

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 28
September 1995
75p

How was it for you!

It doesn't seem five minutes ago that I was dusting off my cleats and looking forward to the 1995 season.

And now..... Well it's been a busy year and the season climaxes this weekend with the NPL series final between London Warriors and Menwith Hill Pirates. The games will take place at the purpose built baseball facility and home of the London Wolves, Roundshaw playing fields, Hannibal Way, Wallington, Surrey, starting at 2.00pm on Saturday, 11.00am on Sunday.

Knowing the high calibre of the finalists these games should be enthralling and I am looking forward to an enjoyable weekend of top class ball.

Before that on Saturday at 11am will be the final of the BBF Youth Championships between my team Hessie Apaches

and Tonbridge Bobcats. The culmination of a great season.

So what has happened this last six months.

April - Rachael was born and the registrations flooded in.
May - my team's season got underway to a poor start.
June - Tom Mendoza - MLBI envoy arrived in sunny 'Ull to assist with coaching in local schools.
July - the London Tournament (brilliant!)
August - the end of our season and third place for my team
September - our juniors qualify for the final in London

as for the close season, what close season...

October - IBA meeting in Havana Cuba
November - NPL, Northern and Southern Conference meetings, Board and Council Meetings
December - Annual General Meeting
January - MLB / BBF Coaching Clinic, team affiliations
February - CEB Meeting and indoor training
March - friendlies against local teams, player registrations
April - start all over again!

plus all the preparations required for the European Championships next summer - baseball never stops!

In the next issue we will be announcing the clinic, venue and giving booking details, an alternative review of the London Tournament, dates for the conference meetings, match reports from the finals and loads more articles on how to improve the interest in baseball in your area.

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NOW BATTING

Three don helms
the others slow
to take the field
to face the foe



He watches them
and tries to learn
their faces taught
full of concern

One batter gone
and then another
he feels a pain like
they were brother

He tips his hat
and winks at Fate
to tread the grass
to feel the hate



The first release
but he can wait
the ball curves in
and over plate

A cry to right
"You've seen his best"
tell that the feeling
in his chest

The pitcher hurls
a ball for sure
and passes over
white once more



A final throw
his courage falls
the batter swings
the umpire calls.

Written by
Andrew Walton
Manchester Cougars

El Presidente

Another busy month in the BBF sees changes, some major and some minor. Ralph Rago as 'Head of Game Development' will spearhead the plan for revitalising our youth program with Ian Smyth as Board Executive and Commissioner for Youth. The next three years will see a big push to have a competitive youth league with teams affiliated to Pony Baseball via their BBF membership. Schools baseball, tee-ball plus clinics and camps will all be given top priority in a bid to widen and strengthen our base structure.

The Board have also made the decision to radically change the shape of the International set-up and squads. Ralph Rago takes over as 'Head Coach' and will be shortly appointing the senior and junior squad coaching staff. Again in a bid to maximise the potential of our Youth program, the GB juniors will have their own 'Junior Head Coach' being responsible to Ralph to maintain consistent methodology.

I take this opportunity to express my sincere best wishes to former head coach Michael Harrold and on behalf of you all, give our appreciation and thanks for the dedication he has shown in his long service as International Team Manager.

The National Premier League play-offs started almost to form except Nottingham Homets had obviously different ideas as they took on the Enfield Spartans and beat them. I watched Brighton, who made the long journey to 'The Hill' start well then slump after the third inning as the Pirates of Menwith cruised to victory. This was not the Buccaneers I had heard so much about and the nerves showed on every play. Menwith looked good and my tip the Mets, victors over Hounslow, looked in danger of having a tough time in Droitwich for the 3 game series to decide one finalist.

Dops, missed a cracker of a first game on the Saturday as Menwith's powerful hitting subdued

the Mets in Game 1. Never mind at least I would now see two games on the Sunday. WRONG! I arrived at one, the scheduled pitch off, they'd already started as the weather was looking non too good. Pirates were ahead but I knew it would be close. Last inning and the runs were out there but Mets failed to capitalise and they were out of the Championship. Down in Cambridge reports of London were buzzing as they beat Nottingham and now meet for the final stage at London Wolves new field. This game is not to be missed as our top teams slug it out over the two days.

This year will see a new name on the trophy but if you're wondering which team I'm tipping, Matt or Cody can start the bids now. Highest offer secures that El Prez will tip the other team and thereby ensuring your win.

Last but not least will be the National Youth Championship. Hessle Apaches vs Tonbridge Bobcats. This precedes the finals at 11.00am on the Saturday. Well after being the pitching coach, not being included in the winning photograph, travelling with the team to Edinburgh for their win against the Dragons of Dundee and being traded for, "Was it a single bag of Maltesers, Kevin?" Guess who I'm tipping?

For those of you who have either won or are runner-up in the respective divisions, please do try and make it to the NPL Series Final on the Sunday, so that I can present you with your awards personally. I'll look forward to meeting you.

Well that wraps it up for this month. Remember that all your gripes, moans and positive suggestions should have been coming in for the annual bye-law review. If you want to change something, now is the time to do so.

Yours for Baseball
Steve Herbert

AUGUST 1995 RESULTS

August 6th

National Premier League - North

Birmingham Braves 7 Liverpool Trojans 0
 Birmingham Braves 7 Liverpool Trojans 0
 Humberside Mets 7 Leeds City Royals 0
 Humberside Mets 7 Leeds City Royals 0

Menwith Hill Pirates 11 Nottingham Hornets 9
 Matt Arrildt took the win for the Pirates assisted by three innings of shutout relief from Mike Beck. Pirates Gary Abbott hit a two run homer whilst Arrildt went 4 for 5 with Chase Parker hitting the game winning two run double.

National Premier League - South

Hemel Red Sox 12 Enfield Spartans 7
 Winning pitcher was Sean Ozolins, losing pitcher was Iain Lanario. This was a good competitive game where Hemel's consistent hitting overcame Enfield's more tactically aware side. Red Sox Mark Beresford went 2 for 3 with two doubles and a sac fly.

Brighton Buccaneers 11 Essex Arrows 12
 Essex led this game 8-0 but squandered the lead and were pulled back to 10-10 with Brighton eventually taking a 11-10 lead. However in the ninth with two on and two out, Arrows Ben Moore hit a two run rbi triple to win the game.

Bristol Black Sox 1 London Warriors 4
 Martin Sawyer took the loss but hit a home run.

Northern Conference Division One- England

Stretford A's 5 Hull Royals 24

Tamworth Strykers 23 Barnsley Strikers 10

Northern Conference Division One- Scotland

Edinburgh Reivers 30 Glasgow Comets 13
 The score was tied 5-5 at the end of three innings however home runs from Comets Shaun O'Donnell, Andy Reid, and David Powell and Reivers Callum Craig broke the game open.

Tayside Cobras 7 East Coast Pirates 0

Tayside Cobras 7 East Coast Pirates 0

Northern Conference Division Two- England

Birmingham Brewers 33 Sheffield Bladerunners 10

Hessle Apaches 12 Manchester Cougars 1
 Barry Marshall pitched a no hitter over six innings walking four and striking out twelve.

Hessle Apaches 19 Manchester Cougars 9
 Scott Akester took the win with Kevin Macadam hitting the game winning two run rbi single.

Southern Conference Division One

Waltham Forest Angels 9 Croydon Pirates 0

Gloster Meteors 7 City Slick Sidewinders 0

Gloster Meteors 7 City Slick Sidewinders 0

London Wolves 7 Arun Panthers 0

London Wolves 7 Arun Panthers 0

Cambridge Monarchs 7 Stevenage Knights 0

Cambridge Monarchs 7 Stevenage Knights 0

Tunbridge Wells Royals 13 Hounslow Hawks 10

Tunbridge Wells Royals 26 Hounslow Hawks 3

Southern Conference Division Two

Chichester Kyotes 14 Burgess Hill Red Hats 6
 Keith Bulbeck took the win striking out five.

Enfield Spartans 4 Brighton Buccaneers 3
 Ian Smith took the win.

Bracknell Blazers 12 Guildford Mavericks 11
 Bracknell took the lead for the first time the bottom of the ninth with Rob Randall taking the win. John Fletcher for Enfield Fountain took the win.

Blazers had four hits and scored four runs.

Tiptree Rays 0 Lashings Sluggers Of Maidstone

Gillingham Dodgers 19 Totteridge Trailblazers

Southern Conference Division Three

Guildford Mudcats 3 Brentwood Stags 18
 Dave Hathwell took the win whilst Henry Collins took loss. For the Mudcats Tim Gilbert scored two runs and double.

Friendlies

Dundee Dodgers 30 Darlington RFC Demons
 Dundee scored fifteen runs against the Northern Conference Division Two Champions in the fourth inning. Gary Cumming hit a three run homer with Brian Fiddell taking the win for the Dodgers and Tom Yard taking the

August 13th

National Premier League - North

Liverpool Trojans 0 Humberside Mets 17

Winning pitcher Ray Brownlie

Liverpool Trojans 6 Humberside Mets 16

Winning pitcher Mike Stephenson

Humberside Warriors 20 Leeds City Royals 15

Humberside Warriors 17 Leeds City Royals 7

Menwith Hill Pirates 3 Birmingham Braves 5

Martyn Dutton took the win for the Braves striking out seven and giving up five hits. Matt Arrildt took the loss striking out ten.

Menwith Hill Pirates 11 Birmingham Braves 10

Mike Betts took the win with Jay Stichberry homering.

National Premier League - South

London Warriors 14 Hemel Red Sox 1

Ian Smith took the win.

Enfield Spartans 4 Brighton Buccaneers 3

Bob Nelson took the win.

Enfield Spartans 9 Brighton Buccaneers 8

Ian Fountain took the win.

Essex Arrows 4 Hounslow Rangers 19

Winning pitcher Don Knight pitched well with his team rallying behind him. Paul Raybould pitched his final game for the Arrows after 10 years service with the club. Si Bowden took the loss.

Northern Conference Division One- England

Barnsley Strikers 16 Stretford A's 20

Hull Royals 16 Preston Bobcats 23

Hull Royals 9 Preston Bobcats 8

Northern Conference Division One- Scotland

Tayside Cobras 18 Dundee Dodgers 8

Northern Conference Division Two- England

Birmingham Brewers 27 Hessle Apaches 14

Winning pitcher was Stuart Yeomans with Barry Marshall taking the loss. Apaches Len Morill hit a two run homer.

Sheffield Bladerunners 6 Darlington RFC Demons 27

Southern Conference Division One

Essex Eagles 20 City Slick Sidewinders 6
 Winning pitcher Dave Reid

Arun Panthers 42 Tonbridge Bobcats 2

Arun Panthers 18 Tonbridge Bobcats 3
 Droitwich Spa-Tans 11 London Wolves 25



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Adam Roberts took the win with Claire Butler going 3 for 5 with a double and four rbis.

Cambridge Monarchs 9 Waltham Forest Angels 0

Stevenage Knights 1 Gloster Meteors 16

Stevenage Knights 5 Gloster Meteors 21

Tunbridge Wells Royals 9 Croydon Pirates 0

Hounslow Hawks 3 Bournemouth B's 18

Hounslow Hawks 8 Bournemouth B's 34

Southern Conference Division Two

Brighton Buccaneers 9 Burgess Hill Red Hats 0

Milton Keynes Truckers 14 Totteridge Trailblazers 2

Truckers Dennis Douglas hit two home runs a double and a triple.

Guildford Mavericks 9 Lashings Sluggers Of Maidstone 0

Caterham A's 19 Bracknell Blazers 6

Chichester Kyotes 14 Gillingham Dodgers 13

Southern Conference Division Three

Fulham Flames 8 London Wolves 19

Ian Johnson took the win going 3 for 4 with two rbis and three runs.

Fulham Flames 12 London Wolves 15

Dan Mercer struck out four for the win with Ian Johnson again doing well going 2 for 2 with a double, a triple, two runs and four rbis, Keith Williams went 2 for 3 with two runs.

Waltham Abbey Arrows 9 Cambridge Monarchs 0

August 20th

National Premier League - North

Liverpool Trojans 32 Humberside Warriors 27

This game turned out to be a pitchers nightmare as the game became a home run derby. For the Trojans Brian Bretherton hit a home run in the first inning, Ryan Nesbitt a two run shot in the second, Ian King a two run shot in the third, Chris Gee a three run homer in the fourth and Bobby Orme a two run homer in the seventh. The Warriors were not to be outdone with Andy Wiltshire hitting a grand slam in the second with a solo shot from Andy Urry and Rob Dixon hit a three run homer in the sixth. Brian Bretherton took the save with Bobby Alger taking the save. In very hot temperatures every one was completely knackered after

~~Raymond Hill Pirates~~ win ~~Humber~~side Mets 18

Menwith Hill Pirates 10 Humberside Mets 11

Frank Parker took the win in game two. Five home runs abounded over the two games with Pirates Dave Whinney and Jerry Foreman with one and two respectively and Mets Brian Thurston with one.

Nottingham Hornets 9 Birmingham Braves 5

Steve Sewell took the win striking out nine.

Nottingham Hornets 15 Birmingham Braves 0

Jason Ball hit two home runs one of them a grand slam.

National Premier League - South

Hemel Red Sox 7 Bristol Black Sox 0

Hemel Red Sox 7 Bristol Black Sox 0

Brighton Buccaneers 13 Hounslow Rangers 12

Mark Mills took the win. Don Knight took the loss.

Brighton Buccaneers Hounslow Rangers

Enfield Spartans 4 London Warriors 5

Enfield clawed back a 4-2 deficit to level the scores however Cody Cain came on in relief for Alan Smith and kept the Warriors ahead to take the win. Rob Nelson won the distance for the Spartans.

Northern Conference Division One- England

Hull Royals 9 Stretford A's 0

Preston Bobcats 9 Barnsley Strikers 0

Tamworth Strykers 11 Nottingham Pirates 13

Tamworth Strykers 19 Nottingham Pirates 9

Northern Conference Division Two- England

Sheffield Bladerunners 17 Manchester Cougars

Dave Garrett took the win for Manchester.

Southern Conference Division One

Croydon Pirates 0 Essex Eagles 9

Waltham Forest Angels 0 Essex Eagles 9

Waltham Forest Angels 0 Essex Eagles 9

City Slick Sidewinders 17 Droitwich Spa-Tans

Winning pitcher John Wilson

City Slick Sidewinders 7 Droitwich Spa-Tans

Hounslow Hawks 5 London Wolves 46

Adam Roberts took the win also going 7 for 8 with doubles a triple and a home run.

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Tonbridge Bobcats 0 Stevenage Knights 9
 Gloster Meteors 0 Cambridge Monarchs 11

Gloster Meteors 14 Cambridge Monarchs 11
Southern Conference Division Two

Gillingham Dodgers 9 Lashings Sluggers 0

Chichester Kyotes 9 Guildford Mavericks 0
 Bracknell Blazers 15 Burgess Hill Red Hats 25
 Rob Hollands took the win in this four hour marathon.

Totteridge Trailblazers 9 Tiptree Rays 0

Brighton Buccaneers 6 Milton Keynes Truckers 22

Southern Conference Division Three

Fulham Flames 0 Cambridge Monarchs 9

Cambridge Monarchs 0 London Wolverines 9

Brentwood Stags 22 Waltham Abbey Arrows 9
 Winning pitcher was Tony Matthews.

Guildford Mudcats 18 Eastbourne Mariners 39
 Winning pitcher was Lee Smith with Simon Sparrow taking the loss. M Usher for the Mariners hit two home runs and Tim Gilbert for the Mudcats hit one home run.

August 26th

Birmingham Braves 9 Nottingham Hornets 0

August 27th

National Premier League - North

Leeds City Royals 29 Liverpool Trojans 19
 Julian Padbury took the win for the Royals.

Humberside Warriors 11 Menwith Hill Pirates 13
 Ken Wells took the win as Menwith scored two runs in the top of the ninth. The Pirates jumped to an early lead but the scores were levelled when Warriors Russ Mercer hit a grand slam to tie the cores at 6-6. Chase Parker for the Pirates had three rbis as Ken Wells took the win with the three Pirates pitchers Matt Arnldt, Gary Abbott and Ken Wells striking out three between them.

Humberside Mets 15 Nottingham Hornets 5

Humberside Mets 15 Nottingham Hornets 5

Humberside Mets 25 Nottingham Hornets 13

National Premier League - South

Essex Arrows 20 Hemel Red Sox 12
 Paul Raybould took the win for the Arrows.

Essex Arrows 6 Hemel Red Sox 10
 Sean Ozolins took the win for the Red Sox. Seth Voienwith Hill Pirates 14 Brighton Buccaneers 4
 started on the mound and hit a two run homer in thatt Arnldt booked Menwith Hill Pirates a semi-final spot sixth but this wasn't enough. Paul Raybould came against favourites Humberside Mets as they brushed aside in relief for the Arrows. e challenge from Brighton Buccaneers beating them -4.

Brighton Buccaneers 2 London Warriors 17
 Mark Mills took the loss whilst Cody Cain took the win with four rbis and Gary Abbott going 2 for 6 with a home run and three rbis.

Brighton Buccaneers 8 London Warriors 18
 Darrin Ward took the win whilst Andy Wilson took London Warriors 10 Birmingham Braves 5
 loss. London Warriors Alan Smith took the win against ningham Braves

Hounslow Rangers 5 Enfield Spartans 6
 Hounslow Rangers 14 Enfield Spartans 21
 Both Paul Bullock and Steve Pollard hit three homers for the Rangers but this was not enough
 the Spartans swept both games of this doubleheader. nberside Mets 21 Hounslow Rangers 7
 Despite a shaky start Humberside Mets beat Hounslow Rangers 21-7.

Northern Conference Division One - England **September 9th and 10th**

Stretford A's 15 Preston Bobcats 16
 Peter Shone took the win for Preston. sh Baseball Federation National Premier League i-finals
 Barnsley Strikers 31 Tamworth Strykers 1
 Nottingham Pirates 7 Hull Royals 45
 London Warriors 13 Nottingham Hornets 3
 London Warriors 10 Nottingham Hornets 6
 London Warriors, winners of the National Premier League 1, were matched against Nottingham Homets who ad third in the North, at the first semi-final at ridge.

Southern Conference Division One

Bournemouth Bees 7 London Wolves 3
 Winning pitcher was John Trautwein who also ridge.
 two run homer

Bournemouth Bees 7 London Wolves 17
 Phil Midgley took the loss whilst Adam Roberts took the win.

City Slick Sidewinders Stevenage Knights

Droitwich Spa-Tans 3 Essex Eagles 12

Droitwich Spa-Tans 2 Essex Eagles 24
 Tonbridge Bobcats 7 Croydon Pirates 0

Tonbridge Bobcats 19 Croydon Pirates 15

Southern Conference Division Two

Burgess Hill Red Hats 12 Guildford Mavericks 11

Chichester Kyotes 31 Brighton Buccaneers 10

Caterham A's 5 Totteridge Trailblazers 19

Southern Conference Division Three

Waltham Abbey Arrows 0 Eastbourne Mariners 9

September 2nd

3BF National Premier League Playoffs first round

Infield Spartans 4 Nottingham Hornets 12
 Infield Spartans were surprisingly dumped out of the layoffs by Nottingham Homets as Steve Sewell took the in with Rob Nelson taking the loss.

In game one the Warriors ran out 13-3 winners with Cody Cain taking the win for London. Homets Steve Smith was also ejected after a close play in the sixth inning.

In game two, the Warriors held on to win 10-6 with Alan Smith taking the win and Steve Sewell the loss, despite the game being very tight up to the seventh inning when the Warriors led by 7-6.

Humberside Mets 6 Menwith Hill Pirates 11
 Humberside Mets 5 Menwith Hill Pirates 6

In Droitwich the National Premier League North Champions, Humberside Mets were taking on Northern runners up Menwith Hill Pirates. Mets were favourites to win this fixture having only lost one game all season; a 5-3 loss to the Pirates.

In game one, Ray Brownlie surrendered two home runs to Pirates Jerry Foreman as the Pirates ran out 11-6 winners. Some timely hitting and Mets inability to capitalise with men on base proved to be Humberside's downfall. Brownlie took the loss whilst Matt Arnldt took the win for the Pirates.

In game two, Mets Brian Thurston came up against Pirates Gary Abbott in a very close game which Pirates led from the beginning and never surrendered winning 6-5 at the finish. Pirates catcher Jay Stichberry homered.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 23 and Sunday 24 September

London Wolves v Bristol Black Sox

Three game series to decide which team will take the eighth place in the National Premier League next season.

Saturday 30 and Sunday 1 October

Cambridge Monarchs v Essex Eagles

Three game series to decide which team will gain the automatic promotion spot to the National Premier League for next season.

Both of the above games will take place at Roundshaw Playing Fields, Hannibal Way, Wallington, Surrey. Please give all the above teams your support at these events.

For further details and game times, listen to the BBF Hotline or contact Sharron Bonfield, Southern Conference Commissioner.



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**BBF LEAGUE STANDINGS
AS AT 28 AUGUST 1995**

BBF NATIONAL PREMIER LEAGUE - NORTH

	WINS	LOSSES	GAMES BACK
Humberside Mets	23	1	
Menwith Hill Pirates	18	6	5
Nottingham Hornets	12	12	11
Birmingham Braves	11	13	12
Liverpool Trojans	9	15	14
Humberside Warriors	8	16	15
Leeds City Royals	3	21	20

BBF NATIONAL PREMIER LEAGUE - SOUTH

	WINS	LOSSES	GAMES BACK
London Warriors	19	5	
Enfield Spartans	16	8	3
Brighton Buccaneers	14	10	5
Hounslow Rangers	14	10	5
Essex Arrows	11	13	8
Hemel Red Sox	5	19	14
Bristol Black Sox	1	23	18

BBF NORTH - ENGLAND DIVISION ONE

	WINS	LOSSES	GAMES BACK
Hull Royals	12	2	
Preston Bobcats	6	6	5
Stretford A's	6	8	6
Barnsley Strikers	6	8	6
Tamworth Strikers	6	7	5.5
Nottingham Pirates	4	9	7.5

BBF NORTH - ENGLAND DIVISION TWO

	WINS	LOSSES	GAMES BACK
Darlington RFC Demons	10	2	
Birmingham Brewers	8	4	2
Hessle Apaches	6	6	4
Manchester Cougars	4	8	6
Sheffield Bladerunners	2	10	8

BBF NORTH - SCOTLAND DIVISION ONE

	WINS	LOSSES	GAMES BACK
Edinburgh Reivers	7	1	
Glasgow Comets	4	4	3
Dundee Dodgers	4	4	3
Tayside Cobras	3	5	4
East Coast Pirates	1	7	6

BBF SOUTH - DIVISION ONE NORTH

	WINS	LOSSES	GAMES BACK
Essex Eagles	17	2	
Cambridge Monarchs	15	2	1
Waltham Forest Angels	11	7	5.5
Gloster Meteors	11	8	6
City Slick Sidewinders	9	9	7.5
Droitwich Spa-Tans	3	14	13
Stevenage Knights	4	15	13

BBF SOUTH - DIVISION ONE SOUTH

	WINS	LOSSES	GAMES BACK
London Wolves	16	3	
Bournemouth B's	10	9	6
Arun Panthers	10	9	6
Croydon Pirates	9	10	7
Tunbridge Wells Royals	9	10	7
Hounslow Hawks	3	16	13
Tonbridge Bobcats	3	16	13

BBF SOUTH - DIVISION TWO NORTH

	WINS	LOSSES	GAMES BACK
Milton Keynes Truckers	10	4	
Gillingham Dodgers	10	4	0
Lashings Sluggers	6	8	4
Totteridge Trailblazers	5	8	4
Tiptree Rays	5	9	5

BBF SOUTH - DIVISION TWO SOUTH

	WINS	LOSSES	GAMES BACK
Burgess Hill Red Hats	9	5	
Brighton Buccaneers B	8	6	
Caterham A's	7	7	
Guildford Mavericks	6	8	
Chichester Kyotes	6	9	
Bracknell Blazers	5	9	

BBF SOUTH - DIVISION THREE

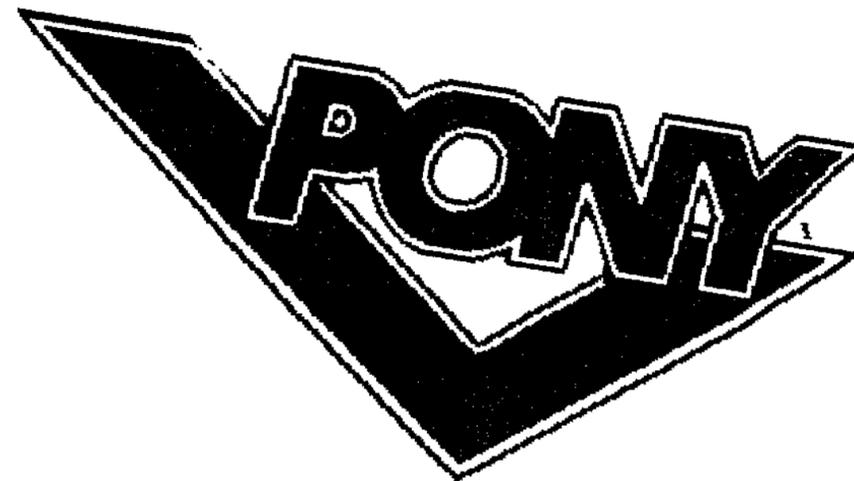
	WINS	LOSSES	GAMES BACK
Brentwood Stags	9	3	
London Wolverines	9	3	
Waltham Abbey Arrows	7	5	
Eastbourne Mariners	6	5	
Cambridge Monarchs B	6	6	
Fulham Flames	4	8	
Guildford Mudcats	0	11	

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Dear Steve

I would like to extend my thanks to you and the members of your federation who were so instrumental in the success of Baseball Fanfest at Covent Garden Market.

For you, Keith Peskett and all the volunteers, the hours were long, the sun hot and the cobblestones very hard! I know I was tired each evening, I can only imagine how tired all of you were. It is a credit to the Federation that all the members who participated did such a great job under such conditions.

I'm sure you will agree that this event served Baseball well in that it reached out to thousands of Brits and Europeans who have never experienced the game. I'm sure we were able to stimulate some interest in playing the game, if not new fans of the game.

Thanks so much for your help and as always, I look forward to future opportunities to work with you and your members

Regards
Steve Baker
Vice President Market Development
Major League Baseball International

Dear Kevin

I am writing on behalf of Great Grimsby Borough Council and a multitude of kids in the Grimsby and Cleethorpes area. For the second year running we have been lucky enough to tap into the Major League baseball Envoy Programme via HESSIE APACHES and HUMBERSIDE METS. Having access to coaches such as Ted Novio, Tom Mendoza and Rick Steen has meant that baseball coaching courses have finally reached Grimsby, the response has been phenomenal.

Maybe it has been the allure of the American drawl of the Envoy Coaches rather than the cockney tongue of a mere Sports Development Officer, I don't know. Whatever the reason baseball is now "the thing" on the South Bank of the Humber.

With funding for new equipment courtesy of a Royal Mail grant (a consequence of last year's course) and help from Grimsby's Freetime Sports shop, seventy children aged 8 to 16 took part in a three day course. At the end of the course, both they, and I might add the Sports Development staff, were eager to learn more about such an exciting sport.

The hope now is that a junior team will be formed with the help of the BBF and Grimsby Borough Council's Sports Development Unit to follow on from the work already done.

I would like, therefore, to express my thanks to the BBF, yourself and Steve Herbert in particular of your help with the development packs and coaches and to the envoys who have endured the sometimes noisy attentions of the Grimsby kids over the last two years. Without you, Grimsby most certainly would not be at the stage it is now with the development of your sport.

Thanks again. I look forward to next year's visit from Major League Baseball.

Yours sincerely
Jo Collings
Sports Development Officer
Great Grimsby Borough Council

Dear Kevin

It is with much interest that I write to comment on the Federation's efforts for youth baseball. I recently began the setting up of our organisation's third team for players aged between 15 and 18 years. My intention being to aid their progression from our junior league team to our senior league team. Most of our junior players will be looking at going from junior league starters to senior league substitutes. However, a 'youth' team would aid in bridging the gap from the 60 foot to 90 foot diamond. This would ensure that the players maintain the development of their skills and abilities, whilst ensuring that they do not become disgruntled over a lack of playing time at the senior level.

The article on PONY in 'Brit-Ball' and subsequent letter informing me of our junior side's membership with that organisation is very much related to my intentions and I hop that all the clubs of the BBF will embrace this

opportunity to further develop the game throughout the country. I fully support this venture into PONY baseball and look forward to being part of the Federation's future efforts in this area. In the meantime, I would appreciate it if you could print my address as we would be willing to host any youth sides willing to travel north of the border for a match. The Federation has made the first move, it is now up to us, the member clubs, to carry on the initiative.

Yours sincerely
Nick Clark
Edinburgh Reivers Baseball Club
35 Brunstane Drive, Edinburgh
Scotland, EH15 2NF
Tel: 0131 669 5786

Dear Kevin

In the last four or five years there has been a noticeable and rapid growth across the country of groups promoting junior and youth baseball. I am sure that no-one would argue that this is the proper road to progress for the game in the future.

I acknowledge the work done by individuals over many years albeit in isolation.

Is it not then time that a unified policy be agreed upon so that we are all pulling in the same direction?

The schools programme has been a success in many areas, with material support. The BBF has promoted competition. We in the North West have a very competitive league with all team affiliated to Little League. Now there is a move, seemingly, to align ourselves with PONY. The input from PONY at the Cranfield January clinic was impressive.

At the higher senior level all teams are 'required' to have an affiliated junior section and as such be in the BBF but there are junior sides which exist as independent voluntary bodies. Scattered across the country with not enough neighbourhood competition it is not surprising that arrangements vary from zone to zone.

Players and coaches would work more effectively if they had a clear picture of the structure of the youth game nationally. These are my thoughts only and in no way represent any area or regional opinion.

Any other views? Shall we continue to make our own arrangements to suit our particular needs? Will there be a directive from on high? Will there be yet another committee?

Love to all you little baseballers out there.

Frank Caunce
Manager / Coach
Preston Panthers

Dear Brit-Ball

I have received a letter from the President telling me that my services as National Team Manager are no longer wanted. I am naturally disappointed that the task I set myself - promotion to the 'A' group in 1996 - I cannot fulfil personally.

1996 would have seen my 30th year in baseball and 100th

game as GB Manager. My final record at Junior and Senior level was played 91, won 46 lost 45.

I am proud of my achievements, which include:

- 1988 - WON**
- European B Championship Senior**
- 1993 - WON**
- European B Championship Junior**
- 1993 - 2nd**
- La Rochelle Int Tournament Junior**
- 1995 - 3rd**
- European B Championships Junior**

and proud of some of the players I have been party to bringing through. In 1993 when I formed the Junior National Team policy I had a vision to bring players through a career path. Players like Gavin Marshall, Neil Eggleston, Alex Malihoudis, Lee LoveSeed, Lee Evans, Steve Pollard, John Boyd, Martin Bladen, Matt Gilbert, David Donadson, Simeon Maas have all come through the Junior team to play at Senior level. Some I am sure, will be in next years' squad.

To all of the players it has been my privilege to work with, thank you. To all of the future players, good luck and be proud to play for your country.

It has also been my pleasure to work with some excellent and loyal coaches, especially Barry Marshall. Neither of us will forget the elation of Barcelona.

Without the support of the many clubs and club coaches none of the achievements would have been possible, so a big thank you to those for your support. Keep on supporting and helping your players play for their country, it is the greatest honour we can give them.

Michael Harrold

Dear Readers

In the August issue of Brit-Ball the editor in his footnote to a letter on costing a team to play baseball under the umbrella of the BBF reported that it is only £1 per player per week to play per year.

May I just bring to his attention the cost of one weekends baseball we had on our ground, 29th July one single game and 30th July one single game.

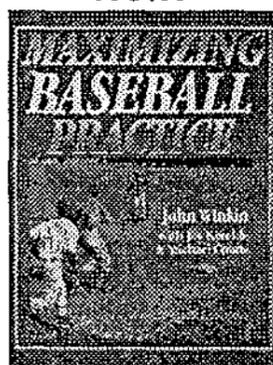
Umpires expenses	-	£100
Balls, 6 per game	-	£42
Scorers	-	£10
Ground Rent	-	£10
TOTAL	-	£162

This without registrations, affiliations, insurance, equipment and uniforms.

The season commenced 9th April and finishes mid September so to be realistic no team could fulfil their monetary commitments on £1 per player per week.

Yours in Sport
Doreen Megson, Hull Mets Baseball Club

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PUZZLE CORNER

STATS STARS

Devised by Will Cosgrave

The cryptic clues below conceal the names of sixteen star players who have featured in Brit-Ball's 1995 National Premier League Statistics. Can you work out the players' names?

- Royal Dynasty / Brag
- Beam / Colour by Untruth
- North Briton / Flour Grinder
- Shoddy Build / In Charge
- Scratch / Old Gun or Plane
- Filch / Sounds like Christmas
- Amplifier / Africa Doctor
- Homey Bird / Plank Cutter
- Sheltered / Month of Dreams
- Deaf Rhyme / Big Rabbit
- Travel Saints / Kind of Ox
- Steal / Admiral
- Calendar / Spring
- Real Buffalo Bill / Abel Link
- College Tutor / Horse Shape
- Indiana Port / Religious Title

ABBREVIATIONS

Listed below are 20 common abbreviations used in baseball box scores, standings and statistics, with the proper letters replaced by substitutes. Vowels replace vowels, consonants replace consonants. Knowing that LL = BB (base on balls) will also help you identify the proper abbreviations.

- EL
- LE
- PG
- IC

- RL
- RG
- SC
- OH
- VH
- HL
- HA
- GL
- GA
- EBR
- ICE
- SLH
- OLL
- VAL
- CLO
- GEP



Answers to last month's puzzle is as follows:

GIANTS
ROYALS
TIGERS
PIRATES




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- sales of books, clothes, cards, American sports papers etc. etc.
- other fans in the U.K. via "Readers' letters column" - buy and sell, air your views, contact others with similar interests

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Result? Over 17000 kids and 70 new SDO's. The majority of these kids had not picked up a bat or a glove before, and each received six weeks of instruction from the coaches. By the end of the school year they were participating in school games and local tournaments with substantial media attention. The schools have shown their commitments to baseball by each buying an equipment kit with the PE teachers participating in the lessons in order to continue. Each was provided with a Lesson Plan along with the rules. The enthusiasm of each school child was a testament to the success and future potential of the program. The struggle for glory has started among these kids, and they want to play ball. This program is pro-active and is comprehensively the most successful private baseball program in Europe.

Thanks to... The regional co-ordinators were Paul Vernon in Bracknell, Ian Smyth in Leeds and Halifax, Doreen Megson in Hull, and Caroline Fraser in Kingston. The hard work in approaching the schools and organising the coaches in their areas certainly resulted in a firm stronghold in their areas. This program would not have existed without their help. Particular gratitude to Ian for toiling over the Lesson Plan.

YOU ARE WANTED BY FBI! Do you want to firmly establish baseball in your area? Call Elie on 0171 837 5100 for more information on the Program, or how to buy an equipment kit for schools in your area at trade prices. FBI want to expand this program next year and

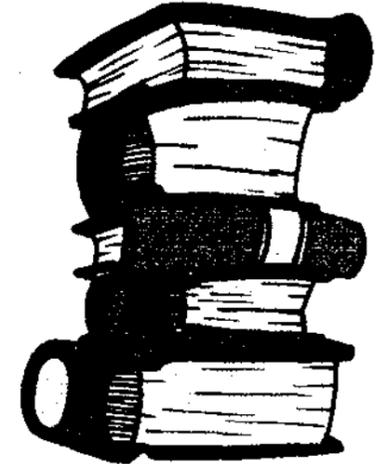


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- 1 Rawlings chest protector
- 1 set Rawlings leg guards
- 1 Rawlings face mask

If you would like to purchase any of the above, please contact
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Athletic Union President
University House
Hull University
Hull
HU6 7RX
Tel: 01482 466254
Fax: 01482 466280

"OK" Let's Get Straight To The Points



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Can we be of service to you soon ?

And for all you other teams out there that have not had the FBI experience the season is not over for you yet. FBI are getting ready to have a mad, bad, end of season sale. All those established customers will get the details first, so if you are not on the hit list what are you waiting for.

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