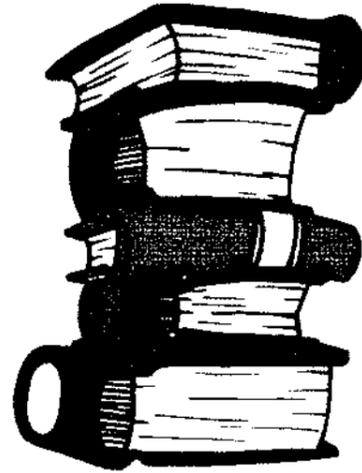
Frank Scherer
Northern Conference Umpires
Commissioner

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OBITUARY

DICK COOMBES - UMPIRE

Sadly I wish to inform the membership of the death of Dick Coombes, aged 75, following a long illness borne since 1988. Dick died in Crawley Hospital in the early hours of Thursday 20 July 1995.

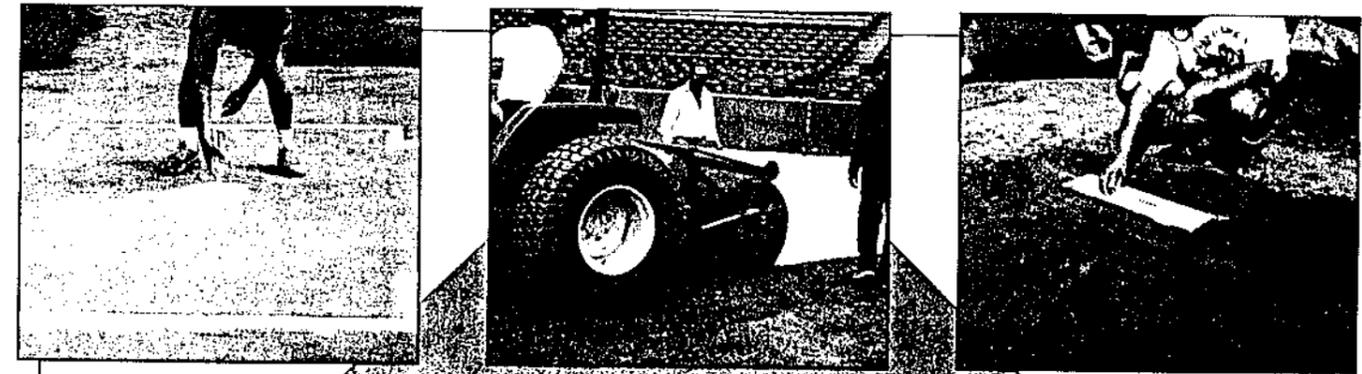
Dick, although a Canadian, was born in Dorset and at an early age moved to Canada with his family, where he spent much of his younger days. Dick served in the Canadian Military Police during the war, a fact of which he was very proud.

Dick first appeared on the British baseball scene in 1978 as an umpire in the South, a job which he performed with great gusto. During 1988 he became ill and was forced to give up umpiring, but with a pacemaker fitted he came bouncing back as Umpire Co-ordinator for the South in 1993. In early 1995 he again had to give up this job due to failing health.

Dick frequently turned up to games as a spectator when he wasn't umpiring and during the period of ill health. An avid Toronto Blue Jays fan, Dick loved his baseball wherever and whenever. His death will be a great loss to British baseball's umpiring fraternity and indeed to players as well.

Dick is survived by his wife Ivy so to her, we of the British Baseball Federation send our deepest sympathy.

Barry Mayfield



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ON THE MOVE

Please note the following changes to your BBF 1995 Handbook

Enfield Spartans

2nd contact new address is:
Gary Bedingfield, 97 Ramney Drive, Enfield, Middlesex, EN3 6DX, Tel 01992 761604

Birmingham Brewers

1st contact new address is:
Dave Knowles, 100 Ninfield Road, Acocks Green, Birmingham, B27 7TS. Telephone number remains the same.

Hemel Red Sox

2nd contact new address is:
Alun Stuffs, 71 Autumn Glades, Leverstock Green, Hemel Hempstead, Herts, HP3 8UB

DOES THAT RULE ANNOY YOU?

As we approach the end of the 1995 season, now is the time to put in writing anything that has annoyed you with the BBF Bye-laws. Is there a rule which does not make sense, or an unnecessary ruling.

If so please make a note of any amendments you wish to make and pass them on to your Conference Commissioners, Sharron Bonfield, Nigel Moss and Brian Edwards, by 16 September 1995.

Speak now or forever hold your peace!

RELIEF FROM THE BULLPEN

You know it's summer time at Candlestick Park when the fog rolls in, the wind kicks up and you see the centrefielder slicing open a caribou to survive the ninth inning.

Bob Sarlatte

Editor: Sounds like Scotland to me

Philadelphia is such a bad city that when a plane lands there, nobody gets off, everyone gets on.

Bob Uecker

Even if you win a rowing race in Phillie, they boo you unless you go over the rapids.

Bob Uecker

Editor: Bob's obviously never been to a Humberside Mets game

He's as liable to hit the Phillie Phanatic as he is to hit you.

National League Batter on Mitch Williams

Editor: This has got to be Darren Butler, Hull Warriors!

The Cubs were taking batting practice, and the pitching machine threw a no hitter.

Radio DJ

Rooting for the San Diego Padres is like rooting for Iraq. They might win every once in a while, but you know in the end they're going to get crushed.

Steve Cozzens

Baseball is supposed to be a non contact sport, but our hitters seem to be taking it literally.

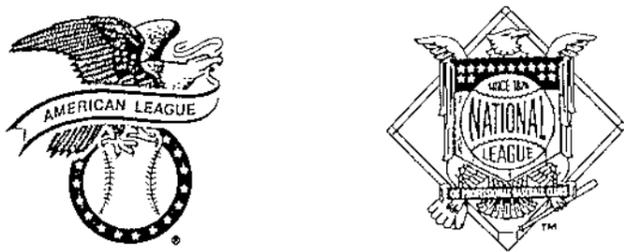
Larry Doughty, Pirates GM

All the above quotes are taken from Baseball's Even Greater Insults by Kevin Nelson

And for one of our own.....

If you can't stand the heat get out of the dugout

Editor: My advice to a GB GM who nodded off in the heat in Carolina.



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PUZZLE CORNER

This is the second in a series of quizzes, provided by Terry Greer, a BBF registered umpire. Why not test your team and see if they know as much as they seem to think they do! Watch out next month for the answers.

1. The umpire is the sole judge as to the fitness of the baseballs to be used during a regulation game. True or false?
2. If the pitcher requests an alternate ball, the umpire must give him one. True or false?
3. Substitutions may not be made while the ball is alive. True or false?
4. A pinch hitter bats for the catcher in the 5th spot in the batting order and remains in the game to play 3rd base. A substitute enters the game to catch. In what spot does the pinch hitter bat?
5. In the top of the 1st inning, the visitors have a 6-0 lead when the visiting pitcher is due to bat. The manager wants to save his starting pitcher, so he decides to pinch-hit for him. Is this OK?

6. A relief pitcher enters the game and pitches to a count of 1-2; the batter is replaced by a pinch-hitter. Can a substitute now come in for the pitcher?

7. A relief pitcher enters the game with 2 outs and a runner at first. Without delivering a single pitch, the new pitcher successfully picks off R1, thus retiring the side. The manager now inserts a pinch-hitter for the reliever, who is due to lead off the next half-inning. Is this legal?

8. Who is responsible for notifying the umpire of substitution?

9. In the bottom of the 5th inning a pinch-hitter bats for the pitcher. In the top of the 6th, a new pitcher is warming-up on the mound while the manager is running to the umpire to tell him that he wanted someone different from the pitcher now warming-up. Since the wrong pitcher has not delivered a pitch to the batter, may that pitcher be removed for another?

10. An unannounced pinch-runner replaces R1. On the next pitch, the pinch-runner steals second. The defense wants the pinch-runner declared out for being an illegal substitute. You inform the defensive manager that the pinch-runner was legal the moment he replaced the original runner, whether he was announced or not. Are you correct?

11. The umpires arrive at the ballpark 1 hour before game time and declare the game "called" due to wet grounds. Is this correct?

12. Can doubleheaders be played in Little League?

13. In the 3rd inning at 1:00 p.m., rain renders the field under water. The umpires suspend the game and then at 1:20 p.m. they call the game due to wet grounds. Is this correct?

14. After one 15 minute rain delay in the 3rd inning, the umpire suspends play again in the 5th because of more rain. After 15 minutes of this second delay, the umpire calls the game due to rain and wet grounds. Is this correct?

15. At the pregame conference before the start of the game, the opposing managers cannot agree on a ground rule. Who then decides how the ground rule shall be played?

16. A thrown ball strikes an authorized press photographer in the back while he is running away from the ball. Is the ball dead?

17. The 1st baseman catches a foul pop fly in foul territory next to the stands. A fan reaches out and takes the ball from the fielder's glove. The umpire declares the batter out. Correct?

18. The 1st baseman tracks a foul pop fly in foul territory to the fence. While he is reaching into the stands attempting to catch the ball, a spectator hits the ball and the 1st baseman drops it for no catch. The umpire declares the batter out for spectator interference. Is this correct?

Interference and Obstruction

Interference and obstruction are two rules interpretations that are oftentimes confused with each other. There are definite differences in both rules and we'll try and briefly explain both.

Interference comes in four varieties: offensive, defensive, umpire and spectator. Offensive interference, according to definition is, "an act by the team at bat which interferes with, obstructs, impedes hinders or confuses any fielder attempting to make a play". Under the rules a fielder is protected while he is in the act of fielding a batted ball. He is also protected while in the act of making a play after fielding a batted ball. If a runner hinders or impedes a fielder after he has fielded a batted ball but before he is able to throw the ball, the runner shall be called out for interference. Also, a runner who is adjudged to have hindered a fielder who is attempting to make a play on a batted ball is out whether it was intentional or not. Fielders in the basepath making a play on a batted ball are protected under the rules. A runner must avoid the fielder even to the extent of running out of the basepath.

Rules 7.09(g) and 7.09(h) were inserted into the rules to add an additional penalty when a base runner or batter-runner deliberately and intentionally interferes with a batted ball or a fielder in the act of fielding a batted to deprive the defensive team

of an opportunity to complete a possible double play. The runner or batter-runner must interfere with the obvious attempt to break up a double play. One example is, with a runner on first, a ground ball is hit to the shortstop. The shortstop's throw to second retires the runner from first. However, anticipating a double play, the runner from first intentionally slides out of the base path and crashes into the second baseman just as he is beginning to throw to first base. **[IMPORTANT] The runner is not able to reach second base with his hand or foot while sliding.** The runner is guilty of willfully and deliberately interfering with a fielder with the obvious intent to deprive the defense of the opportunity of completing a double play. Batter-runner is declared out for the runner's interference.

Defensive interference is an act by a fielder which hinders or prevents a batter from hitting a pitch. The catcher can be guilty of interfering with a batter attempting to hit a pitch by coming in contact with the bat. This more often than not happens when a catcher reaches for a pitched ball or maybe sets up too close to the plate and get his glove hit by the batter's swing. If a play follows this particular interference, the manager or coach of the offended team may inform the plate umpire that he would elect to take the result of the play and decline the interference penalty. However, if the batter reaches first base or a hit error, base on balls, hit batsman, or otherwise, and all other runners advance at least one base safely, the play proceeds without reference to the interference.

Umpire and spectator interference are

not regular occurrences but do occasionally happen. In the case of umpire interference, this generally happens when the plate umpire comes in contact with the catcher making a play on a runner attempting to steal a base. If the runner is retired, there is no reference to the interference. If the runner is not retired, umpire interference is called and the runner is returned to his **original base.**

Umpire interference also occurs when a fair ball touches an umpire in fair territory before passing an infielder other than the pitcher. If a batted ball touches an umpire working in the infield after it has bounded past, or over, the pitcher, it is a dead ball.

Spectator interference occurs when a spectator goes onto the playing field and touches a live ball. When spectator interference occurs with any thrown or batted ball, the ball shall be dead at the moment of the interference and the umpire shall impose such penalties as in his opinion will nullify the act of interference.

In all cases of interference, the ball is immediately dead.

Obstruction is the act of a fielder who, while not in possession of the ball and not in the act of fielding the ball, impedes the progress of any runner. The reason for the obstruction rule is the protection of the offense. There is a minimum award of one base for an obstructed runner. Additionally, all runners affected by the obstructed runner are awarded the bases they would have received had the obstruction not occurred.

Contrary to most beliefs, contact is not a pre-requisite for an obstruction call. The rules stipulate that obstruction occurs whenever a fielder hinders, impedes or otherwise alters the runner's progress around the bases. One example of this type of obstruction may be when a runner is attempting to score from first on an extra base hit. As the runner is heading for third the third baseman goes to stand in front of the base, on the second base side of the bag. Unless the runner slows down and carefully picks his spot, the third baseman's maneuver effectively screens the runner from a shot at touching the base. This is obstruction!

When a play is being made on a obstructed runner, the obstruction call is made at the moment "time" is called by the umpire and in the same manner, with hands held overhead. The ball is immediately dead when the call is made. Here are a couple of examples:

2. Runner is obstructed as a fielder is making a direct throw to a base in an attempt to retire that runner
3. Batter-runner is obstructed before reaching first base on a ground ball to an infielder
4. Any other time where a play is being made directly on the runner at the moment he is obstructed

If no play is being made on the obstructed runner, the play continues until no further action is possible. The umpire then shall call "time" and impose such penalties, if any, as in his judgment will nullify the act of the obstruction. Examples of this type of obstruction are:

1. Batter-runner is obstructed in rounding first base on a base hit while that ball is in the outfield
2. Batter-runner is obstructed before reaching first base on a ball hit to the outfield
3. Runner from first steals second; catcher's throw is wild and goes into center field; runner is obstructed in attempting to advance to third base. Ball is loose in the outfield when obstruction occurs
4. Runner from second is obstructed while rounding third base on a hit to the outfield
5. Any other time when no play is being made directly on the runner at the moment he is obstructed

During this type of obstruction, play is allowed to continue until no further action is possible. At that moment "time" is called and the awarding of penalties is imposed that, in the umpire's judgment, will nullify the act of the obstruction.

Obstruction: rule 7.06.

Next month: **Appeals and awards**

Frank Scherer
Northern Conf Umpires Commissioner

NORTH WEST LITTLE LEAGUE

Results for July 1995

1st July

Preston Panthers 5 Trafford Saints 16

For the Saints Jason Cromes went 4 for 4 with 6 RBIs and Paul Kendal 3 fr 4 with 5 RBIs.

Cartmel Valley Lions 4 Trafford Saints 13

Paul Kendal went 4 for 4 including a home run.

8th July

Preston Panthers 4 Cartmel Valley Lions 9

Trafford Saints 10 Bolton Knights 9

Paul Kendal hit a 3 run homer in the sixth inning to tie the score 9-9. The Saints won in the first extra inning.

18th July

Trafford Saints 6 Kirkby Braves 9

22 July

Preston Panthers 1 Kirkby Braves 9

Bolton Knights 18 Cartmel Valley Lions 5

Final 1995 League Standings

	Played	Won	Lost
Trafford Saints	10	9	1
Bolton Knights	10	8	2
Cartmel Valley Lions	10	5	5
Preston Panthers	10	4	6
Kirkby Braves	10	3	7
Holy Family	10	1	9

Thanks to Arthur Kendal for providing the results of the 1995 North West Little League.

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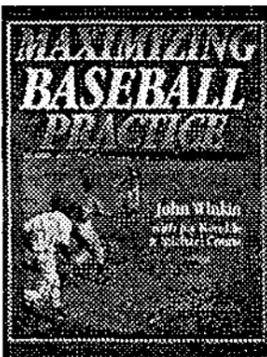
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